

# Past, present & future of mycoplasmas in chickens & turkeys

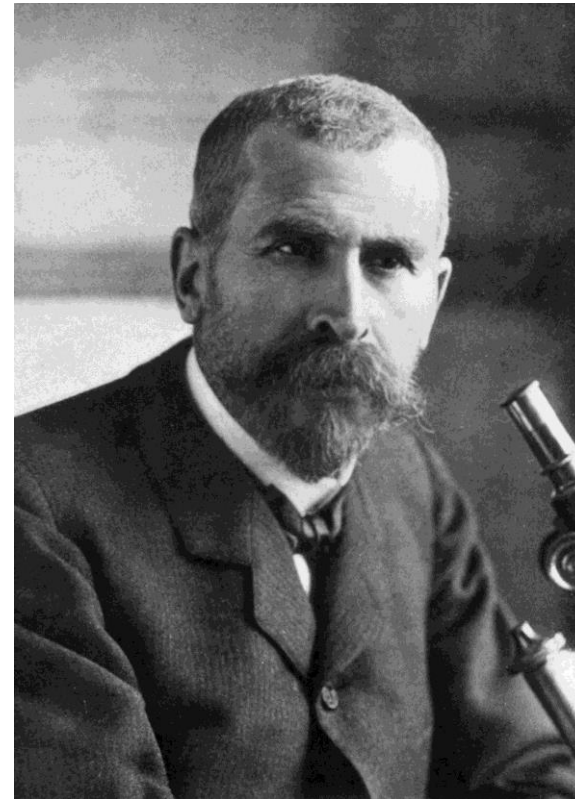
A. Feberwee

DVM, PhD, EBVS© European Specialist in Poultry Veterinary  
Science Specialist Poultry Health  
GD Animal Health, Deventer, the Netherlands



# Introduction

- Edmond Nocard & Emile Roux, 1896



The microbe (virus?) of pleuropneumonia

# Introduction

## STUDIES ON AN UNCOMPLICATED CORYZA OF THE DOMESTIC FOWL

### VI. COCCOBACILLIFORM BODIES IN BIRDS INFECTED WITH THE CORYZA OF SLOW ONSET

BY JOHN B. NELSON, PH.D.

*(From the Department of Animal and Plant Pathology of The Rockefeller Institute  
for Medical Research, Princeton, N. J.)*

PLATE 38

(Received for publication, January 2, 1936)

# Introduction

- Mycoplasmas are small prokaryotic organisms
- Without cell wall
- Host specific
- Affinity for mucosal surfaces
- Complex nutritional requirements (difficult to culture)



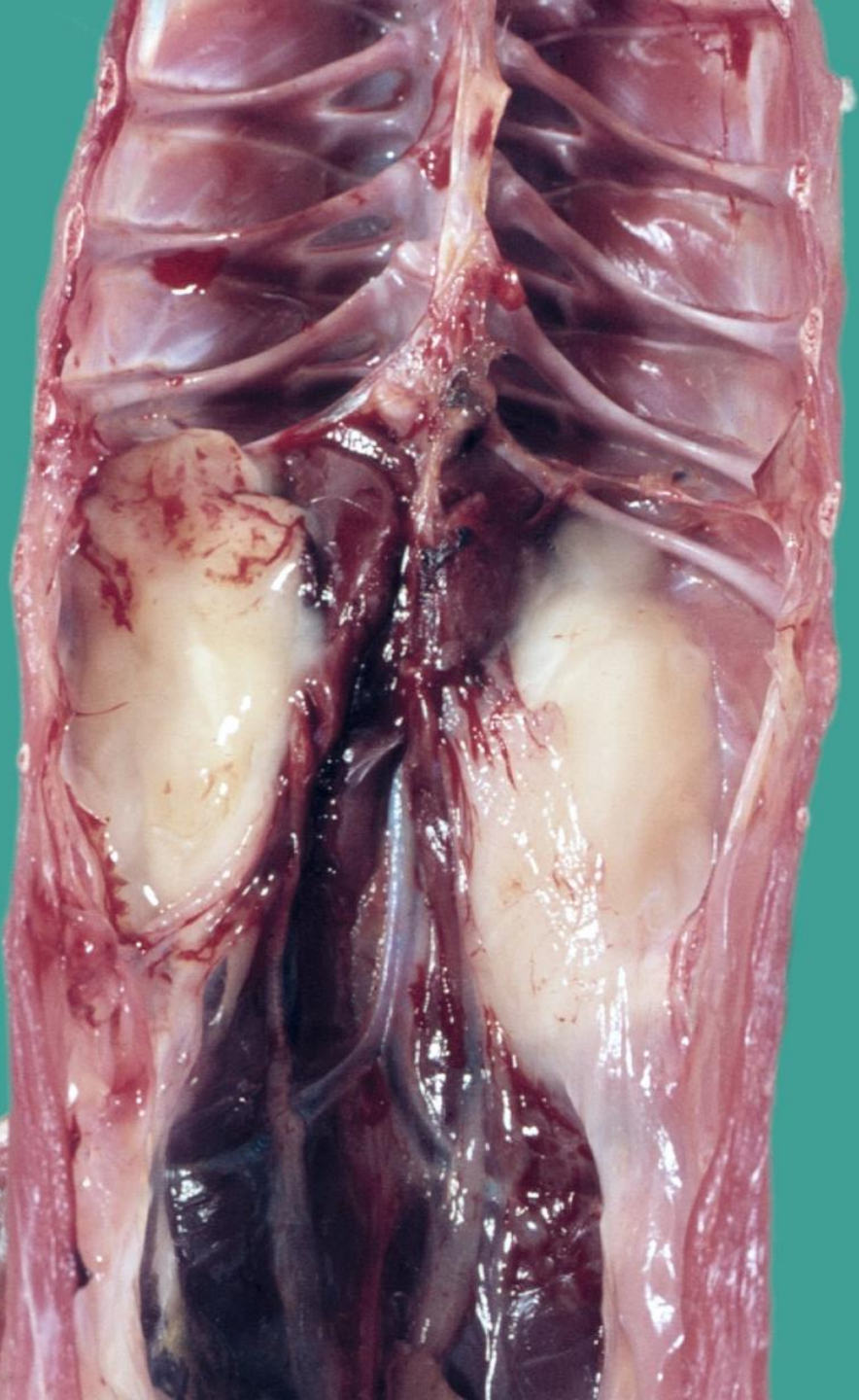
*Typical morphology Mycoplasma spp ('fried egg' morphology)*

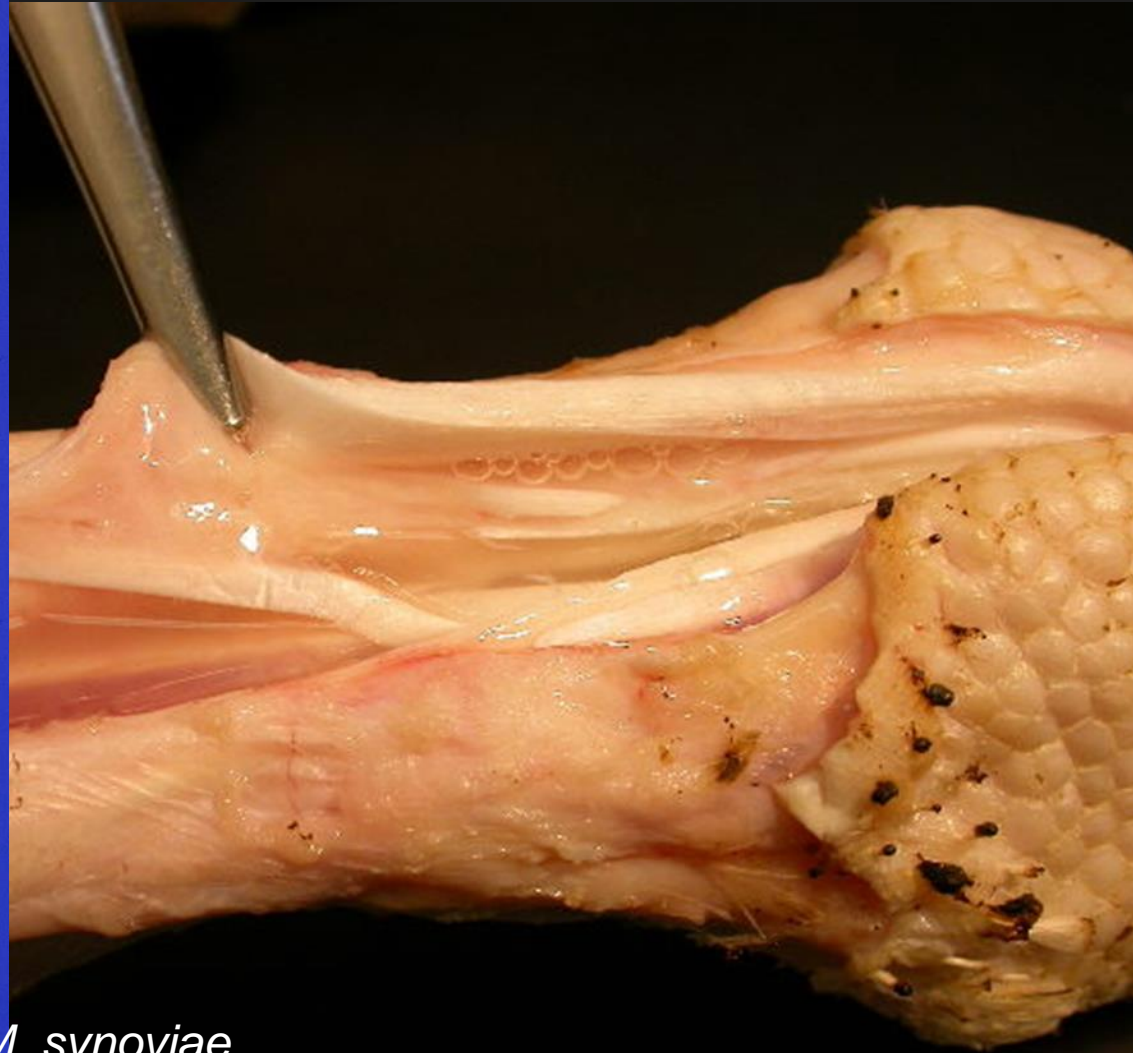


## Past (until 90's)

Period	Subject
1936-1965	Discovery important mycoplasma species
1962-1989	Multifactorial disease (synergism, climate, immunosuppression)
1954-1987	Transmission routes
1956-1974	First control programmes
1956-1965	Antibiotic use & its limitations
1970-1994	Immunisation studies commercial poultry
1955-1994	Diagnostic tests: from serology to molecular analysis

*Mycoplasma gallisepticum*



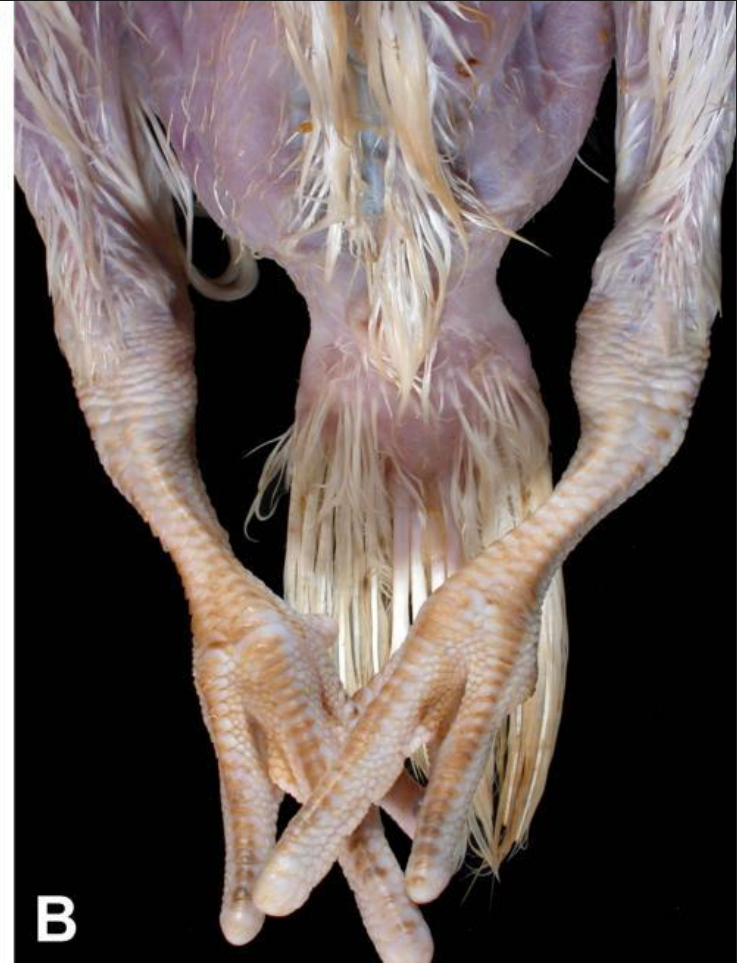
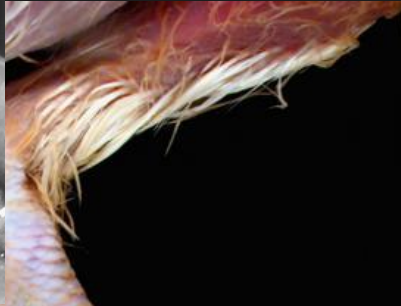


*M. synoviae*



*M. meleagridis*  
Diseases of Poultry (R. Yamamoto)

*M. iowae*  
Ley et al., 2010



**A**

**B**

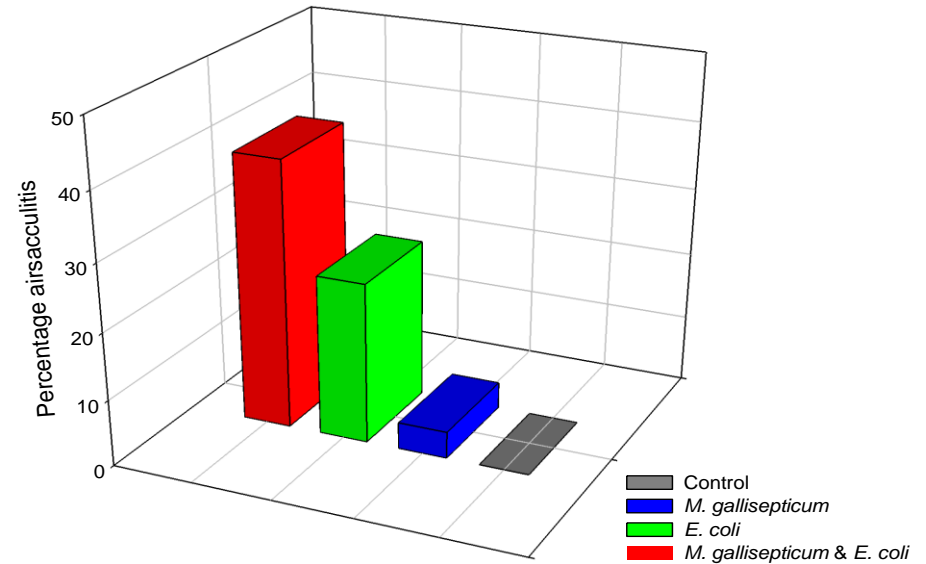
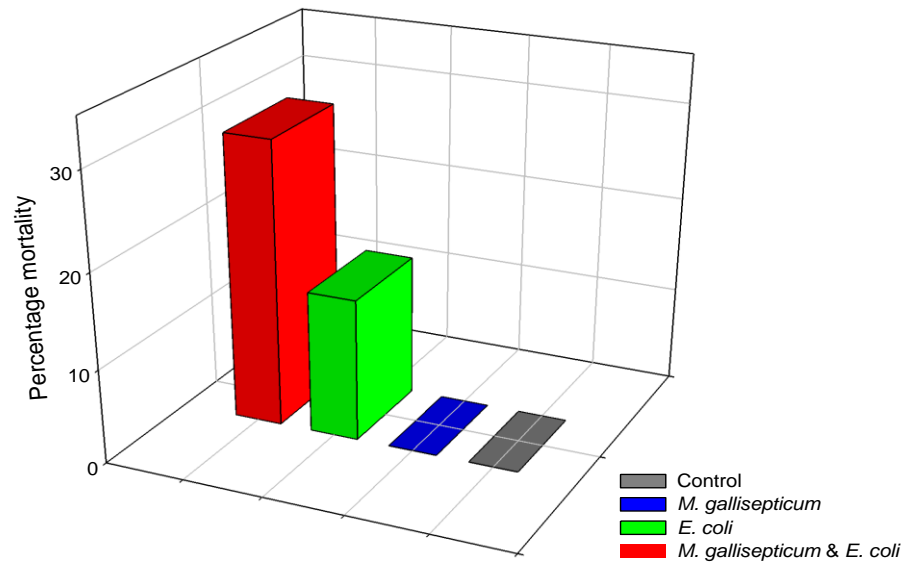


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# Mg & E. coli

1-day-old broilers

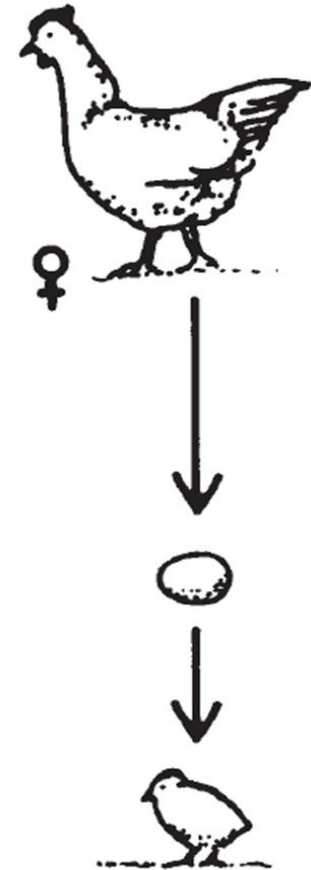
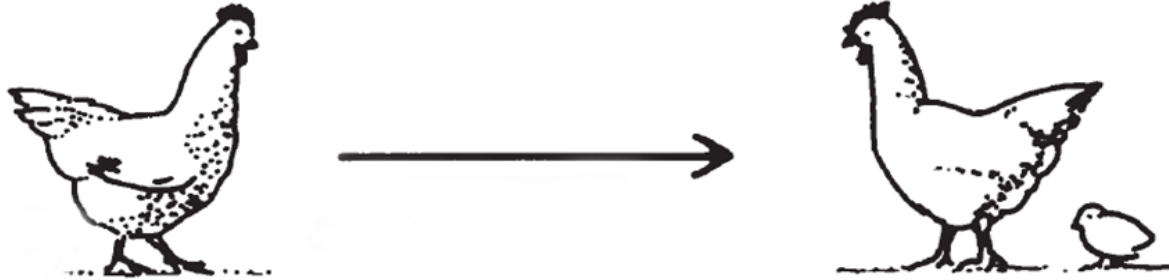




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# Transmission routes

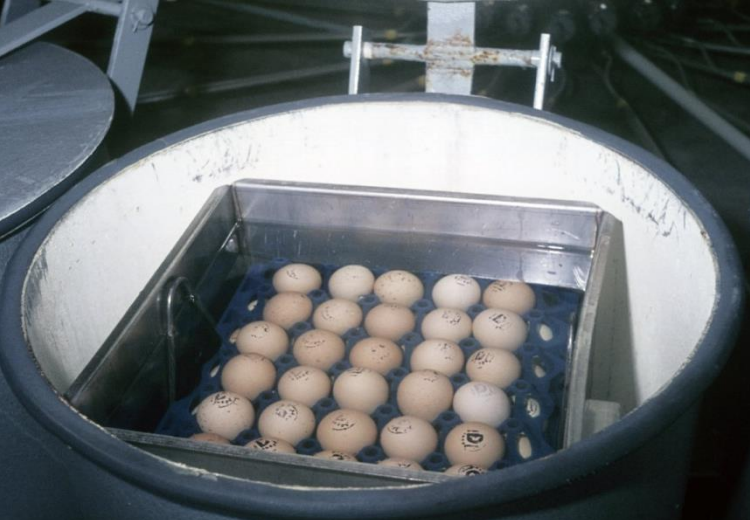




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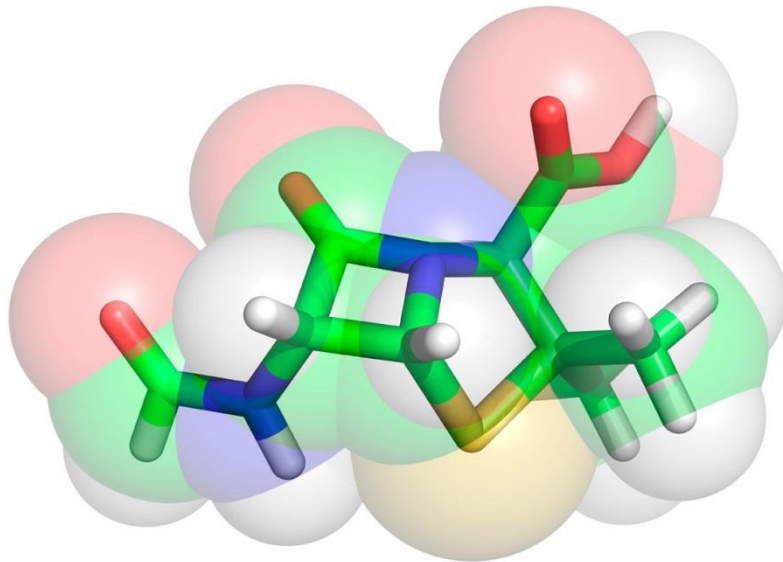






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- Temporary effect
- Resistance
- Residues



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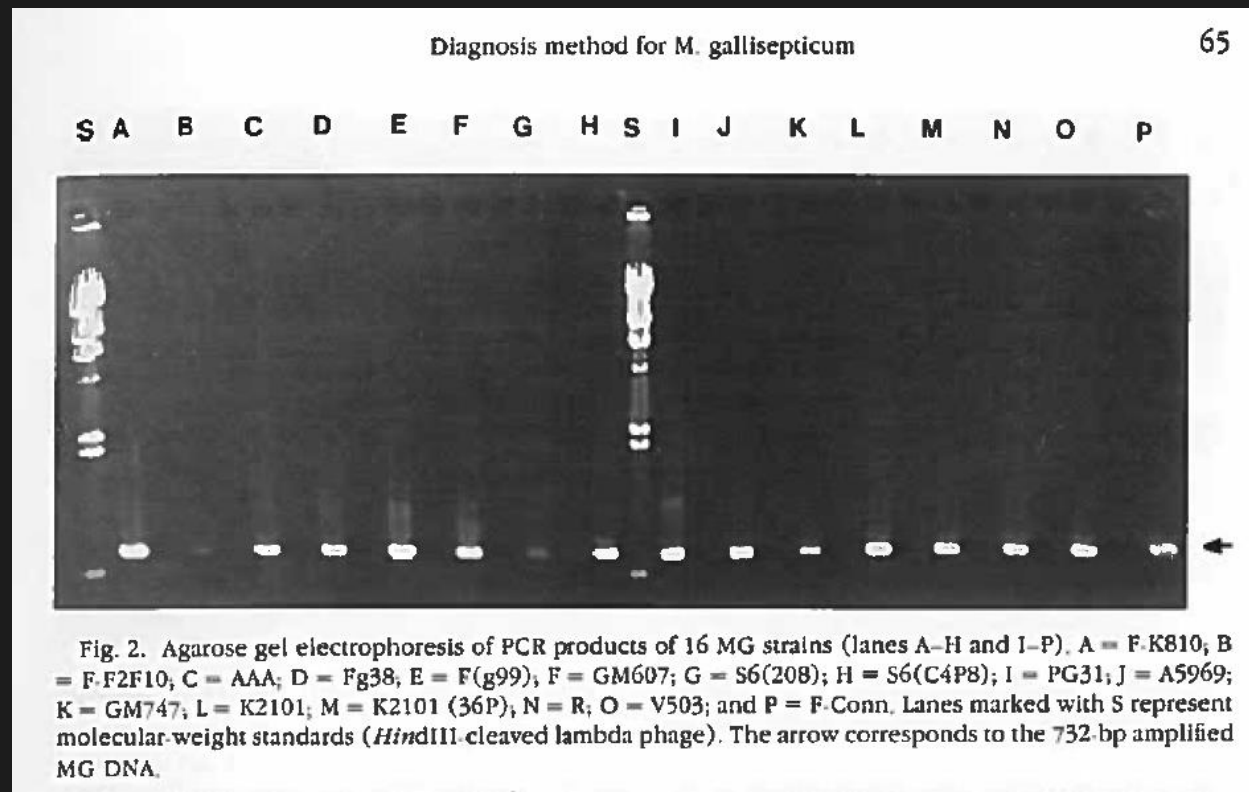
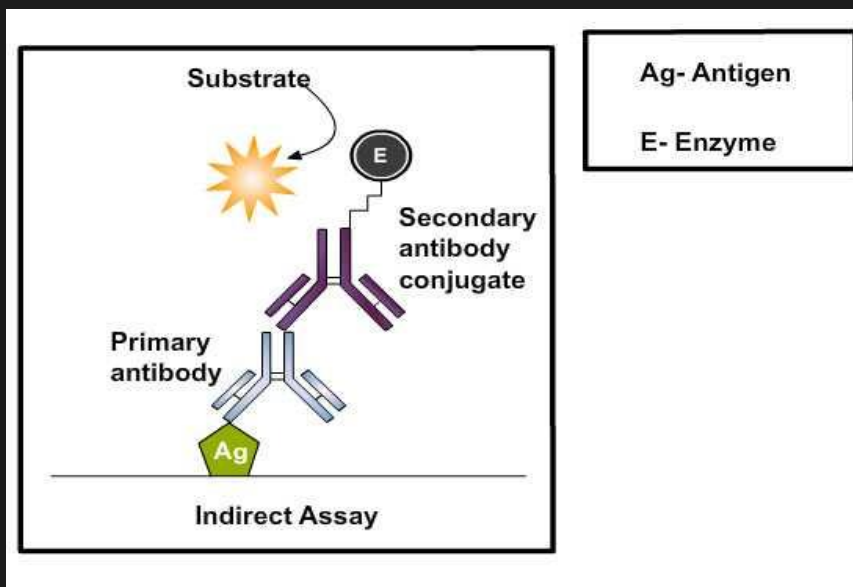
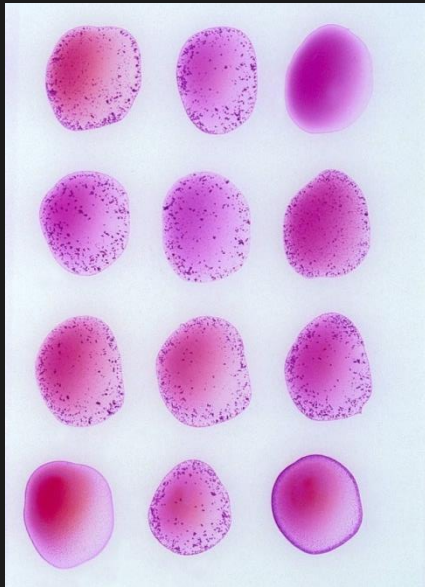
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## Present (90's until now)

Period	Subject
≥1993	Other <i>spp.</i> & strains identified
≥1994	Understanding mycoplasma survival
≥1994	Mycoplasma disease in wild birds
≥1988	Advances in diagnostics
≥1996	Vaccines as control measure
2017	Current situation



*M. imitans*



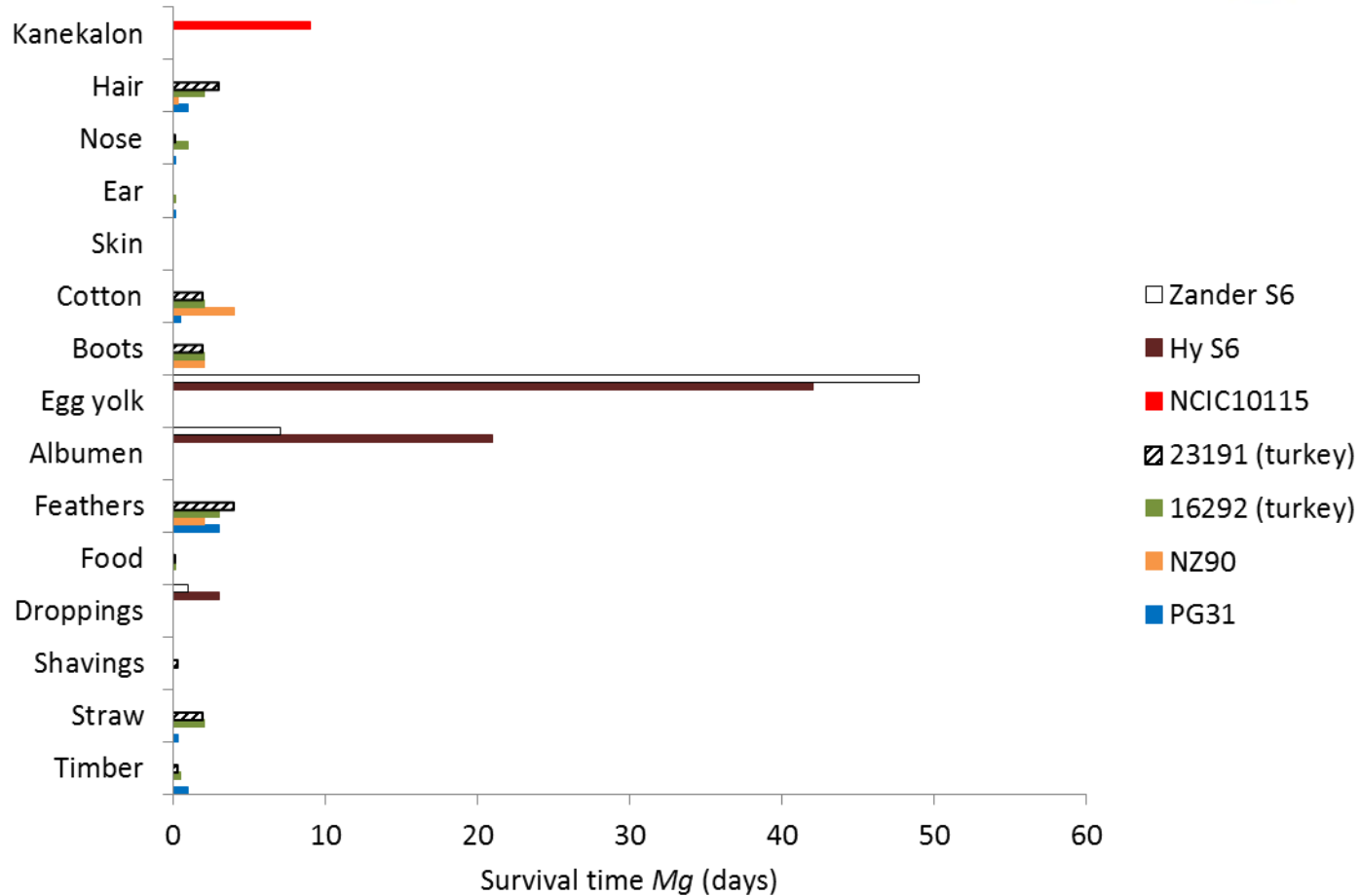
*M. synoviae*





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Chandiramani et al., 1966; Christensen et al., 1994; Abolink & Gouws, 2014

Veterinary Microbiology 161 (2012) 96–103



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## Veterinary Microbiology

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/vetmic](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/vetmic)



### Identification of biofilm formation by *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*

Hongjun Chen<sup>1</sup>, Shengqing Yu<sup>1</sup>, Meirong Hu, Xianghan Han, Danqing Chen,  
Xusheng Qiu, Chan Ding\*

Shanghai Veterinary Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, 518 Ziyue Road, Shanghai 200241, PR China

- Variation between strains
- Biofilm forming *M. gallisepticum* strains seems more resistant to antibiotic treatment and disinfectance
- Survival advantage outside the host





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House finch  
(*Carpodacus mexicanus*)



1<sup>ary</sup> host, 60% †

American goldfinch  
(*Spinus tristis*)



2<sup>ary</sup> host



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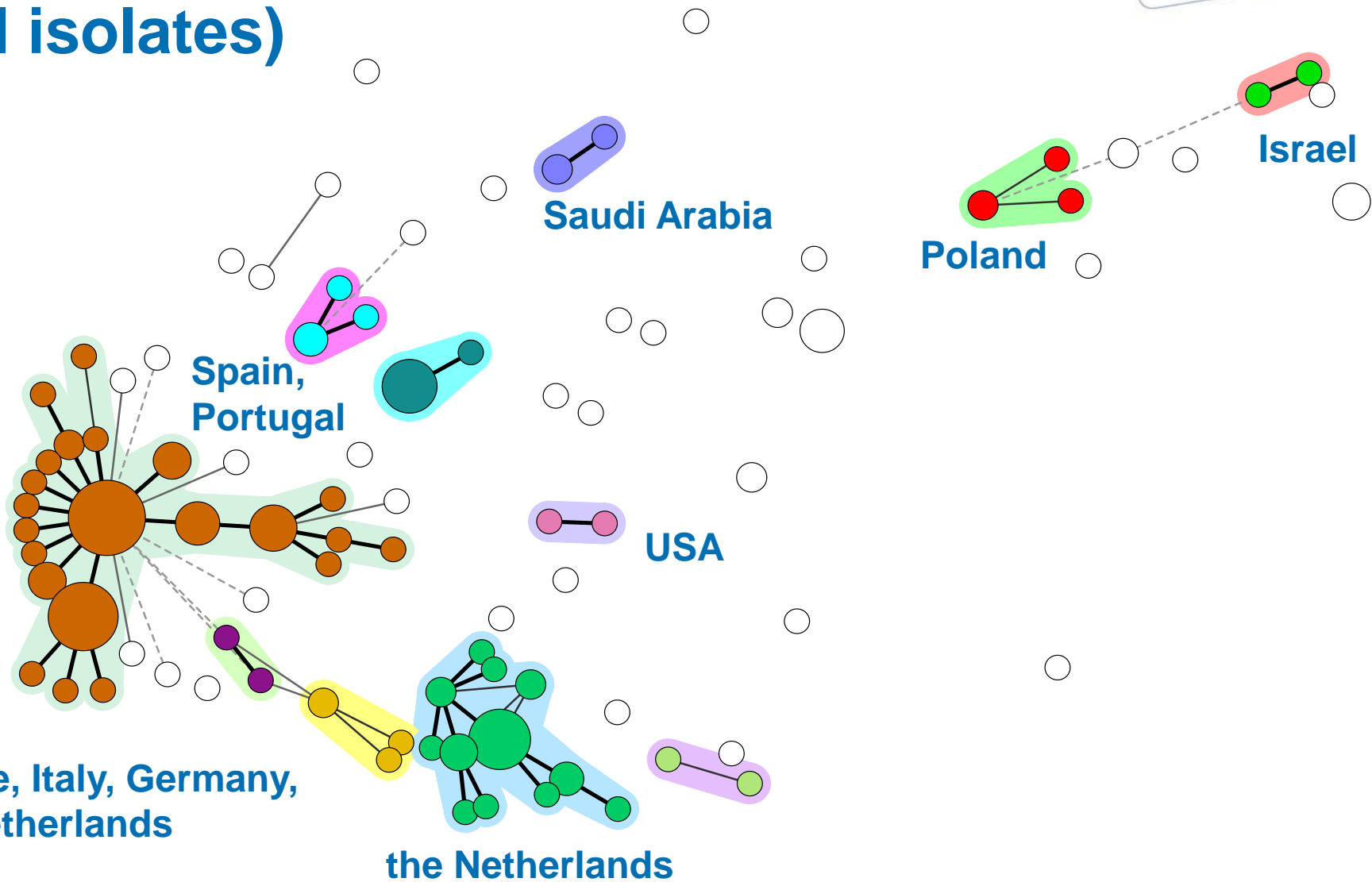


# Molecular typing techniques

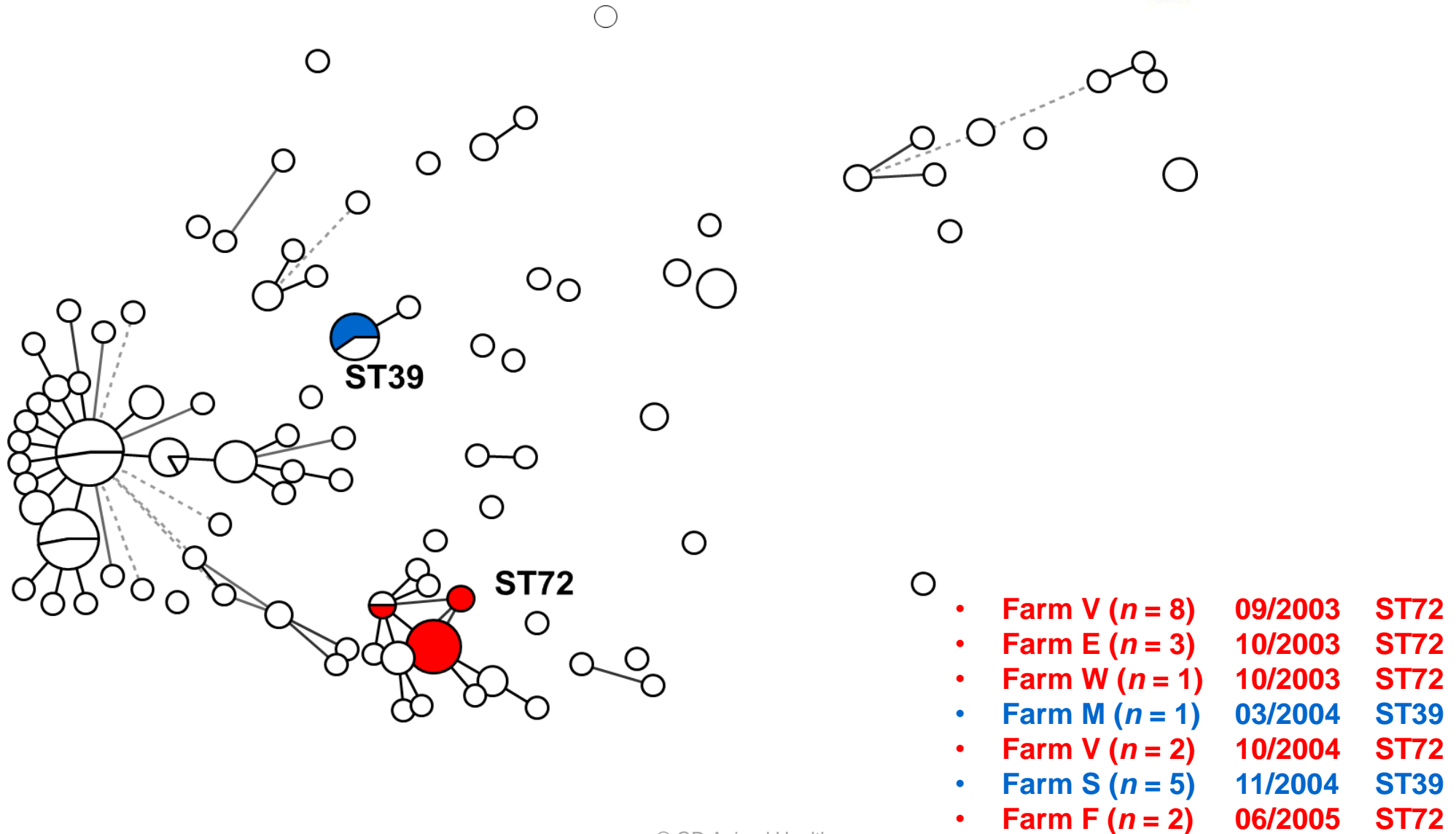
- Band-based
  - PFGE-RAPD-AFLP
- Sequence-based
  - Single gene (*vlhA* typing )
  - More genes (MLST)
  - Whole genome



# STs & complexes per country (all isolates)



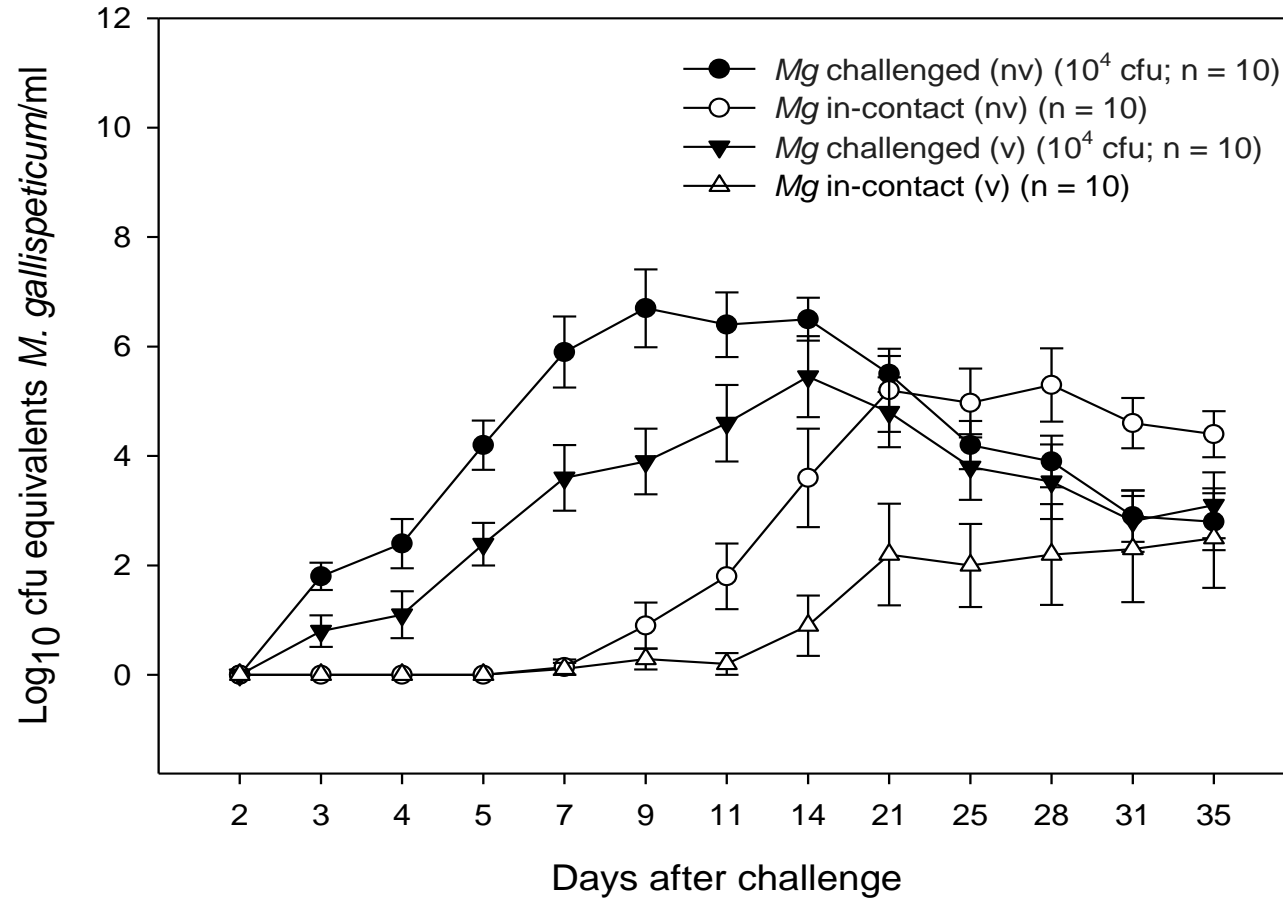
# Ms outbreak





## Present (90's until now)

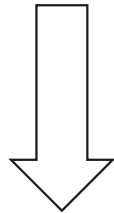
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## Effect MS-H vaccine

Shedding (cfu eq./g trachea mucus)

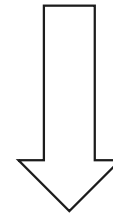
$8.3 \times 10^6$



$1.0 \times 10^6$

Transmission rate  $\beta$

0.022 (0.015-0.031)



0.0012 (0.00048-0.0024)



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## Current situation

- Low prevalence *M. gallisepticum* & *M. meleagridis*
  - Control programmes
  - Primary breeding stock free
- High prevalence *M. synoviae*
  - Primary breeding stock free
- *M. iowae*
  - sporadically reported in commercial poultry



## Future

- Reduction prevalence
  - *M. gallisepticum* developing countries
  - *M. synoviae* worldwide
- Shift to molecular-based tests
  - Earlier/accurate detection infections
- Prudent use antibiotics (MIC)
- Whole genome sequence
- DIVA tests
- Biosecurity



**Thank you for your attention**

