



Emerging Viruses of Zoonotic and Veterinary Importance

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Emerging Viruses of Zoonotic and the Veterinary Importance in Croatia

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Over the last few decades viral infectious diseases appear to be emerging and spreading faster than ever with vector borne viruses the most commonly identified. In Croatia the first larger scale outbreak caused by emergent viral pathogen was at the beginning of the 21st century. In 2001 blue tongue disease was recorded for the first time and has become endemic ever since. In the years to follow the emergence of arboviral infections have been recorded with increased frequency. In 2010 the first autochthonous case of Dengue fever was detected in humans in Croatia. At the same time viral activity of the West Nile virus was identified in sentinel horses with endemisation. In 2013, two years after the confirmation of the Usutu virus's circulation in horses, it was confirmed that the Usutu virus was identified as the new cause of human neuroinvasive disease. During 2016, imported human clinical cases of Chikungunya and ZIKA virus infections were reported. We now have competent vectors and viruses present with in Croatia which mean we can have an outbreak at any time. In a study prior to 2016 there were also reports of Chikungunya seropositive humans in Croatia. At the same time during 2016, Lumpy Skin Disease had also started spreading in the southeast Europe and had reached the Croatian border. The appearance of new viral emergent diseases in Croatia encouraged an institutional collaboration which established surveillance of emerging infectious diseases. Taking into consideration the rise of emergent viral diseases, the close collaboration between veterinary service and human medicine is necessary so we can be prepared for any outbreak that would put human and animal health at risk.