Ranid Herpesvirus Skin Disease

Agent
In Europe, infection with ranid herpesvirus 3 is known to cause skin lesions in frogs in the family Ranidae.

Species affected
In Great Britain, ranid herpesvirus skin disease has only been reported in the common frog (*Rana temporaria*).

Clinical signs
Frogs with ranid herpesvirus skin disease develop skin abnormalities which look like grey or white-coloured warty lesions. Some people consider the disease to look as if candle wax has been dripped onto the skin of the frog. The disease appears in early spring, usually during the breeding season when frogs are spawning, and then regresses over the late spring and summer. Little is known about this disease, but affected frogs do not appear to suffer any ill effects from having temporarily warty skin.

Disease transmission
It is not known how the virus is transmitted between amphibians.

Distribution
In Great Britain, ranid herpesvirus skin disease has been reported from multiple sites across England and Wales since the early 1990s.

Risk to human health
Ranid herpesviruses are only known to infect frogs and pose no known threat to human health.
Risk to domestic animal health

Ranid herpesviruses are only known to infect frogs in the family Ranidae. Pet ranid frogs might, therefore, be susceptible to ranid herpesvirus skin disease.

Diagnosis

Ranid herpesvirus skin disease often produces characteristic skin lesions at a specific time of the year. It is possible that the causative virus can cause less-obvious skin lesions or other abnormalities which have not yet been discovered. Confirmation of the disease and investigations for ranid herpesvirus infection require specialist laboratory tests.

If you wish to report finding a dead amphibian, or signs of disease in amphibians, please visit www.gardenwildlifehealth.org. Alternatively, if you have further queries or have no internet access, please call the Garden Wildlife Health vets on 0207 449 6685.

Further information

More advice on amphibians in your garden can be found on the Garden Wildlife Health website www.gardenwildlifehealth.org.

Scientific publications


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