

# Simpósio de férias WCC

## Medicina de Serpentes

### INCLUSION OF BODY DISEASE OF BOID SNAKES

Simpósio WCC - Medicina de Serpentes, 1ª edição, de 13/02/2023 a 15/02/2023  
ISBN dos Anais: 978-65-5465-020-5

**GARCÊS; Andreia Manuela Vieira** <sup>1</sup>

#### RESUMO

The first description of the Inclusion of Body Disease (IBD) in Booid snacks was in the 1970s in a private zoo in the United States. After that, has been diagnosed in snakes maintained in the United States, Africa, Australia, Europe, and the Canary Islands. Boas and pythons are most commonly affected. The aetiology of IBD is unknown. It is believed to be a viral disease, but no etiologic agent has been definitively isolated. Retroviruses have been discussed as a possible cause of the disease. Clinical signs may vary, ranging from subclinical carriers to severe neurologic disease and death. The first signs include off-and-on regurgitation inappetence, develop head tremors, abnormal, anorexia, clogged nostrils, stomatitis, or secondary pneumonia. With the progress of the disease, nervous-system disorders appear, such as disorientation, flaccid paralysis, curling of the head and neck, holding the head in abnormal and unnatural positions, rolling onto the back, or stargazing. Lymphoproliferative disorders and round cell tumours have also been described in infected snakes. Some snakes infected may die within weeks, but others can host the virus for months to years with few to no clinical signs. Diagnosis is based on the detection of typical eosinophilic to amphophilic intracytoplasmic inclusions in hematoxylin and eosin-stained tissue sections. In pythons, inclusions are most commonly found in neurons within the central nervous system. In Boa Constrictors, they can also be found in glial cells, cells in the oesophageal tonsils, hepatocytes, pancreatic acinar cells, renal tubular epithelial cells, and epithelial cells of the gastrointestinal and respiratory tracts. The collection of samples can be *post-mortem* or *ant mortem* thought biopsy. The transmission route of transmission has not been elucidated, but direct contact is probably involved. Venereal transmission and transmission through the placenta in viviparous snakes and the oviparous snakes' eggs could also be possible. To date, no treatment for IBD is known, and snakes that are diagnosed with IBD should be euthanized to prevent animal suffering and reduce the risk of further infections.

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** snacks, IBD, virus, neurological disorders, inclusions

<sup>1</sup> Politécnico de Viseu, Escola Superior Agrária de Viseu, Quinta da Alagoa Estrada de Nelas, 3500-606 Viseu, Portugal., andreiamvg@gmail.com

