

DIAGNOSTIC CASE REPORT

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY-BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER-HONOLULU FIELD STATION
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Case Number: 25067

Submitter Name:

Ms. Julie Maury
Le Meridien Bora Bora
BP 190
Vaitape, French Polynesia 9873
France

Species submitted (n):

Turtle: Green (2)

SPECIMENS SUBMITTED: Tissue-Fixed formalin

History: Turtle 1 was found dead in the lagoon at Le Meridien Bora Bora. There was blood coming out of the eye. There were no signs of problems before the turtle was found dead. Reference name is Fatty. Turtle 2 was put into quarantine at the Turtle Center, Le Meridien, Bora Bora. The beak was paralyzed. The turtle had trouble breathing and it was not eating. The necropsy was performed the day it died. Reference name of the turtle is Heivanui. No other gross necropsy observations were provided with either sample.

Findings: Microscopic examinations of tissues for turtle 1 revealed acute bleeding into the salt glands, and very mild infection with vascular trematodes. No lesions were seen in tissues from the second turtle.

Final diagnosis: Accession 1-Hemorrhage acute; Accession 2-Undetermined.

Comments: The clinical signs and lack of gross or microscopic lesions explanatory for cause of death suggest an acute source of mortality for turtles in the lagoon such as poisonings. The HFS has received similar reports of this situation in the past and, as in this case, we were unable to pinpoint any cause of death such as trauma or infectious disease. It has been discussed that turtles may be eating something poisonous in the lagoon, but what that may be is unclear.

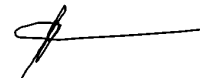
Management: Careful examination of where turtles are foraging in the lagoon and what they are eating might provide valuable clues as to how they are getting exposed to potential poisons or other acute drivers of mortality. There is currently no evidence that infectious diseases (parasites, viruses, bacteria, fungi) are responsible for these mortalities.

Report Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 8/14/2014

Necropsy report: Enclosed

Copies of this report sent to:

Mr. George Balazs (NOAA)



If you have questions regarding this case, contact Thierry M. Work MS, DVM, MPVM at 808-792-9520. Include above Case Number. Diagnostic findings may not be used for publication without the pathologist's knowledge and consent.

NOTE: Information in this report supersedes any information from previous reports regarding this case

N A T I O N A L W I L D L I F E H E A L T H C E N T E R
N E C R O P S Y R E P O R T

Submitter Name:

Ms. Julie Maury
Le Meridien Bora Bora
BP 190
Vaitape, French Polynesia 9873
France

Case: 25067
Accession: 1
Date Collected: 11/25/2013
Date Examined: 6/10/2014
Prosector: Unknown
Pathologist: T. M. Work

Signalment-Morphometrics-History

CONDITION: (Unknown) POSTMORTEM: (Good) EUTHANASIA: (Not euthanized)

TAG TYPE: (Reference Number) TAG NO.: (Fatty)

SPECIES: (Turtle: Green) AGE: (Subadult) SEX: (Male)

MORPHOMETRICS: Weight carcass (37 kg), Straight carapace length (66.5 cm), Straight carapace width (58 cm).

COLLECTION-SITE: (Bora Bora) AREA: (Society Islands) STATE: (French Polynesia)
COUNTRY: (France)

HISTORY: This turtle was found dead in the lagoon at Le Meridien Bora Bora. There was blood coming out of the eye. There were no signs of problems before the turtle was found dead. Reference name is Fatty.

External/Internal

EXTERNAL:

INTERNAL:

PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSIS: Undetermined.

Samples

SECIMENS RECEIVED: Tissue-Fixed formalin.

HISTO: Brain (A); Testes, Kidney (B); Liver (C); Intestine small, Heart (D); Intestine small, Gland salt (E); Eye (F).

Laboratory Results

HISTOPATHOLOGY

Gland salt: Diffusely, connective tissues surrounding gland are infiltrated by red cells.

Liver: Diffusely, hepatocytes are moderately vacuolated. Round trematode eggs some of which are surrounded by giant cells are scattered within parenchyma.

Kidney: Round trematode eggs some of which are surrounded by giant cells are scattered among proximal tubules.

Brain: Scattered round trematode eggs some of which are surrounded by giant cells are present.

All other Organs: No remarkable lesions are seen.

COMMENTS:None

Final Diagnosis (in order of importance)

Diagnosis	Topog	Morpho	Etiol	Funct	Dis	Link
1. Hemorrhage acute	(T00020)	(M37001)	()	()	()	()

Diagnostic findings may not be published without the knowledge and consent of the pathologist.

Milt Code: (Trauma)

NATIONAL WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER
NECROPSY REPORT

Submitter Name:

Ms. Julie Maury
Le Meridien Bora Bora
BP 190
Vaitape, French Polynesia 9873
France

Case: 25067
Accession: 2
Date Collected: 11/30/2013
Date Examined: 6/10/2014
Prosector: Unknown
Pathologist: T. M. Work

Signalment-Morphometrics-History

CONDITION: (Unknown) POSTMORTEM: (Good) EUTHANASIA: (Not euthanized)

TAG TYPE: (Reference Number) TAG NO.: (Heivanui)

SPECIES: (Turtle: Green) AGE: (Immature) SEX: (Unknown)

MORPHOMETRICS: Weight carcass (27.8 kg), Straight carapace length (63 cm), Straight carapace width (57 cm).

COLLECTION-SITE: (Bora Bora) AREA: (Society Islands) STATE: (French Polynesia)
COUNTRY: (France)

HISTORY: This turtle was put into quarantine at the Turtle Center, Le Meridien, Bora Bora. The beak was paralyzed. The turtle had trouble breathing and it was not eating. The necropsy was performed the day it died. Reference name of the turtle is Heivanui.

External/Internal

EXTERNAL:

INTERNAL:

PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSIS: Undetermined.

Samples

SECIMENS RECEIVED: Tissue-Fixed formalin.

HISTO: Heart, Artery, Nerve, Lung (A); Skeletal muscle (B); Nerve, Artery, Thymus, Skeletal muscle (C); Skeletal muscle (D).

Laboratory Results

HISTOPATHOLOGY

All organs: No remarkable lesions are seen.

COMMENTS: None

Final Diagnosis (in order of importance)

Diagnosis	Topog	Morpho	Etiol	Funct	Dis	Link
1. Undetermined	(T00010)	()	(E00040)	(FY3500)	()	()

Diagnostic findings may not be published without the knowledge and consent of the pathologist. Milt Code: (Open)