All hosts | 2539 | 12/172 (6.9%)

log_{10} neutralising indices of 5.5 and 5.0 were obtained in tests in mice.

From 716 Hyalomma marginatum rufipes ticks collected from camels, 5 strains of CCHF virus were isolated whereas none were isolated from 620 H. dromedarii collected from the same camels.

A serological survey by indirect immunofluorescence antibody (IFA) assay with strain CCHF Ib Ar 10206 gave positive reaction rates of 32% (8/25) for cattle and, for rodents, 16% for Arvicanthis niloticus (7/43), 27% for Muscomys erythroleucus (3/11), and zero (0/2) for Taterillus pygargus and/or gracili. Of 59 human sera tested 1 was positive.

From hospital records in Selibaby relating to haemorrhagic fever in this area we found two cases of haemorrhagic fever clinically compatible with CCHF which occurred in 1982 among stock breeders.

A serological survey was also done with Rift Valley fever (RVF) virus by IFA using strain ArB 1976-Zinga. 9 of 26 (35%) camel breeders had antibodies, with titres ranging from 16 to 128. In contrast, no antibody was found in 7 sera of butchers or in 26 sera from residents of this area who were not connected with camels.

Antibodies were also present in 2/25 cattle, but 0/56 rodent sera had IFA antibody to RVF virus. The human sera were also treated by IgM antibody capture ELISA with an inactivated RVF antigen. 2 sera were positive (titres 200 and 1600), indicating recent infection. RVF virus was not isolated from ticks or from rodent and cattle organ pools.

These results suggest that in the Selibaby area, CCHF virus is enzootic. The incidence of CCHF in man seems low but cases have been reported.

Investigations are needed to determine the distribution of CCHF virus in Mauritania and its relation to haemorrhagic syndromes in man; the role played by camels in the spread of CCHF virus in northern Mauritania during the rainy season and during migrations; the differences between H marginalum rufipes and H dromedarii in their tendency to be infected by and to transmit CCHF virus; the significance of rodents in maintaining CCHF virus circulation in the Selibaby area; and the relation between Rift Valley fever and camels in Mauritania.

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