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Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	2013I_IJTDH_6118
Title of the Manuscript:	THE INCIDENCE AND INVESTIGATION ON TEN FLOCKS INFECTED WITH GUMBORO DISEASE VIRUS (IBDV) IN ZARIA
Type of the Article	Research Paper

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This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	MATERIALS AND METHODS 1. It is not very clear that data was obtained from both records and field cases. I suggest the method used in these cases should be clearly stated in separate paragraphs. 2. I am not sure that there is any age group that "0 week" defines. Therefore, I suggest the age and "sexual" groupings should start from week 1. I also think the "sexual groupings" should have just been categorized based on if chickens have started laying or not, instead of using 18 weeks as cut off, since not all chickens start laying at 18 weeks. RESULTS 1. I think serology (AGPT) should be the last result to be presented since one would expect that history, clinical signs, post-mortem results should all come before results of serology. 2. I suggest that the specific number(s) of farms that a particular clinical sign and post-mortem lesions was observed should be clearly stated. "Most" farms as used in this write-up is ambiguous. E.g of the 10 farms investigated, whitish diarrhea was noticed in 9 while enlarged bursa of Fabricius was observed in 2 of the farms. 3. No "plates" were seen in the manuscript but was mentioned severally.	1. The data were obtained from field cases but during the period of study March to July 2009 we were able to follow up and visited 10 flocks that came down with the disease during which we collected specimens and daily information from the flocks while the 23 flocks we were not able to visit, we obtained information concerning them as recorded in the clinical record of the Ahmadu Bello Teaching Hospital Zaria Nigeria. 2. Correction noted. Sir, not all chickens start laying at 18 weeks of age but by then they are sexually matured. The classification was based on maturity not laying of eggs. RESULTS 1. Correction noted. 2. Correction noted. 3. Sorry sir for the omission the plates will be included in the corrected. 4. Correction note sir, it is 90% morbidity. 5. Plates I to VI, table, figure 1 to 5 are data obtained from the ten farms investigated.



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	4. 5-90% morbidity was regarded as high in the write-up. Is 5% morbidity high? 5. No much data was presented on the 10 farms that were investigated. DISCUSSION - As suggested for the results, discussions on incidence and investigative studies should be clearly separated. - I don't think 10% morbidity, and 20% mortality as presented in the discussion suggest vvIBDV infection. "morbidity and mortality started 2-3 days PI"? How was this determined? This is not a controlled study so one can't say when infection started. CONCLUSIONS "Gumboro a disease of improved breeds of poultry"? - Clinical disease seen only in chickens? These conclusions cannot be reached based on this study. The status of the disease in other birds couldn't have been ascertained based on this study as this study focused only on reported cases. FIGURES AND TABLES - Only 7 farms were presented on figures 1 and 2. - Figures 3, 4 and 5 are not self-explanatory. I suggest the use of tables instead. I don't see the relevance of Table 7. Not self-explanatory.	DISCUSSION - The results and discussion of the ten flocks investigated were presented first before the other 23 farms. - There are 4 strains of IBDV; they are vaccinal strain that causes no mortality, classical strain that's causes 3% mortality rate, very virulent strain (vvIBDV) that causes more than 20% mortality and variant strain that causes mortality less than 5% according to De Wit and Baxendale, 2008. Mortality rate of 20% seen in the course of the research is suggestive of vvIBDV - From the day, the owner of the farm reported the outbreak and the full data concerning the flock was gotten. CONCLUSION "Gumboro a disease of improved breeds of poultry"? Clinical disease seen only in chickens? According to OIE (2008). Saif, 1998 and Oluwayelu <i>et al.</i>, 2007 They reported that clinical disease occurs solely in chicken
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		although other species such as turkey, duck, guinea fowl and ostriches may be infected and also according to Tong <i>et al.</i>, 1993, IBD is a disease of improved breeds of poultry. However, these were seen on the ten flocks we investigated and the other 23 flocks we were not able to follow up. FIGURES AND TABLES 1. The daily mortality and morbidity rates of the ten flocks which lasted for 7days were pooled together and a graph of the rate against the day was plotted. 2. Sir using a table will be ambiguous; also the daily mean BBR, SBR and TBR of the ten flocks investigated were plotted against days i.e. for the 7days the outbreak lasted. 3. Sir, some textbooks and poultry scientists do recommend one, two or three vaccination against Gumboro disease, so in our study we wanted to know which one that would be recommended so as to help reduce the incidence the disease in the area.
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	So many typographical and grammatical errors observed	Correction noted
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		