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## Bluetongue virus (BTV) serological survey and evidence of emergent BTV-8 serotype in Morocco

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Bluetongue (BT) is an infectious, non-contagious arthropod-borne disease that infects all ruminants, including sheep, cattle, deer, goats and camelids. Bluetongue virus (BTV) belonged to Reoviridae is ARN genome of 19 Kb. Twenty six BTV serotypes have long been recognized to be associated with severe disease in certain breeds of sheep, whereas cattle and goats are usually sub-clinically affected. Before 2004, BT was considered an exotic disease in Morocco, however, the first outbreak was observed in 2004 in sheep. This outbreak was caused by the isolated BTV-4. Two years later a BTV-1 emerged in Morocco. Both serotype 1 and serotype 4 circulated after 2007 across the country. The aims of the present work was to perform a serological study on sheep from different regions in Morocco in order to clarify the current BTV epidemiological situation and its evolution from 2009 to 2012, to determine the co-infection rate and to confirm the possible circulation of other BTV serotype mainly the BTV-8. All of 436 sera were tested by serum neutralization using reference strains. Results confirm the presence of BTV-4, BTV-1 and BTV-8. However, the present study report for the first time the emerging BTV-8 circulation in Morocco. Moreover, the founding reveal as well a higher co-infection rate in cattle compared to sheep.

### Biography

Kamar Drif has completed her DVM from Agronomic and Veterinary Institute of Hassan II, Morocco and studied her PhD in the same institute. She is a Veterinarian in Laboratory of Aquatic Animals Pathology in Tangier. She has published more than 5 papers in reputed journals.

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