

WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2023

Activities in 2023

This report has been submitted : 1 juillet 2024 16:52

Laboratory Information

Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOAHO Reference Laboratory:	African horse sickness
Address of laboratory:	No. 100 Old Soutpan Road, Onderstepoort, 0110, Gauteng Province, South Africa
Tel.:	+27-12 529 91 17
E-mail address:	LubisiA@arc.agric.za
Website:	https://www.arc.agric.za/
Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):	Dr. Arshad Mather - Acting Senior Manager Research: Animal Health and Protection
Name (including Title and Position) of WOAHO Reference Expert:	Dr. Baratang Alison Lubisi - Research Team Manager: Diagnostic Services
Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:	Governmental

TOR1: DIAGNOSTIC METHODS

1. Did your laboratory perform diagnostic tests for the specified disease/topic for purposes such as disease diagnosis, screening of animals for export, surveillance, etc.?
(Not for quality control, proficiency testing or staff training)

Yes

Diagnostic Test	Indicated in WOAHO Manual (Yes/No)	Total number of test performed last year	
		Nationally	Internationally
Indirect diagnostic tests			
ELISA		1153	63
Direct diagnostic tests			
PCR		436	54

TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

2. Did your laboratory produce or supply imported standard reference reagents officially recognised by WOAHO?

No

3. Did your laboratory supply standard reference reagents (nonWOAH-approved) and/or other diagnostic reagents to WOAHO Members?

No

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

Not applicable

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOAHO Members?

Not applicable

TOR3: NEW PROCEDURES

6. Did your laboratory develop new diagnostic methods for the designated pathogen or disease?

Yes

NAME OF THE NEW TEST OR DIAGNOSTIC METHOD DEVELOPED	DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCES (PUBLICATION, WEBSITE, ETC.)
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AHS Inhibition ELISA

A new antigen was prepared by expression of a domain of the AHSV-VP7 expressed in bacteria. The antigen is stable for up to 15 months on pre-coated plates with both Stabilcoat and Superblock as stabiliser/blocker. The use of this antigen in an indirect ELISA is being evaluated to potentially replace the baculovirus expressed antigen. In addition, an inhibition ELISA, incorporating an AHS mouse monoclonal was developed. Thus far 300 positive sera were tested, and full validation will follow.

7. Did your laboratory validate diagnostic methods according to WOAH Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

8. Did your laboratory develop new vaccines for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

9. Did your laboratory validate vaccines according to WOAH Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

10. Did your laboratory carry out diagnostic testing for other WOAH Members?

Yes

NAME OF WOAH MEMBER COUNTRY SEEKING ASSISTANCE	DATE	WHICH DIAGNOSTIC TEST USED	NO. SAMPLES RECEIVED FOR PROVISION OF DIAGNOSTIC SUPPORT	NO. SAMPLES RECEIVED FOR PROVISION OF CONFIRMATORY DIAGNOSES
ESWATINI	2023-04-17	Indirect ELISA qRT-PCR	2	1
ESWATINI	2023-04-20	Indirect ELISA	1	0
ESWATINI	2023-05-08	qRT-PCR	0	1
ESWATINI	2023-05-26	Indirect ELISA qRT-PCR	2	2
ESWATINI	2023-08-29	Indirect ELISA	2	0
ESWATINI	2023-12-30	qRT-PCR	0	2
ESWATINI	2023-12-31	qRT-PCR	0	1
MAURITIUS	2023-04-14	Indirect ELISA	9	0
MAURITIUS	2023-04-19	qRT-PCR	0	9
MAURITIUS	2023-11-20	Indirect ELISA qRT-PCR	38	21
MOZAMBIQUE	2023-06-20	qRT-PCR	0	1
MOZAMBIQUE	2023-07-20	qRT-PCR	0	1
NAMIBIA	2023-03-03	qRT-PCR	0	1
ZAMBIA	2023-05-05	qRT-PCR	0	1
ZAMBIA	2023-11-16	qRT-PCR	0	1
ESWATINI	2023-04-11	Indirect ELISA	1	0

11. Did your laboratory provide expert advice in technical consultancies on the request of an WOAH Member?

No

TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

12. Did your laboratory participate in international scientific studies in collaboration with WOAH Members other than the own?

No

13. In exercising your activities, have you identified any regulatory research needs* relevant for WOAH?

No

TOR6: EPIZOOLOGICAL DATA

14. Did your Laboratory collect epidemiological data relevant to international disease control?

Yes

IF THE ANSWER IS YES, PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE DATA COLLECTED:

Sera were tested to determine African horse sickness seropositivity and seroprevalence in equines. Viruses were isolated from field samples and typed using serological methods. In addition, the genomes of circulating viruses were sequenced to determine genetic changes.

15. Did your laboratory disseminate epidemiological data that had been processed and analysed?

Yes

IF THE ANSWER IS YES, PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE DATA COLLECTED:

A peer reviewed scientific article on culicoides midges was published.

16. What method of dissemination of information is most often used by your laboratory? (Indicate in the appropriate box the number by category and list the details in the box)

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

1

Labuschagne, K., Meiswinkel, R., Liebenberg, D., Van Zyl, C., Van Schalkwyk, A. & Scholtz, C., 2023. Afrotropical Culicoides (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae): Description of C. truuskae sp. n. from the western deserts and xeric shrublands of southern Africa', Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research 90(1), a2072. <https://doi.org/10.4102/ojvr.v90i1.2072>

b) International conferences:

2

1. *Tshabalala, T.P., Roux-Van-der Merwe, R. & Lubisi, B.A., 2023. Evaluation of blood samples collected on flinders technology associates (FTA) for detection of anti-African horse sickness virus (AHSV) antibodies using I-ELISA. 25th Regional Commission for Africa Conference, Gaborone, Botswana, 20 – 24 February 2023.*
2. *Van Schalkwyk, A. & Romito, M., 2023. Update on new African horse sickness virus strains in South Africa. Combined Bluetongue and African horse sickness workshop, Madrid, Spain, 7-8 November 2023.*

c) National conferences:

d) Other (Provide website address or link to appropriate information):

TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

17. Did your laboratory provide scientific and technical training to laboratory personnel from other WOAHP Members?

No

TOR8: QUALITY ASSURANCE

18. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)	
ISO17025	SANAS Accreditation Certificate	SANAS Certificate V0001 - December 2023.pdf

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
Indirect ELISA qRT-PCR	South African National Accreditation System (SANAS)

20. Does your laboratory maintain a "biorisk management system" for the pathogen and the disease concerned?

Yes

The laboratory adheres to good laboratory practices and has standard operating procedures (SOPs) and fit for purpose equipment and facilities to ensure biosecurity,

biosafety, and biocontainment of pathogens.

TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

21. Did your laboratory organise scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOA?H?

No

22. Did your laboratory participate in scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOA?H?

No

TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOA?H REFERENCE LABORATORIES

23. Did your laboratory exchange information with other WOA?H Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease?

Yes

24. Do you network (collaborate or share information) with other WOA?H Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

Yes

NETWORK/DISEASE	ROLE OF YOUR LABORATORY (PARTICIPANT, ORGANISER, ETC)	NO. PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPATING WOA?H REF. LABS
African horse sickness	Participant	85	1. Pirbright (United Kingdom) 2. EU Reference Laboratory for African horse sickness and Bluetongue, Algete, Spain.

25. Did you organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with WOA?H Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

Yes

PURPOSE OF THE PROFICIENCY TESTS: 1	ROLE OF YOUR REFERENCE LABORATORY (ORGANISER/ PARTICIPANT)	NO. PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPATING WOA?H REF. LABS/ ORGANISING WOA?H REF. LAB.
Quality assurance of African horse sickness laboratory assays.	Participant	85	1. Pirbright (United Kingdom) 2. EU Reference Laboratory for African horse sickness and Bluetongue, Algete, Spain.

26. Did your laboratory collaborate with other WOA?H Reference Laboratories for the same disease on scientific research projects for the diagnosis or control of the pathogen of interest?

No

TOR11: OTHER INTERLABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING

27. Did your laboratory organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with laboratories other than WOA?H Reference Laboratories for the same pathogen?

No

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

28. Did your laboratory place expert consultants at the disposal of WOA?H?

No

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

Yes

The laboratory receives few international samples for African horse sickness diagnostic purposes. A plea was made to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) through the WOA?H Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa, for veterinary officials to submit samples for diagnostic purposes. The request also extended to research organisations for collaboration on the disease.