

## Metadata of the chapter that will be visualized online

Chapter Title	Aquaculture Disease Diagnosis and Health Management
Copyright Year	2015
Copyright Holder	Springer India
Corresponding Author	Family Name <b>Raja</b> Particle Given Name <b>R. Ananda</b> Suffix Organization Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture Address 75. Santhome High Road, R. A. Puram, Chennai 600 028, Tamil Nadu, India Email anandarajars@gmail.com
Author	Family Name <b>Jitendran</b> Particle Given Name <b>K. P.</b> Suffix Organization Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture Address 75. Santhome High Road, R. A. Puram, Chennai 600 028, Tamil Nadu, India
Abstract	<p>Aquaculture is growing by leaps and bounds and is one of the world's fastest-growing industries in food production. Unlike other terrestrial farm animals and plants, aquatic animals require more attention in order to monitor their health. They live in a complex and dynamic environment and are not readily visible except under tank-holding conditions. Similarly, feed consumption and mortalities are also equally well hidden under water (Bondad-Reantaso et al. 2001). So the problems faced by the aquatic animals are also species and system specific. The complexity of the aquatic ecosystem makes it difficult to understand the difference between health, suboptimal performance, and disease. The range of diseases found in aquaculture is one among the major problems faced by aquaculturists all over the world. Diseases in aquaculture are caused by the outcome of a series of linked events involving the interactions between the host, the environment, and the presence of a pathogen (Snieszko 1974). Environment includes not only the water and its components (such as oxygen, pH, temperature, toxins, and wastes) but also the kind of management practices (e.g., handling, drug treatments, transport procedures, etc.). There are three factors such as stocking density, innate susceptibility, and immunity which are particularly important in affecting host's susceptibility to diseases. The intensive shrimp aquaculture has parallely brought disease problems leading to great economic loss. Diseases may be caused by a single or combinations of multifarious factors. Generally, diseases are broadly classified in to infectious and noninfectious. The former is caused either by virus, bacteria, fungi, parasites, or rickettsia, while the latter is due to environmental stresses,</p>

genetic factors, and nutritional deficiencies. The most important steps to reduce or prevent losses due to diseases in aquaculture are monitoring as regularly as possible and appropriate action at the first sign(s) of suspicious behavior, lesions, or mortalities. These fundamental approaches should be followed in many aquatic animal production sectors as in animal husbandry and agricultural production. Some farmers hesitate to reveal the disease problems due to their ignorance that it may result in failure in the competitive market price. It should be made understood that hiding or denying health problems can be as destructive to aquatic animals as it is elsewhere.

---

# Aquaculture Disease Diagnosis and Health Management

R. Ananda Raja and K. P. Jitendran

## Introduction

Aquaculture is growing by leaps and bounds and is one of the world's fastest-growing industries in food production. Unlike other terrestrial farm animals and plants, aquatic animals require more attention in order to monitor their health. They live in a complex and dynamic environment and are not readily visible except under tank-holding conditions. Similarly, feed consumption and mortalities are also equally well hidden under water (Bondad-Reantaso et al. 2001). So the problems faced by the aquatic animals are also species and system specific. The complexity of the aquatic ecosystem makes it difficult to understand the difference between health, suboptimal performance, and disease. The range of diseases found in aquaculture is one among the major problems faced by aquaculturists all over the world. Diseases in aquaculture are caused by the outcome of a series of linked events involving the interactions between the host, the environment, and the presence of a pathogen (Snieszko 1974). Environment includes not only the water and its components (such as oxygen, pH, temperature, toxins, and wastes) but also the kind of management practices (e.g., handling, drug treatments,

transport procedures, etc.). There are three factors such as stocking density, innate susceptibility, and immunity which are particularly important in affecting host's susceptibility to diseases. The intensive shrimp aquaculture has parallelly brought disease problems leading to great economic loss. Diseases may be caused by a single or combinations of multifarious factors. Generally, diseases are broadly classified in to infectious and noninfectious. The former is caused either by virus, bacteria, fungi, parasites, or rickettsia, while the latter is due to environmental stresses, genetic factors, and nutritional deficiencies. The most important steps to reduce or prevent losses due to diseases in aquaculture are monitoring as regularly as possible and appropriate action at the first sign(s) of suspicious behavior, lesions, or mortalities. These fundamental approaches should be followed in many aquatic animal production sectors as in animal husbandry and agricultural production. Some farmers hesitate to reveal the disease problems due to their ignorance that it may result in failure in the competitive market price. It should be made understood that hiding or denying health problems can be as destructive to aquatic animals as it is elsewhere.

## Importance of Diagnostics in Aquaculture

Diagnostics play an important role in aquatic animal health management and disease control. Confirmatory diagnosis of a disease is often

R.A. Raja (✉) • K.P. Jitendran  
Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture,  
75. Santhome High Road, R. A. Puram, Chennai 600 028,  
Tamil Nadu, India  
e-mail: [anandarajars@gmail.com](mailto:anandarajars@gmail.com)

61 considered as complicated and costly which may  
 62 be true in some newly emerging diseases, for  
 63 instance, early mortality syndrome (EMS) out-  
 64 break in shrimp aquaculture and its confirmatory  
 65 etiological diagnosis, but not in all the cases with  
 66 already standardized and validated diagnostics.  
 67 Incorrect diagnosis can lead to ineffective or  
 68 inappropriate control measures which may be  
 69 even more costly. Disease diagnostics should be  
 70 made available throughout the entire life cycle of  
 71 the host till it reaches table for consumption.  
 72 There are multifarious recent diagnostics avail-  
 73 able in aquaculture for disease diagnosis at dif-  
 74 ferent levels. Some diagnostics are used to screen  
 75 healthy animals to ensure that they are free from  
 76 any infection at asymptomatic levels with spe-  
 77 cific pathogens. This kind of screening is mostly  
 78 done on aquatic animals which are transferred  
 79 live or as products from one area or country to  
 80 another. Such screening reduces the risk of car-  
 81 rying infectious agents including opportunistic  
 82 pathogens which might proliferate during  
 83 shipping, handling, or change of environment  
 84 (Bondad-Reantaso et al. 2001). Further, it  
 85 reduces the risk of resistant or tolerant animals  
 86 transferring a significant pathogen to a suscepti-  
 87 ble population. Diagnostic tests may be applied  
 88 to diagnose clinically diseased individuals and  
 89 screen specific disease surveillance and as a con-  
 90 firmatory and calibration tests to validate the  
 91 other diagnostics and procedures adopted. Valid  
 92 laboratory results are essential for diagnosis, sur-  
 93 veillance, and trade.

---

### Disease Diagnosis in Aquaculture

94 It is a dynamic field; what found new yesterday  
 95 becomes dated today, and latest today would  
 96 become obsolete tomorrow. Disease diagnosis  
 97 can be basically divided into two types such as  
 98 *presumptive diagnosis* where a preliminary diag-  
 99 nosis based on gross observations and circumstan-  
 100 tial evidence is done and *confirmatory diagnosis*  
 101 in which the etiological agent is confirmed with a  
 102 high degree of diagnostic confidence.

### Gross and Clinical Signs

103

Gross observations can be easily made at the 104  
 farm or pond side. In most cases, such 105  
 observations are insufficient for a definite diag- 106  
 nosis. But such information is essential for pre- 107  
 liminary understanding of the “case description” 108  
 or “case history.” Accurate and detailed gross 109  
 observations can also help in effectively reducing 110  
 the losses or spread of the diseases by means of 111  
 destruction or isolation of affected stocks and 112  
 treatments or alterations to husbandry practices. 113  
 Clinical signs such as behavioral change which 114  
 includes changes in feeding behavior, weight 115  
 loss, lethargy, erratic swimming movement or 116  
 unusual aggregations, parasitism, cuticle soften- 117  
 ing, discoloration, hemorrhagic lesions, ulcers, 118  
 predator activity, and unusual mortalities are 119  
 considered to be the first signs of stress or disease 120  
 problem in an aquaculture system. Environmen- 121  
 tal parameters such as temperature, dissolved 122  
 oxygen, pH, etc., play a significant role in 123  
 aquaculture both directly (within the ranges of 124  
 physiological tolerances) and indirectly (enhanc- 125  
 ing susceptibility to infections or their 126  
 expression). 127

### Clinical Biochemistry

128

Clinical chemistry in shrimp–fish pathology is 129  
 in its infancy state. But routine application of 130  
 clinical biochemistry will help in arriving at 131  
 confirmatory diagnosis in future and also iden- 132  
 tification of any blood-borne parasites. Hemato- 133  
 logical, immunological, and clinical 134  
 biochemical values such as bleeding time, coag- 135  
 ulation time, total hemocyte count (THC), dif- 136  
 ferential hemocyte count (DHC), bacterial 137  
 clearance activity, phagocytosis, prophenol- 138  
 oxidase activity, serum acid phosphatase, 139  
 serum alkaline phosphatase, total serum protein, 140  
 glucose, cholesterol, total protein, total albu- 141  
 min, alanine transaminase (ALT), aspartate 142  
 transaminase (AST), triglycerides, and lactate 143  
 dehydrogenase (LDH) will also give some spe- 144  
 cific clue in making confirmatory diagnosis. 145

146 **Environmental Parameters**

147 Often environmental parameters are not included  
 148 in routine diagnostic procedures done in aquacul-  
 149 ture. But it is essential to assess the water and soil  
 150 quality parameters such as salinity, temperature,  
 151 pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), ammonia nitrogen  
 152 ( $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$ ), nitrite nitrogen ( $\text{NO}_2\text{-N}$ ), nitrate nitro-  
 153 gen ( $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ ), phosphate phosphorus ( $\text{PO}_4\text{-P}$ ),  
 154 and microbial load since they play vital role in  
 155 deciding any disease outbreak in aquaculture  
 156 system. Sometimes any one of these environ-  
 157 mental factors alone can lead to high mortality,  
 158 but mere presence of certain pathogenic organ-  
 159 ism in the host and pond ecosystem can mislead  
 160 our confirmatory diagnosis.

161 **Necropsy Examination**

162 Necropsy examination is performed to inform  
 163 farmer, clinical staff, researcher, academicians,  
 164 or legal authorities about the cause of death. It is  
 165 essential for getting new information and guid-  
 166 ance for the future. Post mortem examinations  
 167 can provide information about illness and health  
 168 that would not be discovered in any other way  
 169 and help to understand why the animal died. The  
 170 rare pathological conditions can be preserved,  
 171 and retention of whole animal/organ/tissue  
 172 would benefit to future needs. Much of what we  
 173 know about illness today came from such  
 174 examinations. They help to:

- 175 • Identify the cause of death.
- 176 • Confirm the nature of the illness and/or the  
 177 extent of the disease.
- 178 • Identify other conditions that may not have  
 179 been diagnosed.
- 180 • Identify complications or side effects of  
 181 treatments and drugs.

182 It is also possible that the information gained  
 183 may benefit future generations in the family, or  
 184 other animals suffer similar problems. Before  
 185 proceeding to post mortem examination, one  
 186 should ascertain when the fish first showed  
 187 signs and the treatment given (Noga 2010;  
 188 Roberts 2012).

**Isolation and Identification of Pathogen** 189

The organ of choice for isolating systemic bacte- 190  
 rial pathogens in fish is kidney which can be 191  
 approached either dorsally or ventrally, and in 192  
 shrimp it is hepatopancreas being a vital organ. 193  
 Fish–shrimp pathogens should be cultured at room 194  
 temperature (22–25 °C), not at 37 °C, as is rou- 195  
 tinely done in many microbiology laboratories 196  
 since some of the fish pathogens grow poorly or 197  
 not at all at 37 °C (Bondad-Reantaso et al. 2001). 198  
 For example, *Vibrio salmonicida* grows at 17 °C. 199  
 Samples from marine and brackish water source to 200  
 be cultured on a medium that has high salt content 201  
 at least 1.5 % (Bruno 1996). Special media like 202  
 thiosulfate–citrate–bile sucrose agar (TCBS) can 203 AU3  
 also be used. Live specimens should be used for 204  
 culture whenever possible. Identification of an 205  
 obligate pathogen (*Aeromonas salmonicida*) 206  
 (Drinan 1985) in a dead fish is a stronger diagnosis 207  
 than the isolation of an opportunist 208  
 (*A. hydrophila*). The other pathogens like virus, 209  
 fungi, parasite, etc. should be isolated as per the 210  
 standard protocol for each species of the 211  
 organisms. It is very important to understand that 212  
 mere isolation and identification of pathogen from 213  
 any host do not warranty that the disease and 214  
 mortality are due to its presence in the system. 215  
 The specific cause of death should only be 216  
 ascertained when the Koch's postulate is proven. 217

**Bioassay** 218

It is a quantitative procedure that uses susceptible 219  
 organisms to detect toxic substances or pathogens. 220  
 Bioassay is done with samples collected from 221  
 suspected or asymptomatic carriers and tested 222  
 using a highly susceptible host (life stage or spe- 223  
 cies) as the indicator for the presence of the patho- 224  
 gen. In this assay Koch's postulate is well proven. 225

**Microscopy** 226

Bright-field microscopy is the simplest of all the 227  
 light microscopy techniques where the sample is 228

229 illuminated with white light from below and  
 230 observed from above. The technique is very  
 231 easy and simple to do with minimal sample prep-  
 232 aration, but it requires expertise in reading the  
 233 slides. Low contrast of most biological samples  
 234 and low apparent resolution are the limitations.  
 235 Dark-field microscopy is yet another technique  
 236 commonly used for improving the contrast of  
 237 unstained, transparent specimens. But this tech-  
 238 nique suffers from low light intensity in the final  
 239 image of many biological samples and continues  
 240 to be affected by low apparent resolution. Many  
 241 times for on-farm diagnosis, the presence of virus  
 242 can be detected by tissue squash preparation and  
 243 staining. This can then be observed under a  
 244 microscope for a particular viral infection like  
 245 Monodon baculovirus (MBV) by hepatopancreas  
 246 or fecal squash preparation stained with 0.05 %  
 247 aqueous malachite green for detection of large,  
 248 single, or multiple roughly spherical, eosino-  
 249 philic, polyhedral, intranuclear occlusion bodies  
 250 (OBs). Moreover, microscopy plays a crucial  
 251 role in the identification of bacterial pathogens  
 252 by using the special stains like Gram's staining  
 253 and acid fast staining.

254 **Histopathology**

255 Histopathology holds its importance from the  
 256 day of its invention in the field of diagnostics.  
 257 Proper sampling and fixation are the most impor-  
 258 tant steps for correct disease diagnosis. The mor-  
 259 ibund or very recently dead animals are suitable  
 260 for histopathology, while putrefied or frozen  
 261 animals are found unsuitable. Fish/shrimps are  
 262 usually fixed in 10 % neutral buffered formalin  
 263 (NBF) fixative in a wide-mouth plastic bottle.  
 264 The fixative volume should be at least 10 times  
 265 more than the volume of sample to get the tissues  
 266 properly fixed. The samples collected should be  
 267 as small as possible not more than 0.5 cm<sup>2</sup> thick-  
 268 ness. For shrimps, Davidson's fixative is also  
 269 commonly used, and the composition of the com-  
 270 mon fixatives used is listed below (Bell and  
 271 Lightner 1988; Lightner 1996).

**Common Fixative Used for Histopathology**

			272
			273
			274
<i>Davidson's fixative</i>			
95 % ethanol	–	330 ml	275
37 % formaldehyde	–	220 ml	276
Glacial acetic acid	–	115 ml	277
Distilled water	–	335 ml	278
<i>4 % Formal saline (for parasites)</i>			
37 % formaldehyde	–	40 ml	280
Distilled water	–	960 ml	281
Sodium chloride	–	8.5 g	282
<i>10 % Formal saline (for tissues)</i>			
37 % formaldehyde	–	100 ml	284
Distilled water	–	900 ml	285
Sodium chloride	–	8.5 g	286
<i>10 % neutral buffered formalin</i>			
37 % formaldehyde	–	100 ml	289
Distilled water	–	900 ml	290
Sodium dihydrogen phosphate	–	4 g	291
Disodium hydrogen phosphate	–	6 g	292

The presence of virus in different tissues can  
 be detected by histopathology. However, proper  
 histopathological techniques and expertise in  
 reading slides are necessary to interpret the  
 results. If properly detected, this will be the  
 most accurate diagnostic method. But it will be  
 difficult to detect any low levels of infections by  
 this method. The most well-defined common  
 viral diseases affecting shrimp and fish are listed  
 below with the details of the inclusion bodies  
 with respect to the specific diseases seen in the  
 histopathology.

In addition, immunohistochemical staining  
 methods have also been developed with  
 paraffin-embedded tissue sections for the detec-  
 tion of viruses such as infectious pancreatic  
 necrosis virus (IPNV), infectious salmon anemia  
 virus (ISAV) and nodavirus (Bondad-Reantaso  
 et al. 2001). Viral antigen is localized by an  
 antibody raised against the virus, and subsequent  
 addition of colored substrate results in a colored  
 product that can be visualized by light  
 microscopy.

Sl. No.	Disease	Etiology	Inclusions
1.	Monodon baculovirus (MBV) disease	Family: <i>Baculoviridae</i> , dsDNA type A monodon baculovirus (MBV)	Large, single, or multiple roughly spherical, eosinophilic, polyhedral, <i>intranuclear</i> occlusion bodies (OBs) in the epithelial cells of the hepatopancreas tubules and the anterior midgut (Lester et al. 1987; Lightner 1988; Vogt 1992; Bondad-Reantaso et al. 2001)
2.	White spot disease (WSD)	Family: <i>Nimaviridae</i> , dsDNA <i>Whispovirus</i> , white spot syndrome virus (WSSV)	Ectodermal (epidermis, gills, fore and hind gut, antennal gland, and neurons) and mesodermal (hematopoietic tissue, hemocytes, striated muscle, heart, lymphoid organ, and connective tissues) tissues with eosinophilic to basophilic <i>intranuclear</i> inclusions (Momoyama et al. 1994; Wongteerasupaya et al 1995)
3.	Infectious hypodermal and hematopoietic necrosis (IHHN)	Family: <i>Parvoviridae</i> , ssDNA infectious hypodermal and hematopoietic necrosis virus (IHHNV)	Cowdry type A <i>intranuclear</i> inclusion bodies (IBs) in cells of ectodermal and mesodermal origin (Morales-Covarrubias and Chavez-Sanchez 1999)
4.	Hepatopancreatic disease	Family: <i>Parvoviridae</i> ssDNA hepatopancreatic parvovirus (HPV)	Single, prominent, basophilic, <i>intranuclear</i> inclusion bodies in the hypertrophied hepatopancreatic epithelial cells (Promjai et al. 2002)
5.	Yellowhead disease	Family: <i>Roniviridae</i> , ssRNA yellowhead/gill-associated virus/lymphoid organ virus (YHV/GAV/LOV)	Basophilic, <i>intracytoplasmic</i> , Feulgen-positive inclusions in the lymphoid organs, interstitial tissues of the hepatopancreas, connective tissues underlying the midgut, cardiac tissues, hematopoietic tissues, hemocytes, and gill tissues (Chantanachookin et al. 1993)
6.	Taura syndrome	Family: <i>Dicistroviridae</i> , ssRNA Taura syndrome virus (TSV)	Eosinophilic then changes to basophilic, <i>intracytoplasmic</i> , Feulgen-negative inclusion bodies in the cells in areas of necrosis (Lightner et al. 1995; Lightner 1996; Hasson et al. 1999).
7.	Infectious myonecrosis	Family: <i>Totiviridae</i> , dsRNA infectious myonecrosis virus (IMNV)	<i>Perinuclear</i> , pale, basophilic to dark basophilic inclusion bodies are evident in muscle cells, connective tissue cells, hemocytes, and cells that comprise lymphoid organ spheroids (Lightner et al. 2004; Poulos et al. 2006)
8.	Monodon slow growth syndrome	Family: <i>Luteoviridae</i> (?), ssRNA Laem–Singh virus (LSNV)	LSNV is detected in the fasciculated zone and in onion bodies of the organ of Bellonci (Sritunyalucksana et al. 2006)
9.	Muscle necrosis disease	Family: <i>Nodaviridae</i> , ssRNA <i>Penaeus vannamei</i> nodavirus (PvNV)	<i>Perinuclear</i> , pale, basophilic inclusion bodies are evident in muscle cells, connective tissue cells, hemocytes, and cells that comprise lymphoid organ spheroids (Melena et al. 2012)
10.	White tail disease (WTD) or white muscle disease (WMD)	Family: <i>Nodaviridae</i> , RNA <i>Macrobrachium rosenbergii</i> nodavirus (MrNV) and its associate extra small virus (XSV)	Pathognomonic oval or irregular basophilic <i>intracytoplasmic</i> inclusion bodies are demonstrated in the target tissues by histology (Arcier et al 1999; Hsieh et al. 2006)

(continued)



Sl. No.	Disease	Etiology	Inclusions
11.	Koi herpesvirus disease (KHVD)	Family: <i>Alloherpesviridae</i> , DNA herpesvirus	Eosinophilic <i>intranuclear</i> inclusions in branchial epithelial cells, leucocytes, kidney, spleen, pancreas, liver, brain, gut, and oral epithelium (Bergmann et al. 2006)
12.	Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (VER) or Viral nervous necrosis (VNN)	Family: <i>Nodaviridae</i> , ssRNA piscine nodavirus of the genus <i>Betanodavirus</i>	<i>Intracytoplasmic</i> inclusion in nervous cells (Munday et al. 2002).
13.	Iridovirus infection	Family: <i>Iridoviridae</i> , dsDNA virus of genera <i>Lymphocystivirus</i> and <i>Ranavirus</i>	Basophilic <i>intracytoplasmic</i> inclusion bodies seen in liver, kidney, heart, pancreas, gastrointestinal tract, gill, and pseudobranch and positive indirect fluorescent antibody test – IFAT in spleen, heart, kidney, intestine, and gill (Jung et al. 1997)
14.	Epizootic hematopoietic necrosis	Family: <i>Iridoviridae</i> , dsDNA epizootic hematopoietic necrosis virus of genus <i>Ranavirus</i>	Basophilic <i>intracytoplasmic</i> inclusion bodies seen in liver, kidney, heart, pancreas, gastrointestinal tract, gill, and pseudobranch (Reddacliff and Whittington 1996)
15.	Infectious hematopoietic necrosis (IHN)	Family: <i>Rhabdoviridae</i> , ss RNA infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus	<i>Intracytoplasmic</i> inclusion bodies seen in hematopoietic tissues, kidney, spleen, liver, pancreas, and digestive tract (Wolf 1988; Bootland and Leong 1999)
16.	Spring viraemia of carp (SVC)	Family: <i>Rhabdoviridae</i> , spring viraemia of carp virus (SVCV), a species in the genus <i>Vesiculovirus</i>	<i>Intracytoplasmic</i> inclusion bodies seen in hematopoietic tissues, kidney, spleen, liver, pancreas, and digestive tract (Haghighi Khiabani Asl et al. 2008)
17.	Viral hemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS)	Family: <i>Rhabdoviridae</i> , viral hemorrhagic septicaemia virus (VHSV) belonging to the genus <i>Novirhabdovirus</i>	<i>Intracytoplasmic</i> inclusion bodies seen in hematopoietic tissues, kidney, spleen, liver, pancreas, and digestive tract (Evensen et al. 1994)

316 **Transmission or Scanning Electron**  
317 **Microscopy**

318 It requires special methodology to be followed in  
319 fixing and processing of tissues for electron  
320 microscopy. Transmission electron microscopy  
321 (TEM) is very much useful and a great boon to  
322 diagnostic pathology to identify and determine  
323 the structure of an unknown virus that is  
324 characterized for the first time. This can also be  
325 used as a confirmatory test for the detection of  
326 already known virus or any intracellular  
327 parasites. Moreover, it is used in studying the  
328 ultrastructural changes during the progress of  
329 diseases. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM)  
330 is useful in identifying the surface level changes

on the cell, and moreover it gives the structure of 331  
the cell as a whole in 3D view. The latest tech- 332  
nology made scanning transmission electron 333  
microscope (STEM) as a dual-mode instrument 334  
by combination of both TEM and SEM 335  
principles. All of the images seen up to now 336  
provide information about the structure of a spec- 337  
imen, but it is also possible to analyze chemical 338  
composition of the particles by analytical elec- 339  
tron microscopy (AEM) (Egerton 2005). 340

**Antibody-Based Assays**

341  
342 Antibody-based tests for pathogen detection  
343 using immune sera polyclonal antibodies



344 (PAb's) or monoclonal antibodies (MAB's) can  
 345 be used in fish disease diagnosis. Since  
 346 crustaceans do not produce antibodies,  
 347 antibody-based diagnostic tests are limited in  
 348 their application to pathogen detection in shrimp  
 349 diseases. Moreover, since crustacean viruses can-  
 350 not be routinely produced in tissue culture,  
 351 purified virus from infected hosts must be used  
 352 to produce antibody. This has severely limited  
 353 the development and availability of this diagnos-  
 354 tic tool in shrimp disease diagnosis. Antibody-  
 355 based diagnostic methods have been developed  
 356 with mouse or rabbit antibodies generated to  
 357 viruses purified from infected hosts. The recent  
 358 application of MAb technologies to this problem  
 359 has begun to provide a few antibody-based tests.  
 360 MAb's are available for three of the OIE listed  
 361 crustacean viruses such as TSV, IHNV, and  
 362 WSSV (Bondad-Reantaso et al. 2001).

363 **Molecular Methods**

364 Accurate, easy, and convenient availability of  
 365 rapid and reliable diagnostic methods plays an  
 366 important role in any disease control and health  
 367 management programs in aquaculture. Treatment  
 368 regime is well developed in human, animal hus-  
 369 bandry, and agriculture for each and every spe-  
 370 cific disease, but it is still in growing phase in  
 371 aquaculture. Proper early diagnosis is as good  
 372 considered as treatment in aquaculture. So the  
 373 molecular diagnostics based on polymerase  
 374 chain reaction (PCR) principles have been exten-  
 375 sively used to control the spread of major shrimp  
 376 and fish pathogens (Ananda Raja et al. 2012), but  
 377 they have the disadvantage of requiring sophisti-  
 378 cated equipment and highly trained personnel.  
 379 There are so many molecular diagnostics in  
 380 aquaculture. It is appropriate to use well-proven,  
 381 validated, and frequently used techniques.  
 382 Recently, lateral flow chromatographic immuno-  
 383 diagnostic strips similar to common drugstore  
 384 pregnancy tests have begun to appear for some  
 385 shrimp diseases (Flegel et al. 2008). Using this  
 386 kind of strips, unskilled farm personnel can eas-  
 387 ily diagnose shrimp or fish disease outbreaks at

the pond side. The strips are relatively cheap and 388  
 give an answer within 10 min. 389

---

**Health Management in Aquaculture**

The proverb "prevention is better than cure" is 390  
 well suited to the health management in aquacul- 391  
 ture. The disease prevention and control strategy 392  
 is the best practice for successful hatchery and 393  
 grow-out culture practices. Quarantine measures 394  
 should strictly be adopted to import broodstock 395  
 to avoid entry of existing or emerging pathogen. 396  
 The following salient points are considered very 397  
 important to get successful grow-out culture: 398

- Seasonal factors and crop planning based on 399  
 the disease incidence. 400
- Ponds should be dried before starting the 401  
 culture. 402
- Strict biosecurity measures should be 403  
 adopted. 404
- Sieve should be used at water inlet, and the 405  
 water should be bleached before stocking to 406  
 weed out wild shrimp, fishes, and intermedi- 407  
 ate hosts. 408
- Good water quality should be maintained 409  
 throughout the culture. 410
- Zero-water exchange or minimal-water 411  
 exchange from reservoir ponds in case of 412  
 shrimp culture. 413
- Disease-free stock should be used from good 414  
 genetic strain of broodstock. 415
- Development and use of disease-resistant 416  
 stocks will help in prevention of catastrophic 417  
 disease outbreak and loss. 418
- Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA) 419  
 guidelines should be followed for optimum 420  
 shrimp stocking density in grow-out culture 421  
 system. 422
- Quarantine measures should strictly be 423  
 adopted to import broodstock to avoid entry 424  
 of existing or emerging pathogen. 425
- Adequate balanced good nutrition to be made 426  
 available to avoid problems associated with 427  
 cannibalism and horizontal spread of diseases. 428
- Proper destruction and disposal of infected as 429  
 well as dead animals to be regularly monitored. 430

- 431 • Animals should be handled with good care to  
432 avoid unwanted stress.
- 433 • Proper chemical prophylaxis and vaccine  
434 development are needed for immunological  
435 protection.
- 436 • Regulations are required to prevent transfer of  
437 pathogens from one host population to  
438 another, nationally or internationally.
- 439 • Sanitation and disinfection of hatchery and  
440 equipments are to be strictly followed.
- 441 • Despite all the precautions, disease outbreak  
442 may occur. Handling a disease outbreak with  
443 least economic loss is an art of farm manage-  
444 ment. Prompt action is essential in such  
445 circumstances to rectify the problems, reduce  
446 the losses, and minimize the impacts on  
447 neighboring farms.
- 448 • Record keeping is necessary to identify  
449 problems in the pond environment and animal  
450 health and to rectify those problems at the  
451 earliest during the production cycle. It also  
452 helps the farmer to learn from the past.
- 
- 453 **References**
- 454 Ananda Raja R, Panigrahi A, Kumar S (2012) Epidemio-  
455 logical investigation of brackish water culture systems  
456 in West Bengal, India. *J Appl Aquac* 24:49–59
- 457 Arcier JM, Herman F, Lightner DV, Redman RM, Mari J,  
458 Bonami JR (1999) A viral disease associated with  
459 mortalities in hatchery-reared post larvae of the giant  
460 freshwater prawn *Macrobrachium rosenbergii*. *Dis*  
461 *Aquat Org* 38:177–181
- 462 Bell TA, Lightner DV (1988) A handbook of normal  
463 shrimp histology, Special publication no. 1. World  
464 Aquaculture Society, Baton Rouge, 114 pp
- 465 Bergmann SM, Kempter J, Sadowski J, Fichtner D (2006)  
466 First detection, confirmation and isolation of koi her-  
467 pesvirus (KHV) in cultured common carp (*Cyprinus*  
468 *carpio* L.) in Poland. *Bull Eur Assoc Fish Pathol*  
469 26:97–104
- 470 Bondad-Reantaso MG, Mcgladdery SE, East I,  
471 Subasinghe RP (2001) Asia diagnostic guide to  
472 aquatic animal diseases, FAO fisheries technical  
473 paper 402, supplement 2. FAO, Rome, 240 pp
- 474 Bootland LM, Leong JC (1999) Infectious hematopoietic  
475 necrosis virus. In: Woo PTK, Bruno DW (eds) Fish  
476 diseases and disorders, vol 3: viral, bacterial and fun-  
477 gual infections. CAB International, Oxon, pp 57–121
- 478 Bruno DW (1996) Cold water vibriosis caused by *Vibrio*  
479 *salmonicida*, Aquaculture information series no. 15.  
The Scottish Office Agriculture, Environment and  
480 Fisheries Department. Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen 481
- Chantanachookin C, Boonyaratpalin S, Kasornchandra J,  
482 Direkbusarakom S, Aekpanithanpong U,  
483 Supamattaya K, Sriuraitana S, Flegel TW (1993) His-  
484 tology and ultrastructure reveal a new granulosis-like  
485 virus in *Penaeus monodon* affected by yellow-head  
486 disease. *Dis Aquat Org* 17:145–157 487
- Drinan EM (1985) Studies on the pathogenesis of furunculosis in salmonids. Ph.D. thesis, National University of Ireland, Dublin 488
- Egerton RF (2005) Physical principles of electron microscopy. An introduction to TEM, SEM, and AEM. Springer, New York, 202 pp 489
- Evensen Ø, Meier W, Wahli T, Olesen NJ, Jørgensen PEV, Håstein T (1994) Comparison of immunohistochemistry and virus cultivation for detection of viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus in experimentally infected rainbow trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*. *Dis Aquat Org* 20:101–109 490
- Flegel TW, Lightner DV, Lo CF, Owens L (2008) Shrimp disease control: past, present and future. In: Bondad-Reantaso MG, Mohan CV, Crumlish M, Subasinghe RP (eds) Diseases in Asian aquaculture VI. Fish Health Section, Asian Fisheries Society, Manila, pp 355–378, 505 pp 491
- Haghighi Khiabani Asl A, Azizzadeh M, Bandehpour M, Sharifnia Z, Kazemi B (2008) The first report of SVC from Indian carp species by PCR and histopathologic methods in Iran. *Pak J Biol Sci* 11:2675–2678 492
- Hasson KW, Lightner DV, Mohny LL, Redman RM, Poulos BT, White BL (1999) Taura syndrome virus (TSV) lesion development and the disease cycle in the Pacific white shrimp *Penaeus vannamei*. *Dis Aquat Org* 36:81–93 493
- Hsieh CY, Wu ZB, Tung MC, Tu C, Lo SP, Chang TC, Chang CD, Chen SC, Hsieh YC, Tsai SS (2006) In situ hybridization and RT-PCR detection of *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* nodavirus in giant freshwater prawn, *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* (de Man), in Taiwan. *J Fish Dis* 29:665–671 494
- Jung S, Miyazaki T, Miyata M, Danayadol Y, Tanaka S (1997) Pathogenicity of iridovirus from Japan and Thailand for the red sea bream *Pagrus major* in Japan, and histopathology of experimentally infected fish. *Fish Sci* 63:735–740 495
- Lester RJG, Doubrovsky A, Paynter JL, Sambhi SK, Atherton JG (1987) Light and electron microscope evidence of baculovirus infection in the prawn *Penaeus plebejus*. *Dis Aquat Org* 3:217–219 496
- Lightner DV (1988) Diseases of cultured penaeid shrimp and prawns. In: Sindermann CJ, Lightner DV (eds) Disease diagnosis and control in North American marine aquaculture. Elsevier, Amsterdam, pp 8–127 497
- Lightner DV (1996) A handbook of shrimp pathology and diagnostic procedures for diseases of cultured Penaeid shrimp. World Aquaculture Society, Baton Rouge, 304 pp 498

- 539 Lightner DV, Redman RM, Hasson KW, Pantoja CR  
540 (1995) Taura syndrome in *Penaeus vannamei* (Crusta-  
541 cea: Decapoda): gross signs, histopathology and ultra-  
542 structure. *Dis Aquat Org* 21:53–59
- 543 Lightner DV, Pantoja CR, Poulos BT, Tang KFJ, Redman  
544 RM, Pasos De Andrade T, Bonami JR (2004) Infec-  
545 tious myonecrosis: new disease in Pacific white  
546 shrimp. *Glob Aquac Advocate* 7:85
- 547 Melena J, Tomala J, Panchana F, Betancourt I,  
548 Gonzabay C, Sonnenholzner S, Amano Y, Bonami  
549 J-R (2012) Infectious muscle necrosis etiology in the  
550 Pacific white shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*) cultured in  
551 Ecuador. *Braz J Vet Pathol* 5:31–36
- 552 Momoyama K, Hiraoka M, Nakano H, Koube H,  
553 Inouye K, Oseko N (1994) Mass mortalities of  
554 cultured kuruma shrimp, *Penaeus japonicus*, in Japan  
555 in 1993: histopathological study. *Fish Pathol*  
556 29:141–148
- 557 Morales-Covarrubias MS, Chavez-Sanchez MC (1999)  
558 Histopathological studies on wild broodstock of  
559 white shrimp *Penaeus vannamei* in the Platanitos  
560 area, adjacent to San Blas, Nayarit, Mexico. *J World*  
561 *Aquac Soc* 30:192–200
- 562 Munday BL, Kwang J, Moody N (2002) Betanodavirus  
563 infections of teleost fish: a review. *J Fish Dis*  
564 25:127–142
- AU6 565 Noga EJ (2010) Fish disease diagnosis and treatment, 11th  
566 edn. Wiley-Blackwell, Ames, 519 pp
- 567 Poulos BT, Tang KFJ, Pantoja CR, Bonami JR, Lightner  
568 DV (2006) Purification and characterization of infec-  
569 tious myonecrosis virus of penaeid shrimp. *J Gen*  
570 *Virol* 87:987–996
- Promjai J, Boonsaeng V, Withyachumnarnkul B, Flegel 571  
TW (2002) Detection of hepatopancreatic parvovirus 572  
in Thai shrimp *Penaeus monodon* by in situ 573  
hybridization, dot blot hybridization and PCR ampli- 574  
fication. *Dis Aquat Org* 51:227–232 575
- Reddacliff LA, Whittington RJ (1996) Pathology of epi- 576  
zootic haematopoeitic necrosis virus (EHNV) infec- 577  
tion in rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss* 578  
Walbaum) and redfin perch (*Perca fluviatilis* L.). 579  
*J Comp Pathol* 115:103–115 580
- Roberts RJ (2012) Fish pathology, IVth edn. Wiley- 581  
Blackwell, Hoboken, 590 pp 582
- Snieszko SF (1974) The effects of environmental stress on 583  
outbreaks of infectious diseases of fishes. *J Fish Biol* 584  
6:197–208 585
- Sritunyalucksana K, Apisawetakan S, Boon-nat A, 586  
Withyachumnarnkul B, Flegel TW (2006) A new 587  
RNA virus found in black tiger shrimp *Penaeus* 588  
*monodon* from Thailand. *Virus Res* 118:31–38 589
- Vogt G (1992) Transformation of anterior midgut and 590  
hepatopancreas by monodon baculovirus (MBV) in 591  
*Penaeus monodon* postlarvae. *Aquaculture* 592  
107:239–248 593
- Wolf K (1988) Infectious hematopoietic necrosis. In: Fish 594  
viruses and fish viral diseases. Cornell University 595  
Press, Ithaca, pp 83–114 596
- Wongteerasupaya C, Vickers JE, Sriurairatana S, Nash 597  
GL, Akarajamorn A, Boonsaeng V, Panyim S, 598  
Tassanakajon A, Withyachumnarnkul B, Flegel TW 599  
(1995) A non-occluded, systemic baculovirus that 600  
occurs in cells of ectodermal and mesodermal origin 601  
and causes high mortality in the black tiger prawn 602  
*Penaeus monodon*. *Dis Aquat Org* 21:69–77 603

# Author Queries

Chapter No.: 23      0002270968

Queries	Details Required	Author's response
AU1	Please confirm author affiliation.	
AU2	Please check if edit to sentence starting "Confirmatory diagnosis of..." is okay.	
AU3	Please check if "thiosulfate-citrate-bile sucrose agar" should be changed to "thiosulfate-citrate-bile salt-sucrose agar."	
AU4	The reference citation Ray (2005) has been changed to Egerton (2005). Please check if appropriate.	
AU5	Please confirm inserted publisher location for the references Noga (2010), Roberts (2012).	
AU6	Please confirm the publisher's name in Noga (2010).	