

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS PANCREATIC NECROSIS VIRUS FROM ZEBRA DANIO, *Brachydanio rerio*

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Infectious pancreatic necrosis virus (IPN) has been isolated from salmonid fishes (Wolf *et al.* 1960, Jørgensen & Bregnballe 1969) non-salmonids (Sonstergard & McDermott 1972, Sano 1976, Ahne 1978, 1980, Adair & Ferguson 1981) and from marine molluscs (Hill 1976). This paper describes the isolation of IPN-virus from a previously not recognized host fish.

During routine diagnostic examination of laboratory-reared zebra danio (*Brachydanio rerio*) showing no signs of a disease, a cytopathic agent was isolated from the internal organs. The agent replicated in RTG-2-cells (but not in FHM-cells) with cytopathogenic effects (CPE) at 20°C. The isolate was stable to treatment with chloroform and it was neutralized by IPN antisera (courtesy of B. Hill, England), (Table I).

Table I. Neutralization of the isolate by IPN-Ab, IPN-Sp, IPN-VR 299-antiserum.

IPN-Ab	Antiserum	
	IPN-Sp	IPN-VR 299
320*	2720	1360

* reciprocal values of antiserum dilution giving 100% neutralization against 100 KID₅₀ of the isolate.

The neutralization test indicates that the isolated virus belongs to the IPN-virus group.

This is the first report on the presence of IPN-virus in zebra danio. The zebra danio is used in toxicological assay for de-

tecting and evaluating the toxicity of industrial wastes and water pollution. One should keep in mind that the value of such bioassays may be influenced by viral infection of the test fish.

Because of the occurrence of unexpected and unexplained mortalities in test- and control fish, one of the prime considerations in the selection of test fish for bioassays should be the freedom from pathogens.

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