



Pathology and Medicine of Reptiles and Amphibians

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Abstracts

Title:	Mycobacterium-infections in reptiles, a cause of zoonosis?
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Abstracts: Material, methods, results, discussion	<p>Human infections with mycobacteria others than tuberculosis (MOTT) are usually not considered as being a zoonosis. Though, we report herewith a microbiologically proven case of an infection with MOTT in a HIV-negative young male suffering from a swelling of an inguinal lymph node. In search of the infection source only his exotic pets, two Tiger pythons (<i>Python morulus</i>), were detected of being infected with a mycobacterium, <i>Mycobacteria fortuitum</i>, in clinically conspicuous dermal lesions. Animal abuse together with mismanaged keeping procedures were the most probable infection route.</p> <p>Thereupon 42 aquaria and aquaterraria were screened for MOTT infestation. In 14% of the aquaterraria <i>M. fortuitum</i> was detected by genetic typing, whereas <i>M. intracellulare</i> was infrequently found in aquaria only. <i>M. fortuitum</i> was isolated from all types of aquaria and aquaterraria inhabited by exotic pets including fish. Thus, <i>M. fortuitum</i> seems to be the mycobacterium associated with the keeping of exotic pets.</p>

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