Poster presentations

Blood plasma electropherograms of reptile species commonly kept as pets

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OBJECTIVES

Electrophoresis is often used for the detection of changes in the blood protein composition due to different diseases, especially in mammals and birds. This technique is also being increasingly used in reptile medicine. The goal of this presentation is to present typical electropherograms of 8 reptile species commonly kept as pets in Europe.

METHODS

Lithium-heparin plasma samples from healthy Hermann's tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*), spur-thighed tortoise (*Testudo graeca*), red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*), ball python (*Python regius*), corn snake (*Pantherophis guttatus*), panther chameleon (*Furcifer pardalis*), and bearded dragon (*Pogona vitticeps*) were analysed. The samples were taken for routine health screening and a clinical chemistry profile was measured in all samples. Electrophoresis was performed by capillary zone electrophoresis using the Sebia MINICAP (Sebia, Lisse, Evry Cedex, France).

RESULTS

The electropherograms show strong variations between the different reptile species relating to the number and distance between the different protein peaks.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Electropherograms can be used as a tool for health assessment in reptiles, but evaluation must be based on species specific parameters. Further studies are necessary for the establishment of reference intervals in healthy individuals and for the diagnosis of specific protein changes due to frequently presented infectious diseases like arenavirus infections in snakes or herpesvirus infections in chelonians.

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