Are bats and rodents reservoirs of emerging zoonotic diseases?

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Introduction

• Bats and rodents are known reservoirs for zoonotic diseases: Rabies, Ebola virus and Leptospira

Objectives

Screening blood smears from bats and rodents for zoonotic pathogens.

Justification

Emerging zoonotic disease may come from bats and rodents.

Study site

45 km radius from Busia, Kenya

Sample analysis

Parasitology

Bats

• Chaerophon sp         56
• Pipistrellus sp        15
• Scotocercus sp         8
• Taphozous sp           2
• Epomophorus sp         8

Rodents

• Rattus sp              22
• Mus sp                 11
• Graphiurus sp           7

Species tested

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bats</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epomophorus</td>
<td>4 positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leptospira</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rattus sp</td>
<td>1 positive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion

*Haemosporidia* sp. and *Trypanasome* sp. identified in the bats and rodents respectively require specification and further investigation to determine whether they are transmissible to humans.