

MOLECULAR DETECTION OF MAREK'S DISEASE VIRUS IN SOME POULTRY FLOCKS IN SOUTHWESTERN NIGERIA BY POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION

A.A.OWOADE and ONI O.O.

Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Ibadan; Nigeria.

Department of Veterinary Medicine & Surgery, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta; Nigeria.

Correspondence: writewole@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

The detection of Marek's disease virus (MDV) was made in seven (7) selected poultry flocks with ages between 11 and 44 weeks in Lagos, Ogun and Oyo states in Southwestern Nigeria. Polymerase chain reaction technique was used for the detection. Four (11,24,35 and 44 weeks old) out of the 7 flocks screened were positive for Marek's disease virus. Eight tissue samples that were positive include feather, liver and spleen. Since Marek's disease is of economic importance to the poultry industry, further studies are necessary to serotype MDV in Nigeria.

Key words: PCR; MDV; Southwestern Nigeria.