



# Emerging Diseases Impacted by Chemotherapeutic Restrictions

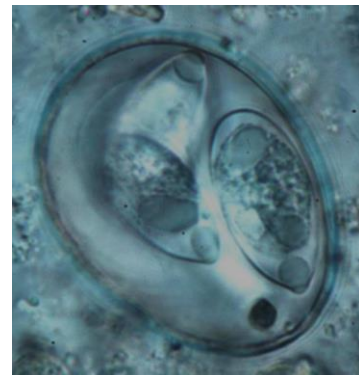
**B.M Hargis, DVM, PhD, Distinguished Professor, University of Arkansas**

**With Contributions from:**

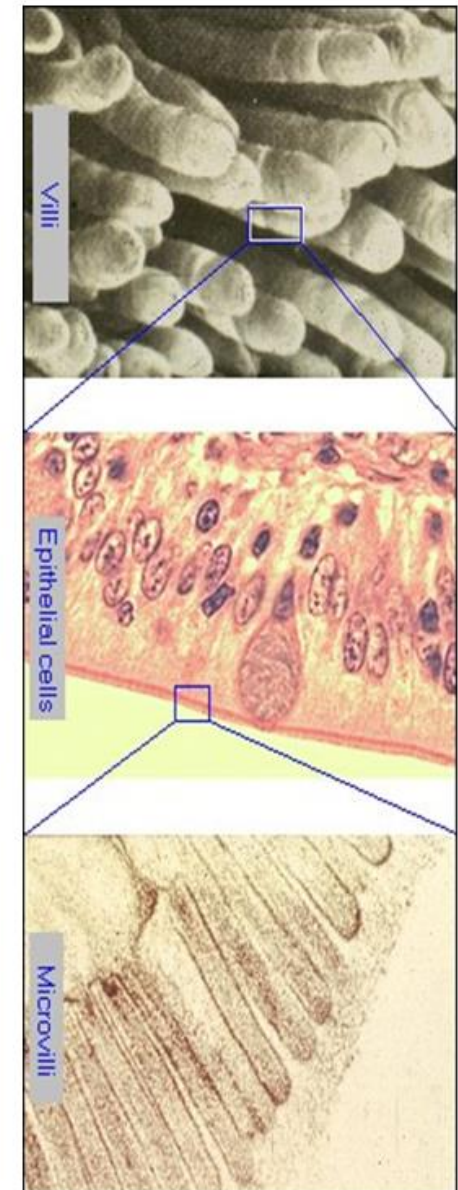
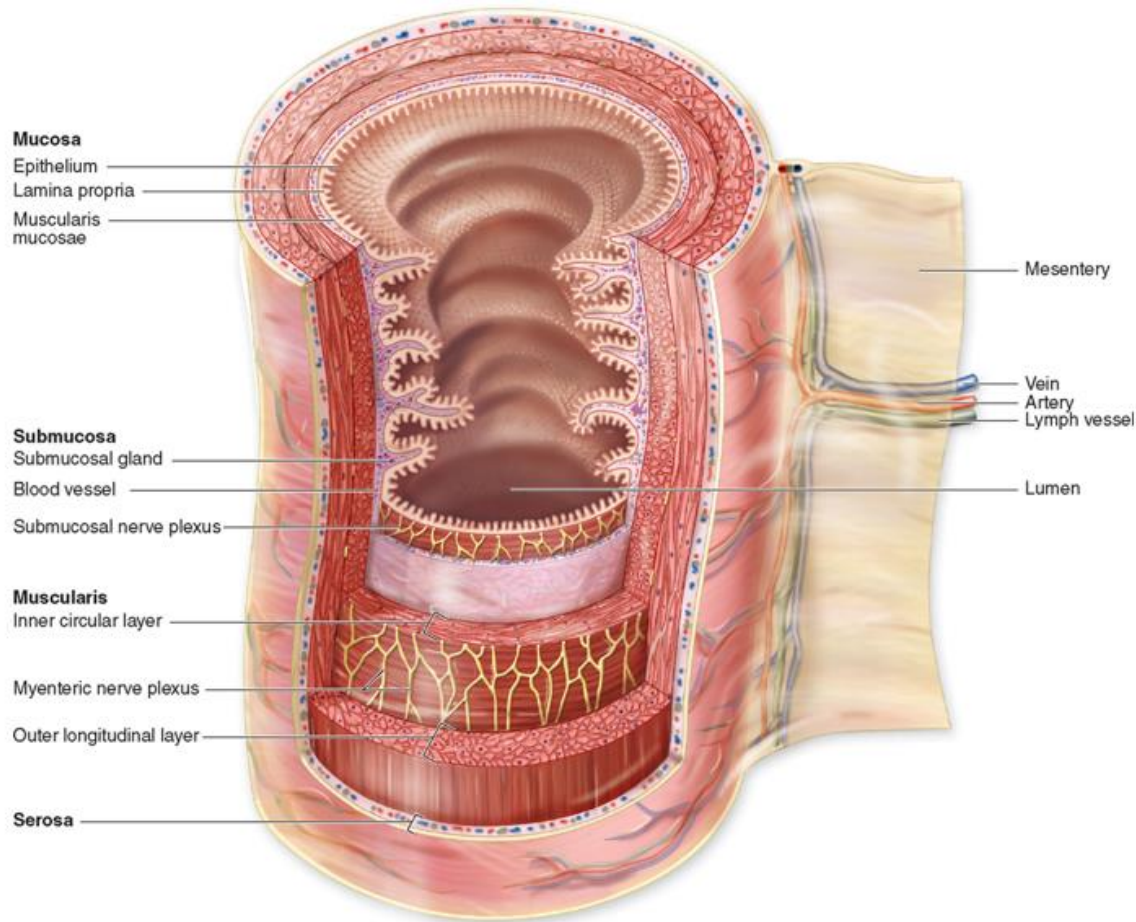
**John R. Barta, PhD Professor (Parasitology), Ontario Veterinary College  
and**

**J.D. Latorre, DVM, PhD, Postdoctoral Associate, University of Arkansas**

**UofA** UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE



# Deceptively Simple



# Decreasing Acceptance of AGP



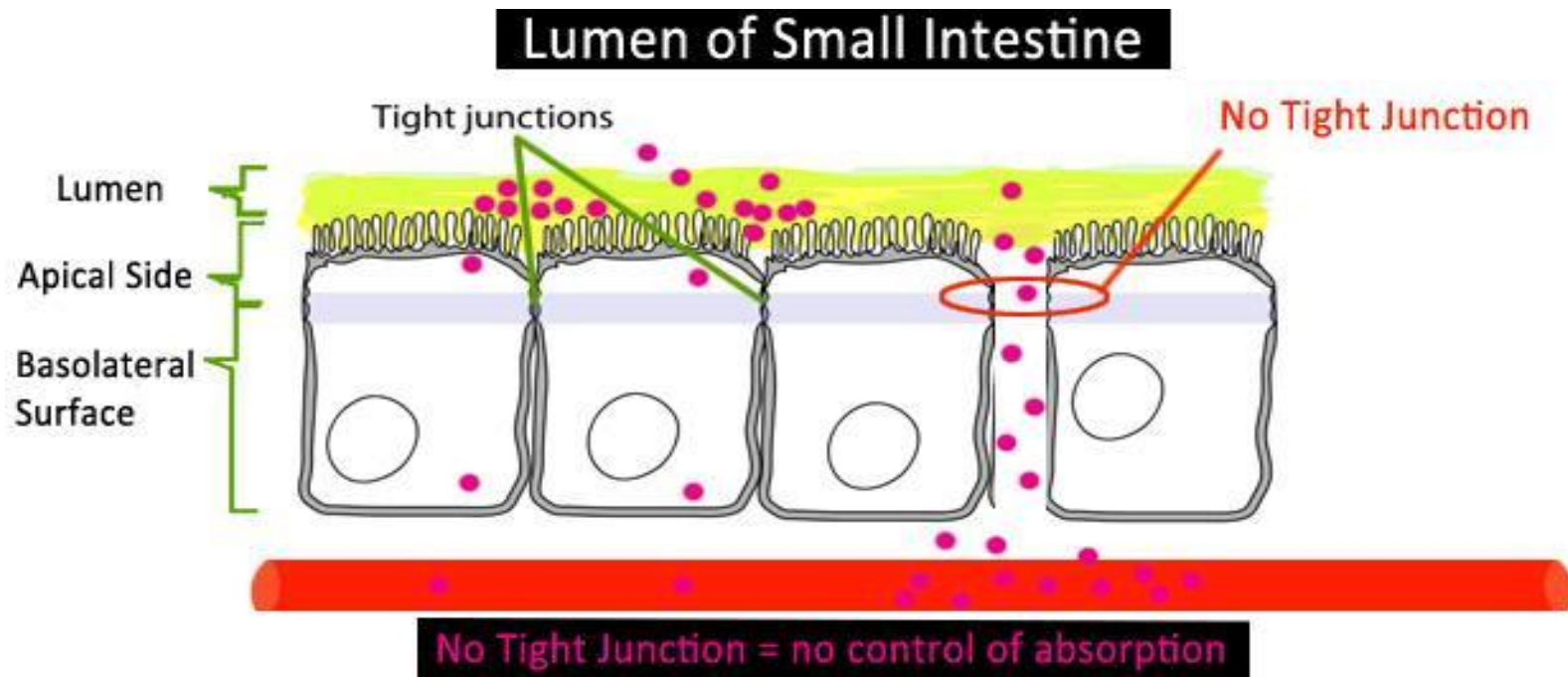
- Banned in EU & some Asian countries
- Consumer demand in USA
- USA ban in near future?
- We have already lost valuable therapeutics
- Economical and sustainable alternatives are imperative –  
**Development of poultry models to evaluate Gut Health parameters**

# Major Issues

- Enteric inflammation from any cause – dietary, dysbiosis, viral, specific bacterial pathogens, protozoa, other parasites
- Coccidiosis control without ionophores
- Necrotic Enteritis due to poor coccidiosis control and loss of anti-inflammatory AGPs
- Re-emergence of Histomoniasis (Blackhead) and other protozoal diseases – with loss of organic arsenicals



# Integrity of GIT Barrier Through Tight Junctions

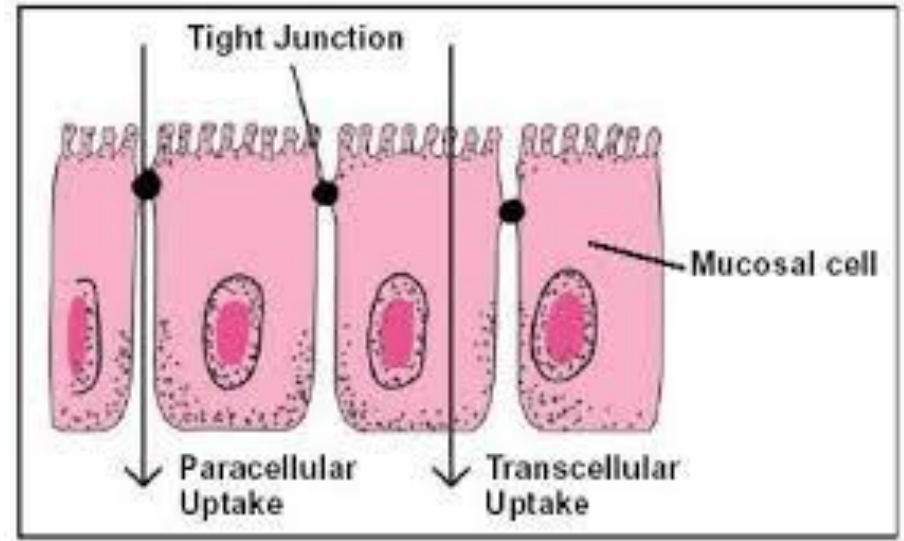


<http://www.dbriers.com/tutorials/2012/12/junctions-between-cells-simplified/>

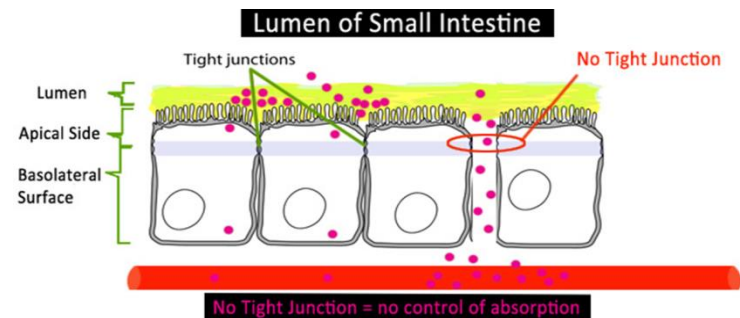


# Inflammation Leads to Bacterial Translocation

- Normal closure of tight junctions
- Normalized by commensal bacteria
- Stress, low digestibility feed, feed restriction, therapeutic antibiotics cause leaky gut



[http://allnaturaladvantage.com.au/how\\_gastrointestinal\\_health\\_affects.htm](http://allnaturaladvantage.com.au/how_gastrointestinal_health_affects.htm)



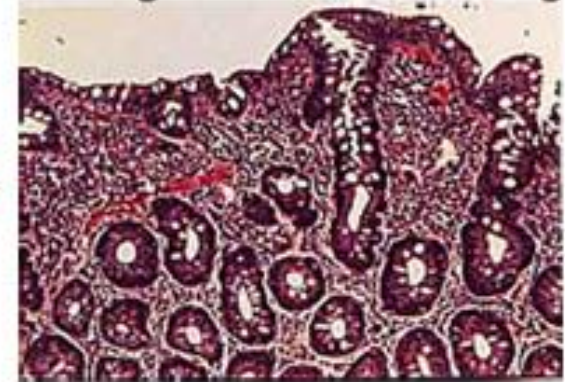
<http://www.dbriers.com/tutorials/2012/12/junctions-between-cells-simplified/>

**Healthy Intestinal Lining**



**Inflammation**

**Damaged Intestinal Lining**



**Undigested Food Particles**

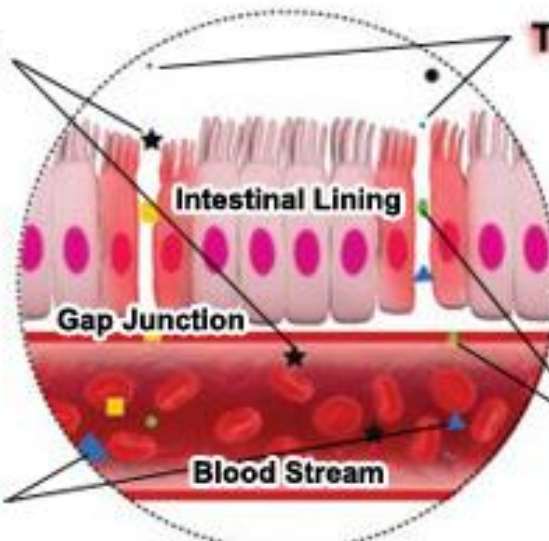
**Toxins**

**Yeast / Fungi**

**Leaky Gut**

**Leaky Gut**

**Parasites & Harmful Bacteria**



<http://scdlifestyle.com/2010/03/the-scd-diet-and-leaky-gut-syndrome/>



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# Serum FITC-d levels

## Marker

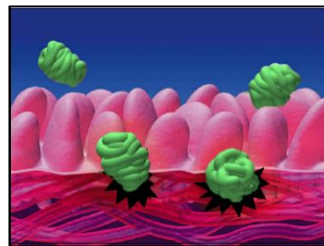
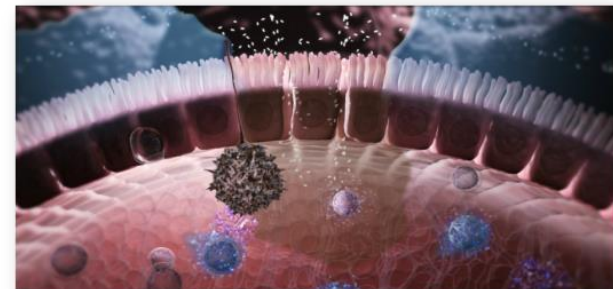
Fluorescein isothiocyanate dextran (FITC-d)  
3,000-5,000 Da; Green fluorescent dye



FITC-d oral gavage (8.34mg/kg)  
1 h before taking blood samples



Gut leakage



↑ Serum FITC-d levels



Serum FITC-d level:  
Excitation wavelength of  
485nm and emission  
wavelength of 528nm

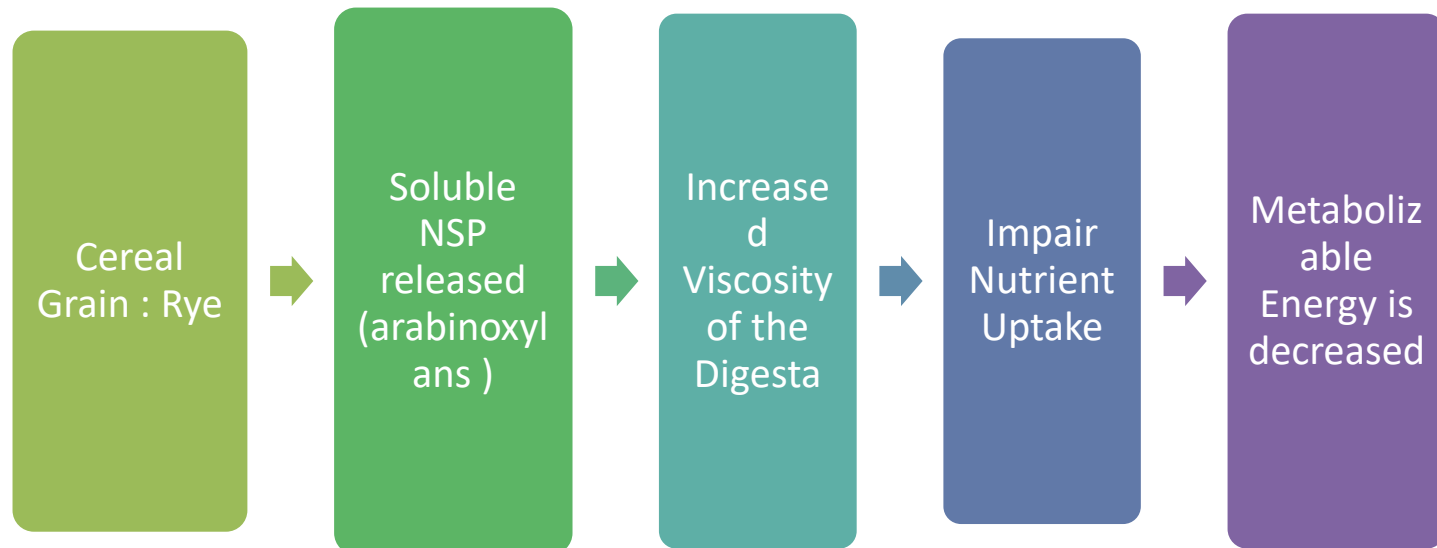
Kuttappan et al. 2015  
Vicuña et al. 2015



# Gut Inflammation Model:

## Rye

- Rye (*Secale cereale*) is a cereal member of wheat tribe
  - 152 g of total NSP per kg of dry matter (Antoniou et al., 1981; Bach Knudsen, 1997)
  - Used in poultry feed when the price of corn is high



# Background: The Gut

- Increase digesta viscosity →
  - Increases mucin secretion (Chesson, 2001)
  - Reduces absorption of sodium, calcium, and phosphorus (Fengler and Marquardt, 1988;
  - Reduces total bone ash and strength in poult and chicks (Tellez et al., 2015; Tellez et al., 2014 )
  - Reduces conjugated bile acid, lipid digestibility (Langhout et al., 1997).
  - Promotes dysbiosis in the lower intestinal tract (Annison and Choct, 1991)
  - Causes enteric inflammation: higher bacterial translocation and enteric leakage (Tellez et al., 2014: Tellez et al., 2015; Vicuna et al., 2014)

# Cost of Coccidiosis

- Malabsorption – disruption of epithelial integrity
- Local and systemic inflammation
- Promotion of necrotic enteritis
- Cost of vaccines or anticoccidials
- Litter management, ammonia control, welfare issues

# Topics

- coccidiosis as an “**artificial**” disease  
(a by-product of poultry domestication)
- coccidian life cycle
- *Eimeria* species in chickens
- coccidiosis in the gut of a single bird
- coccidiosis in a flock (transmission)



# Topics

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# Which came first? The chickens or the coccidiosis



*Gallus varius*  
(Green Jungle Fowl)



*Gallus gallus*  
(Red Jungle Fowl)



*Gallus sonneratii*  
(Grey Jungle Fowl)



*Gallus lafayetii*  
(Ceylon Jungle fowl)

Example subspecies  
*Gallus gallus domesticus*

Types of domesticated birds

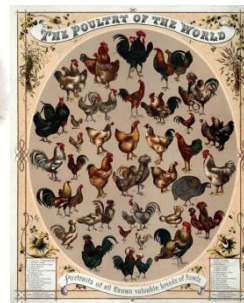
Broiler (meat)  
production



Layer (egg)  
production



Exhibition, traditional and  
general purpose production



Genetic  
Resistance?

Little pressure  
prior to  
domestication

# Coccidiosis in Jungle Fowl?

- small numbers of birds over a broad area
- mixed ages and genetic backgrounds
- one or a few generations of birds per year with infections occurring in the young birds
- virtually no clinical coccidiosis -- little morbidity or mortality because of small infectious doses over a extended period of time



**Plenty of infection – little disease**

# Coccidiosis - An Artificial Disease

- number of oocysts ingested and the immune status of the host defines whether or not clinical disease will occur
- during poultry production, immunologically naïve birds, crowding and huge numbers of oocysts result in massive challenge → **disease**
- once exposed, *surviving birds normally immune to subsequent challenge with the same species and/or strain of parasite*

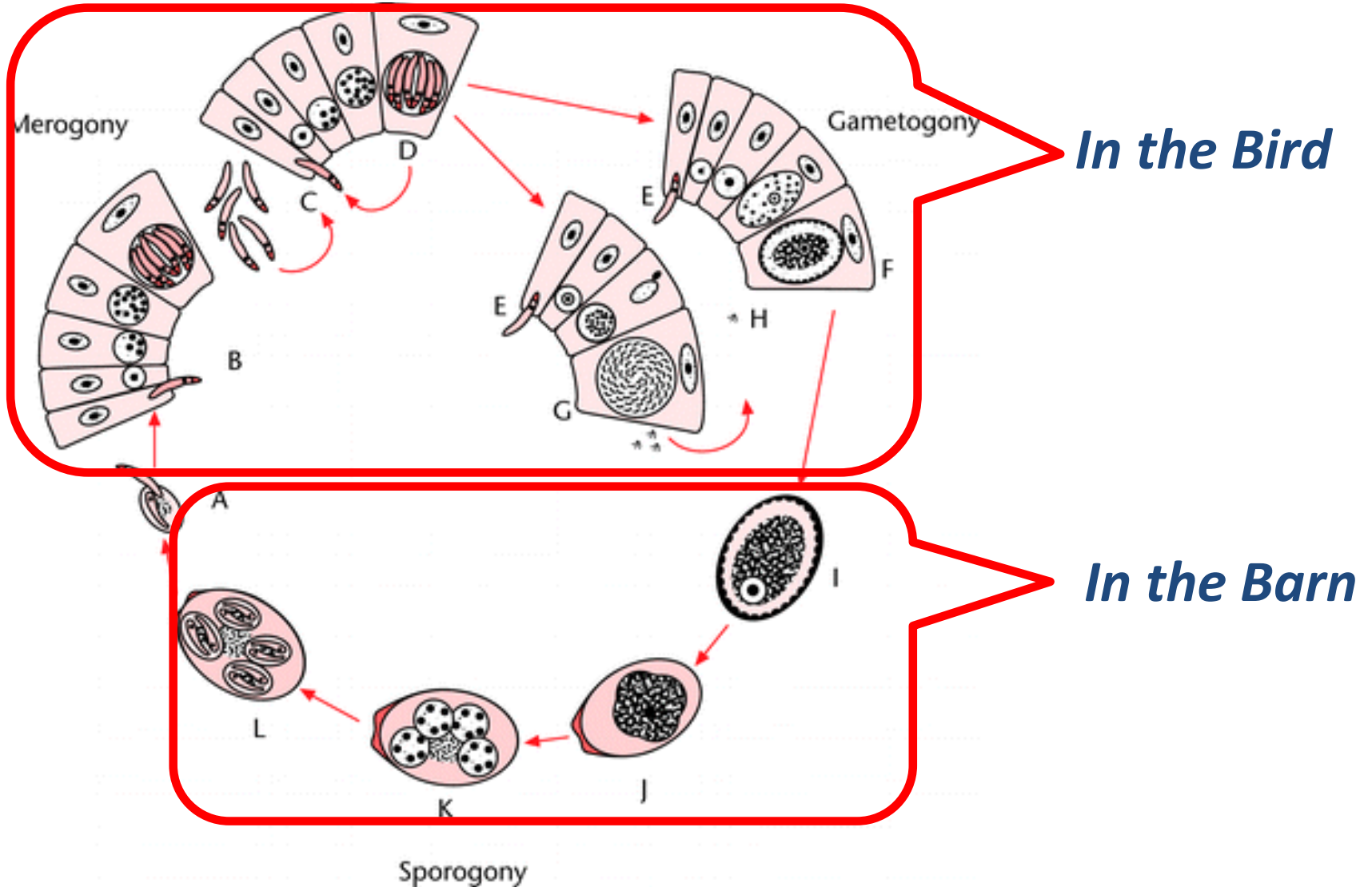




# Topics

- coccidiosis as an “artificial” disease  
(a by-product of poultry domestication)
- **coccidian life cycle**
- the *Eimeria* species in chickens and turkeys
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- coccidiosis in a flock (transmission)

# *Eimeria* species – Life Cycle

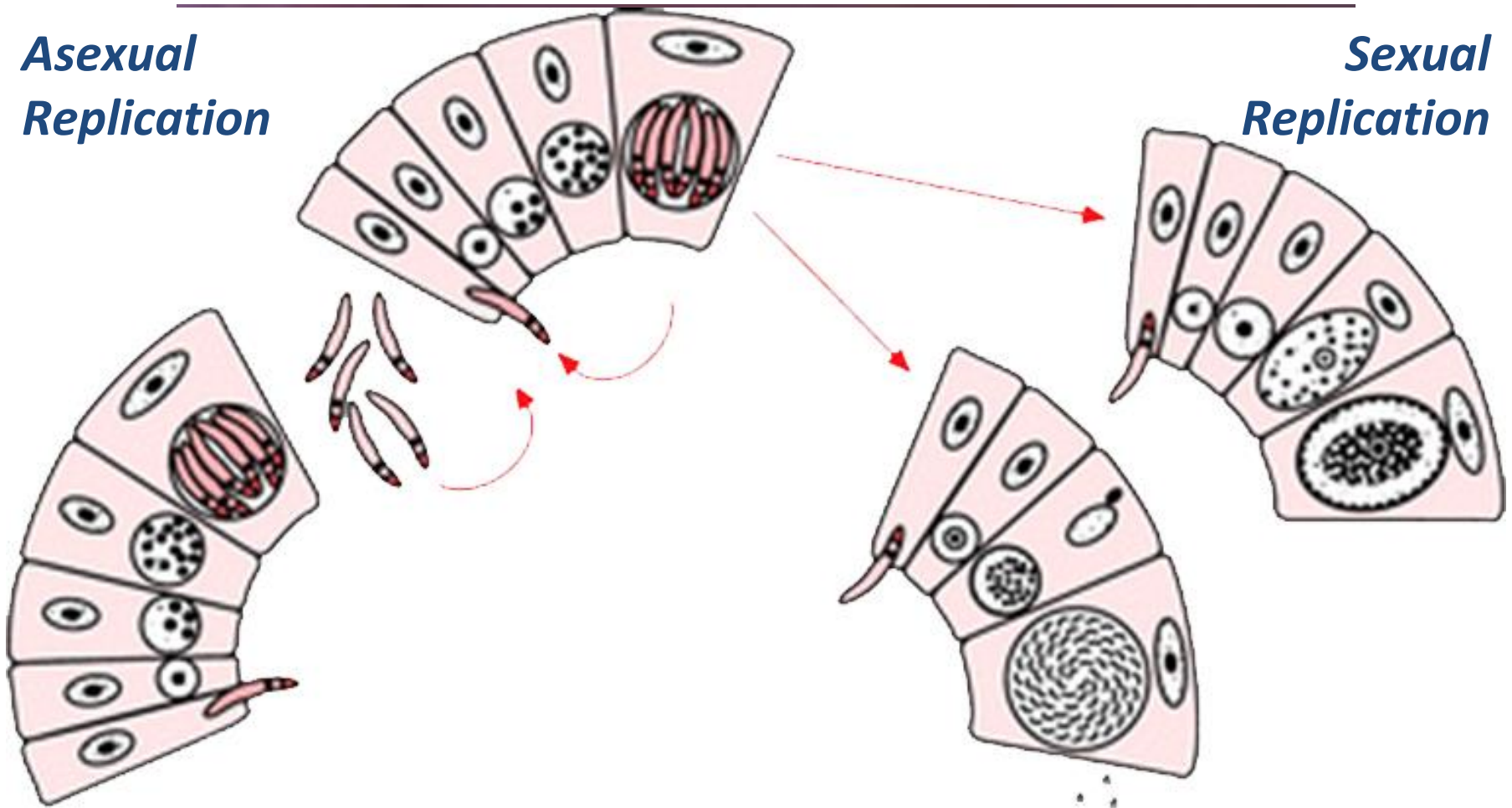


# *Eimeria* species – Life Cycle

## Endogenous development

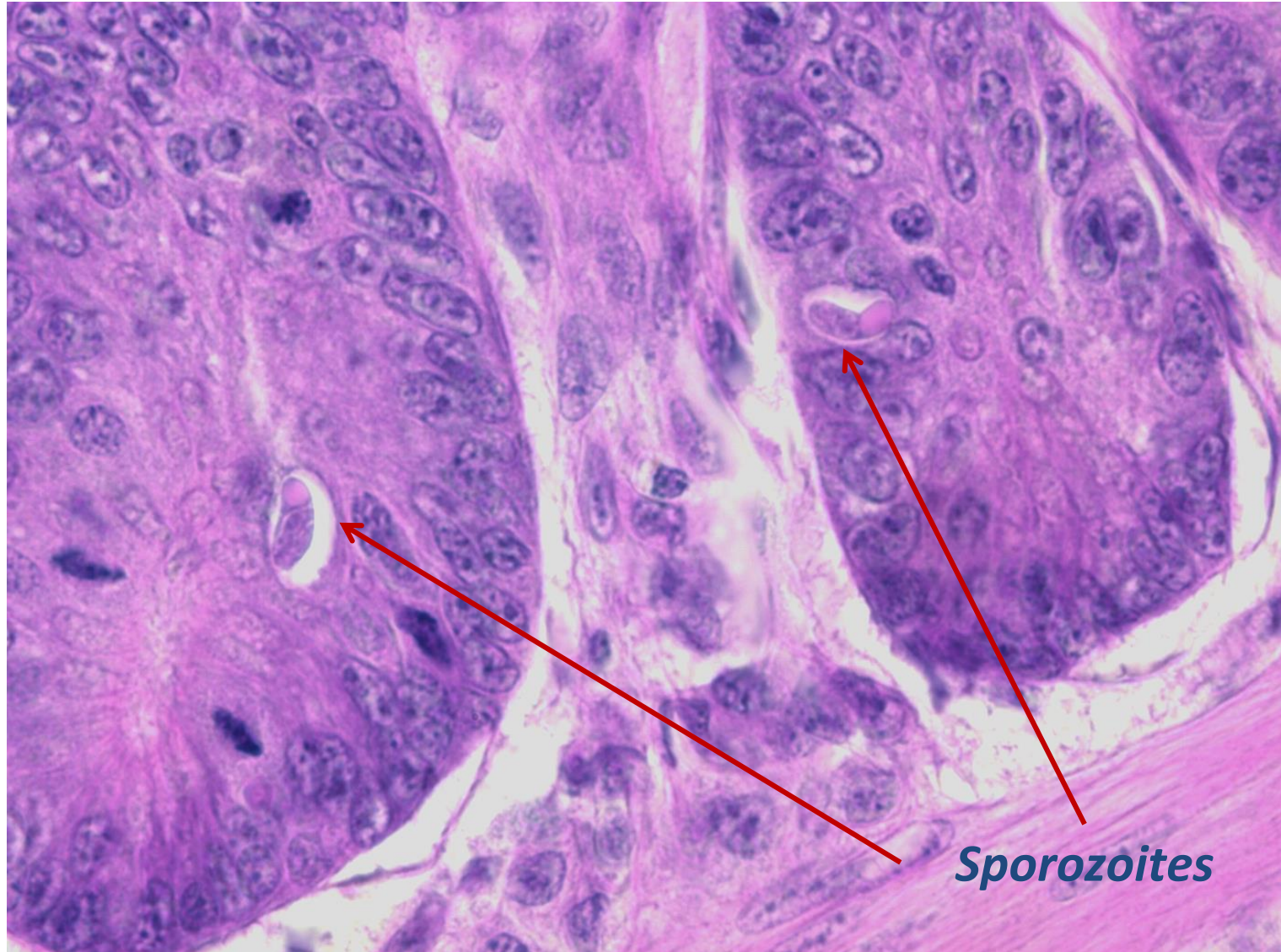
*Asexual  
Replication*

*Sexual  
Replication*



# ***Eimeria* species – Life Cycle**

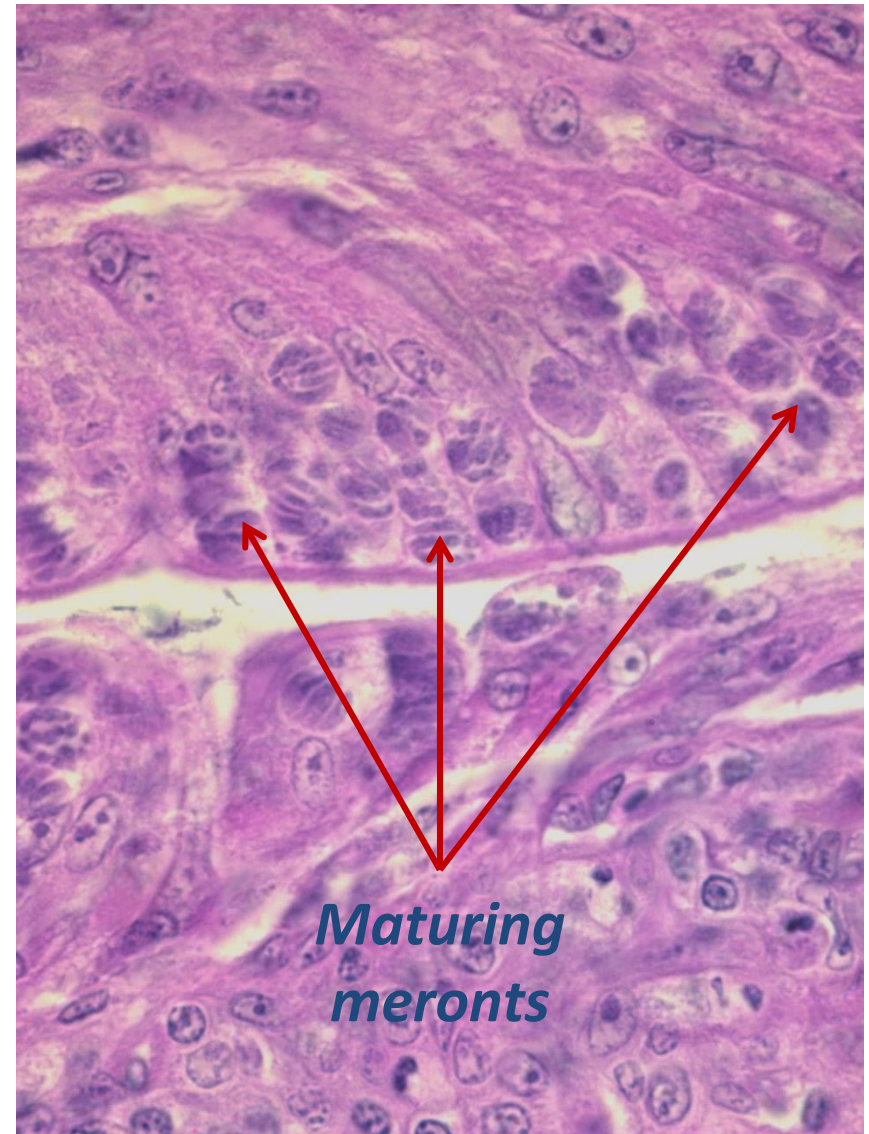
## **Endogenous development**





# *Eimeria* species – Life Cycle

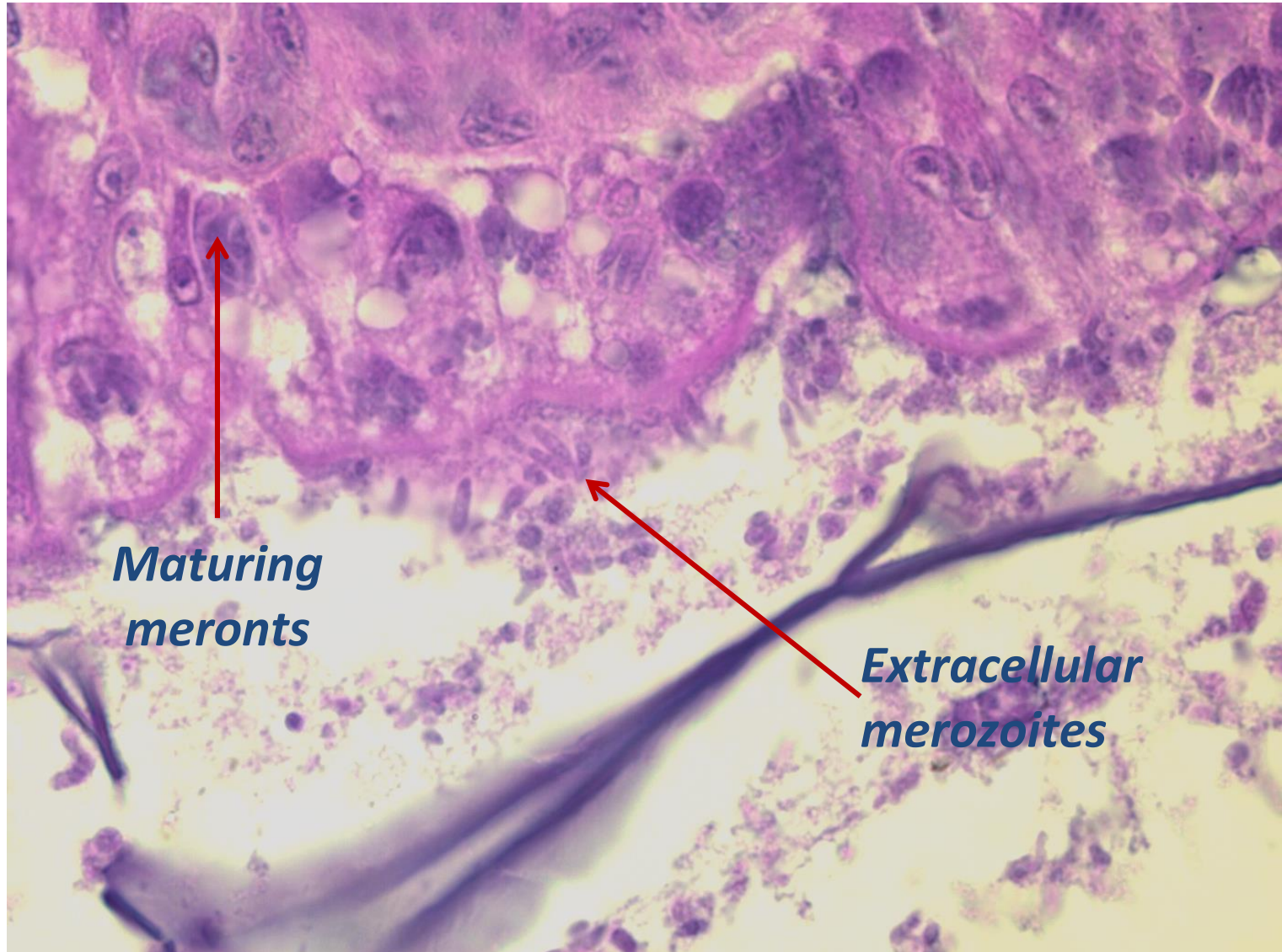
## Endogenous development





# ***Eimeria* species – Life Cycle**

## **Endogenous development**



# ***Eimeria* species – Life Cycle**

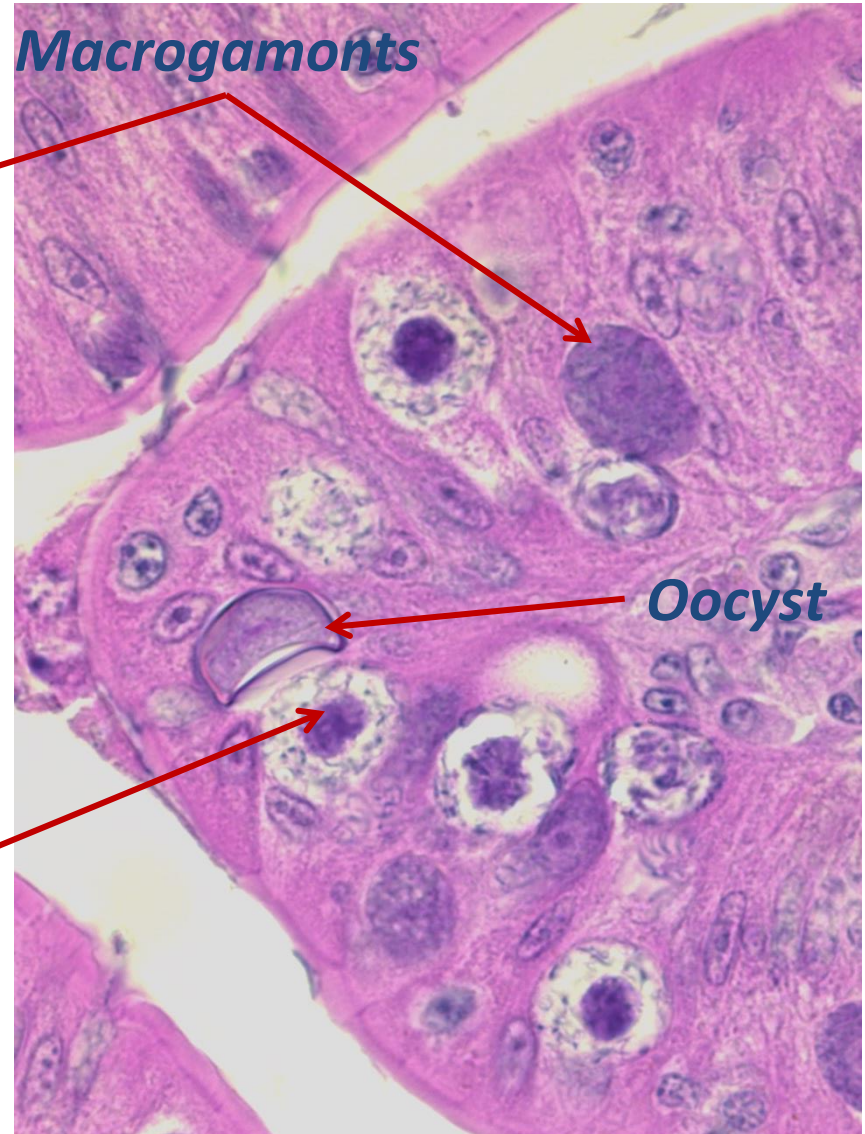
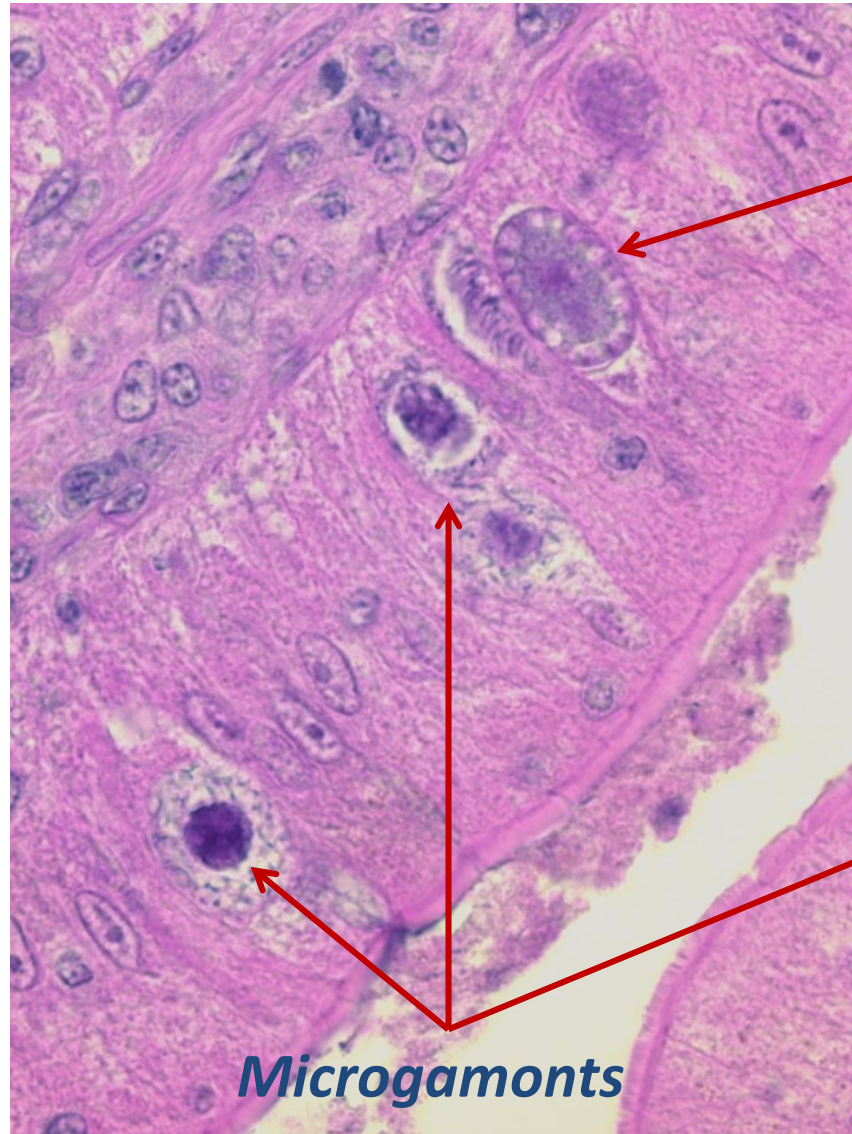
## **Endogenous development**





# *Eimeria* species – Life Cycle

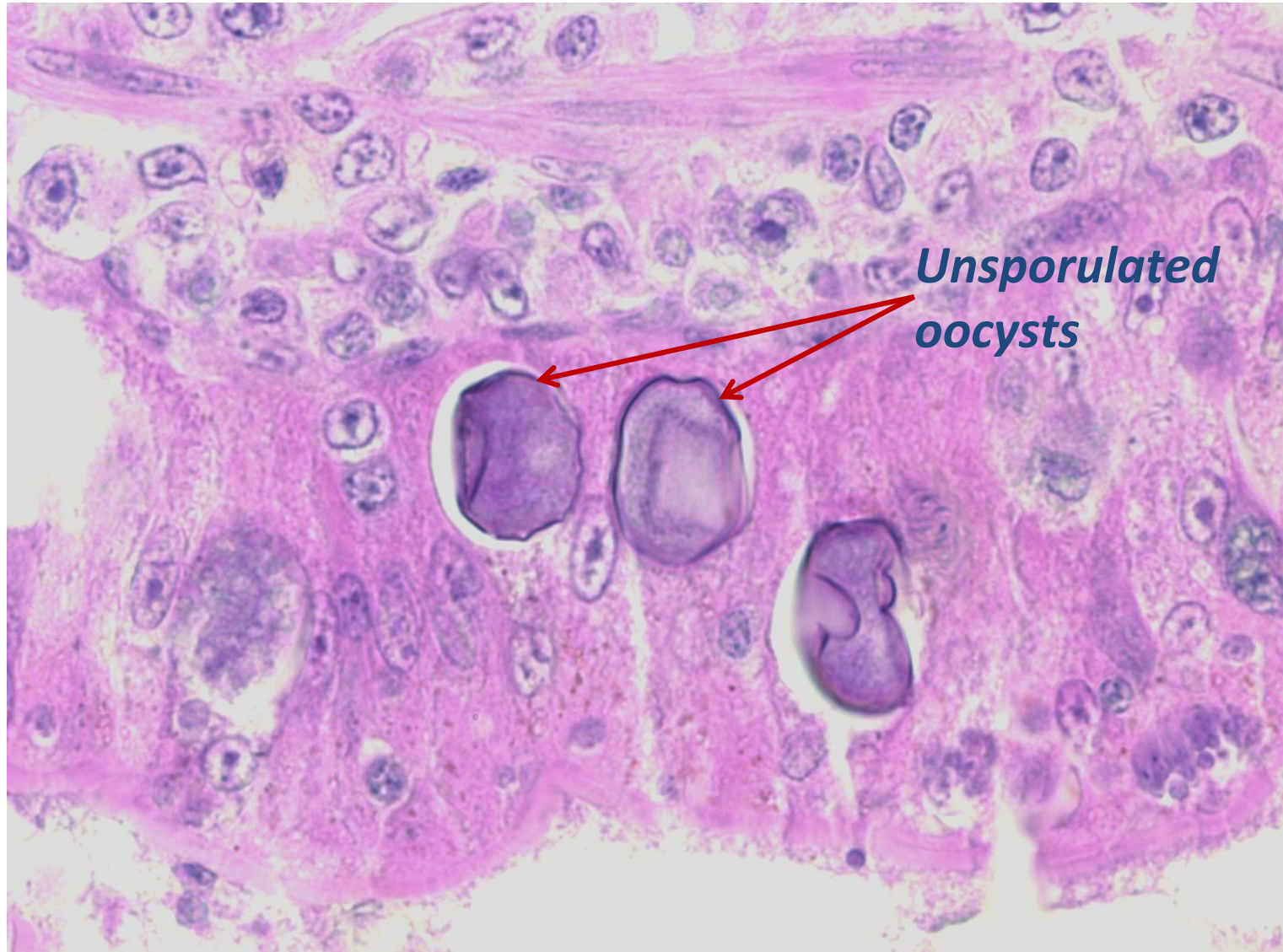
## Endogenous development





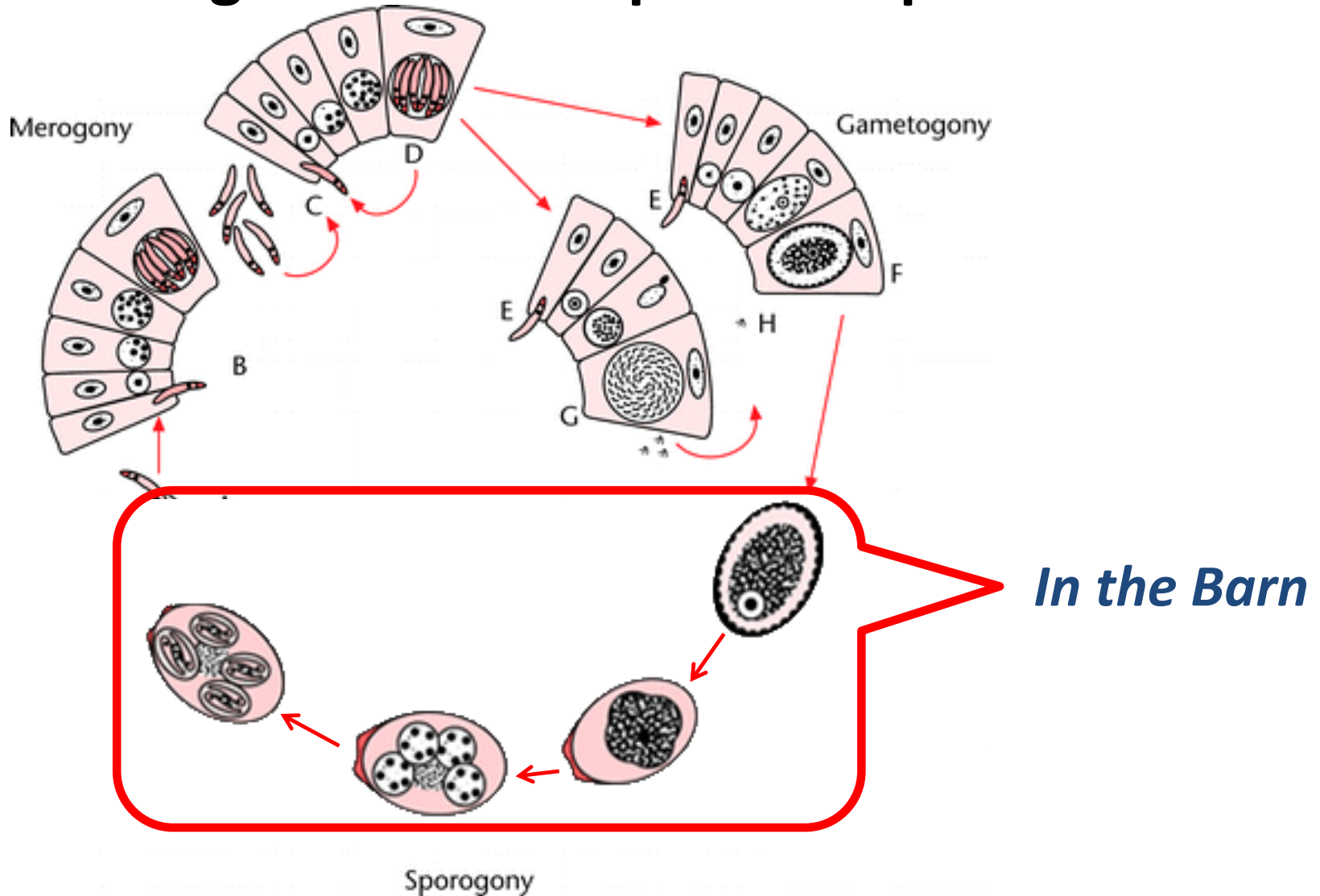
# ***Eimeria* species – Life Cycle**

## **Endogenous development**



# *Eimeria* species – Life Cycle

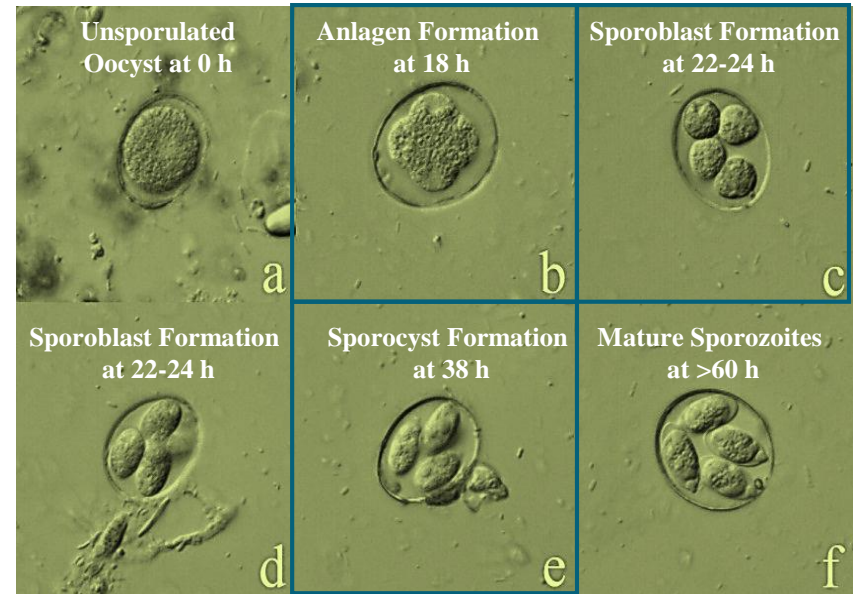
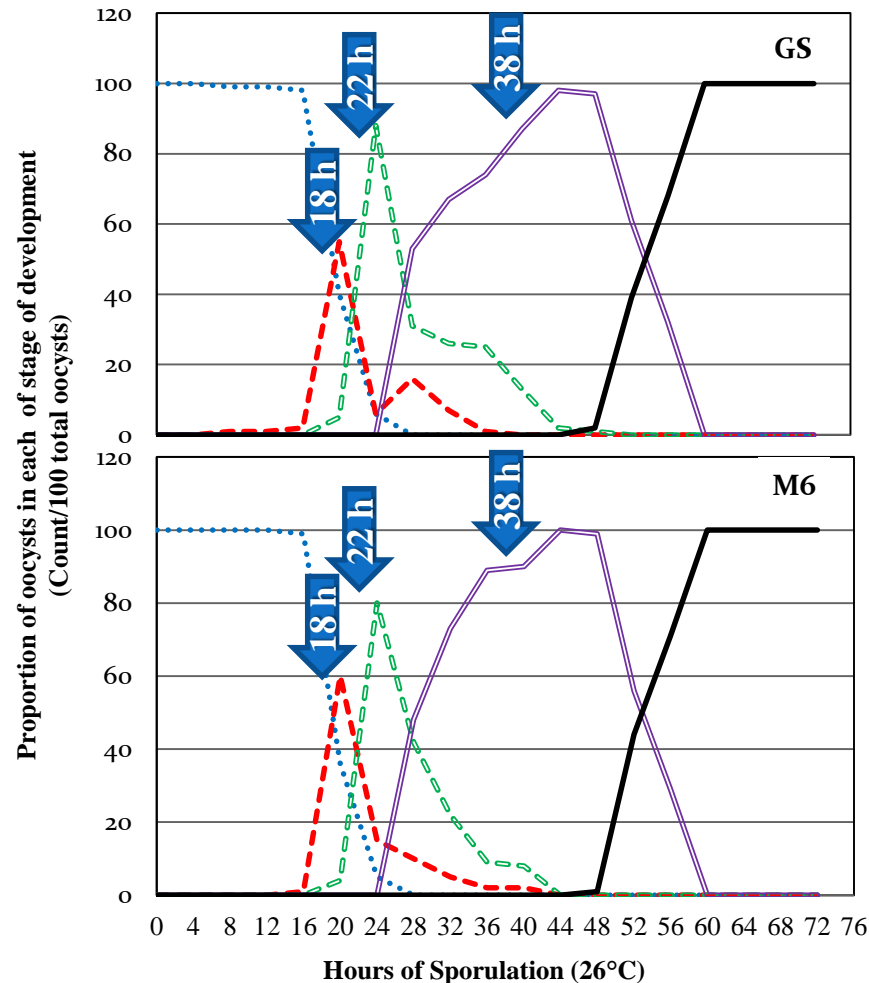
## Exogenous Development - Sporulation





# Stages of Sporulation – *Eimeria* species

## Results:



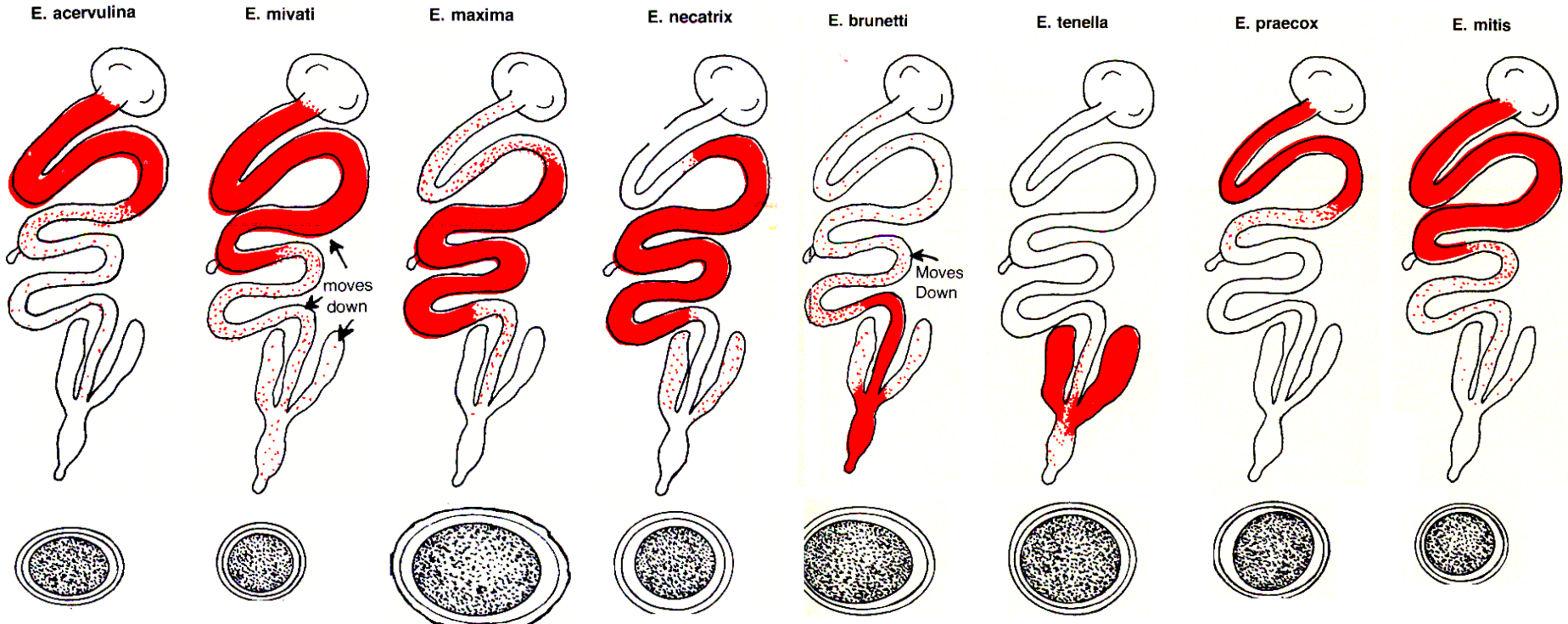
- ..... Unsporulated oocysts
- Sporoblast Anlagen
- - - Sporoblasts without Sporocyst Walls
- Sporocysts without Mature Sporozoites
- Sporocysts with Mature Sporozoites

# Topics

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- *Eimeria* species in chickenscoccidiosis in the  
gut of a single bird
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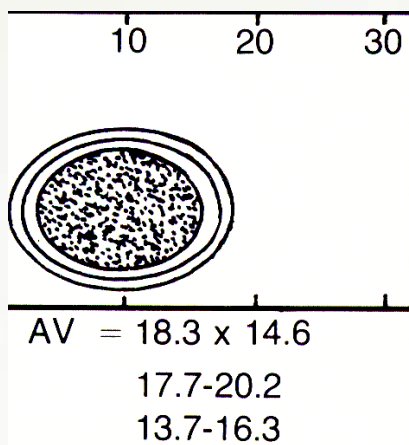
# Not just one disease

## *Eimeria* species in chickens

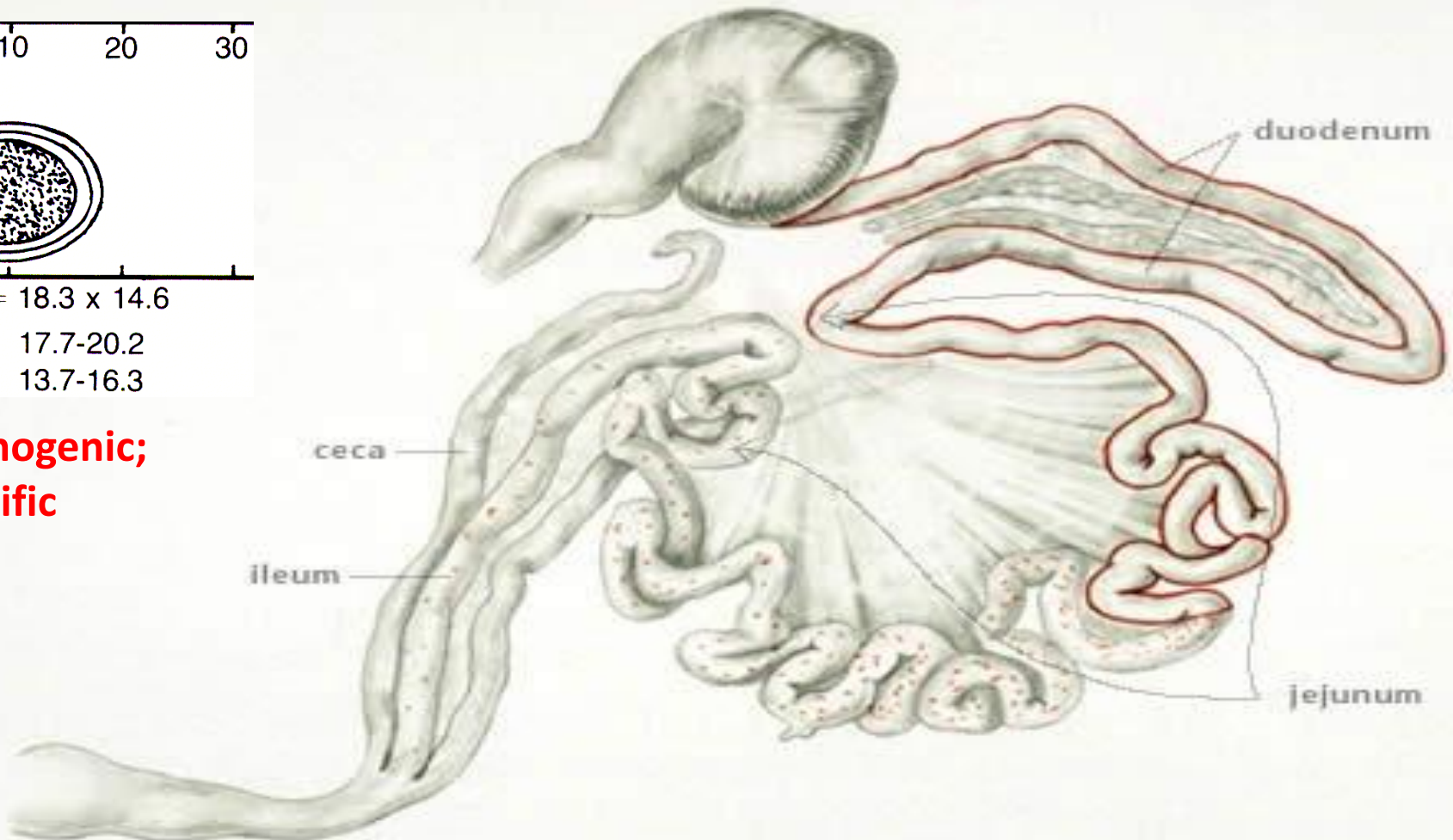


# *Eimeria* species in Chickens

## *Eimeria acervulina*



**Pathogenic;  
Prolific**

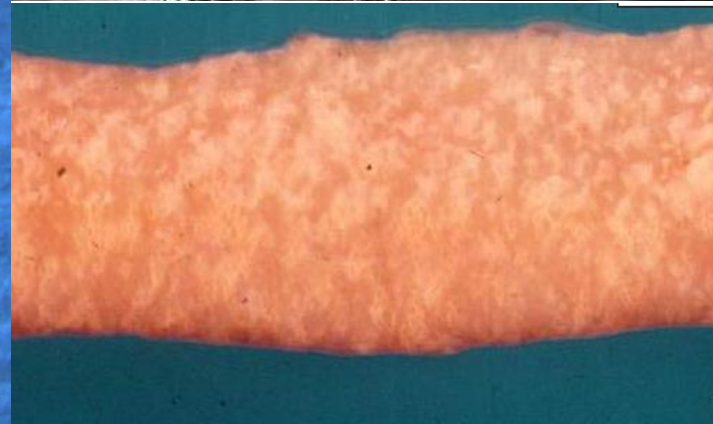
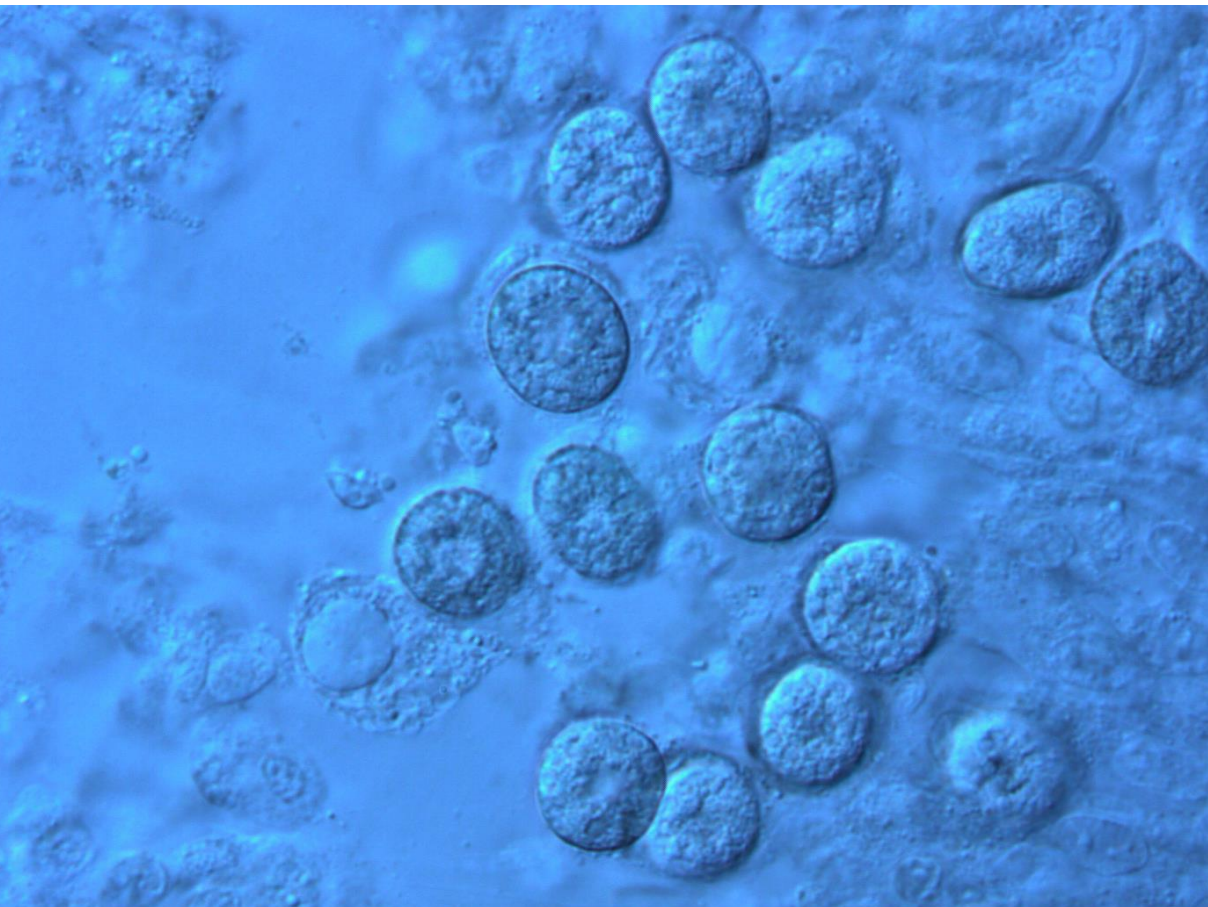




# *Eimeria* species in Chickens

## *Eimeria acervulina*

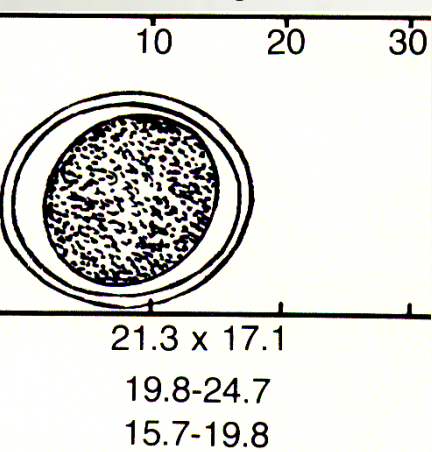
Pathogenic; Prolific; Ubiquitous



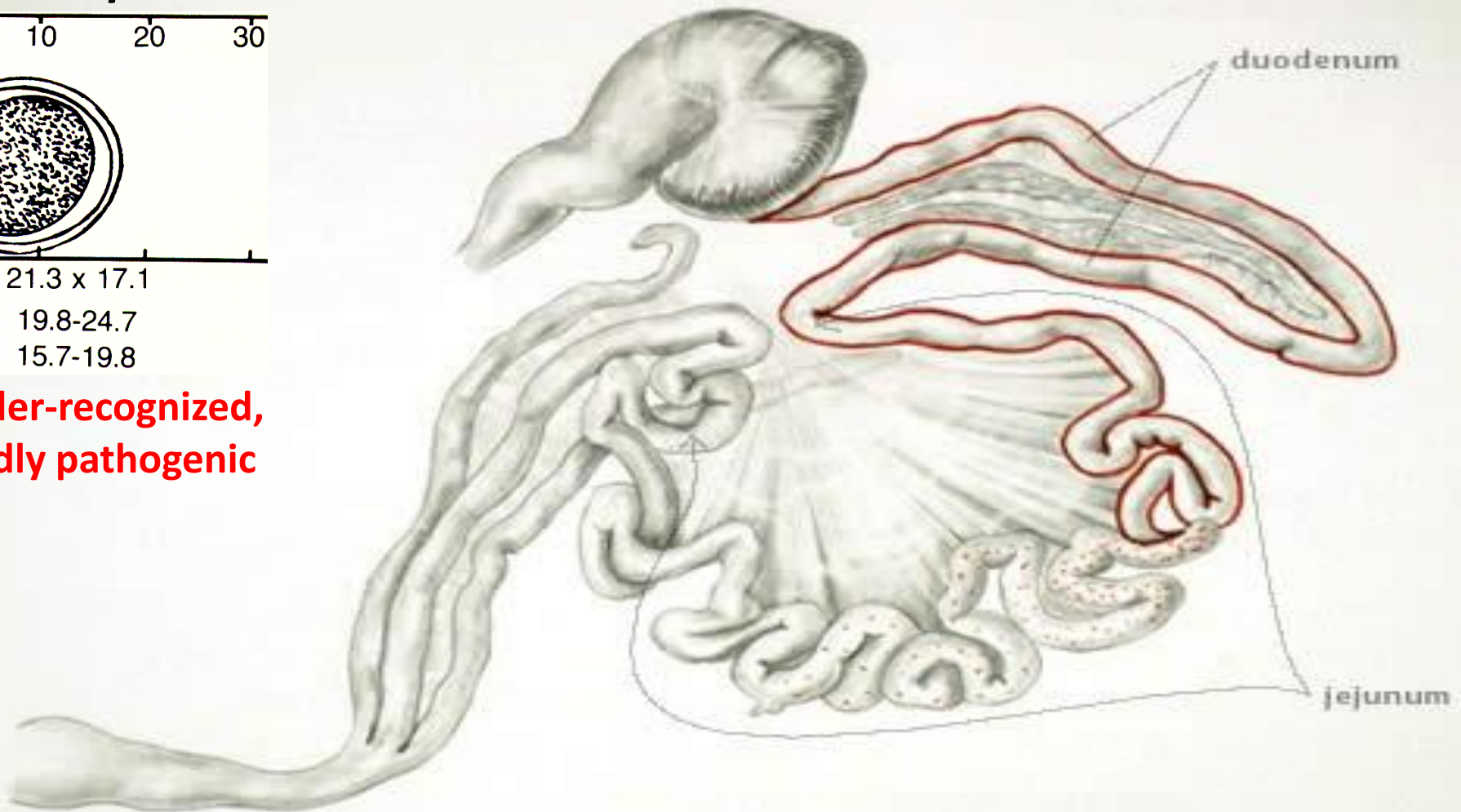


# *Eimeria* species in Chickens

## *Eimeria praecox*

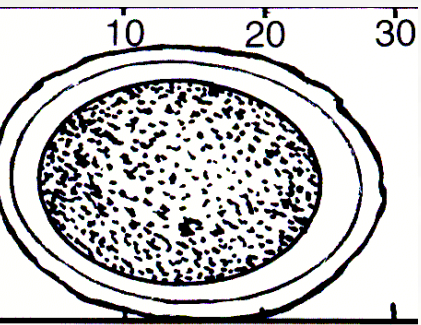


**Under-recognized,  
Mildly pathogenic**



# *Eimeria* species in Chickens

## *Eimeria maxima*

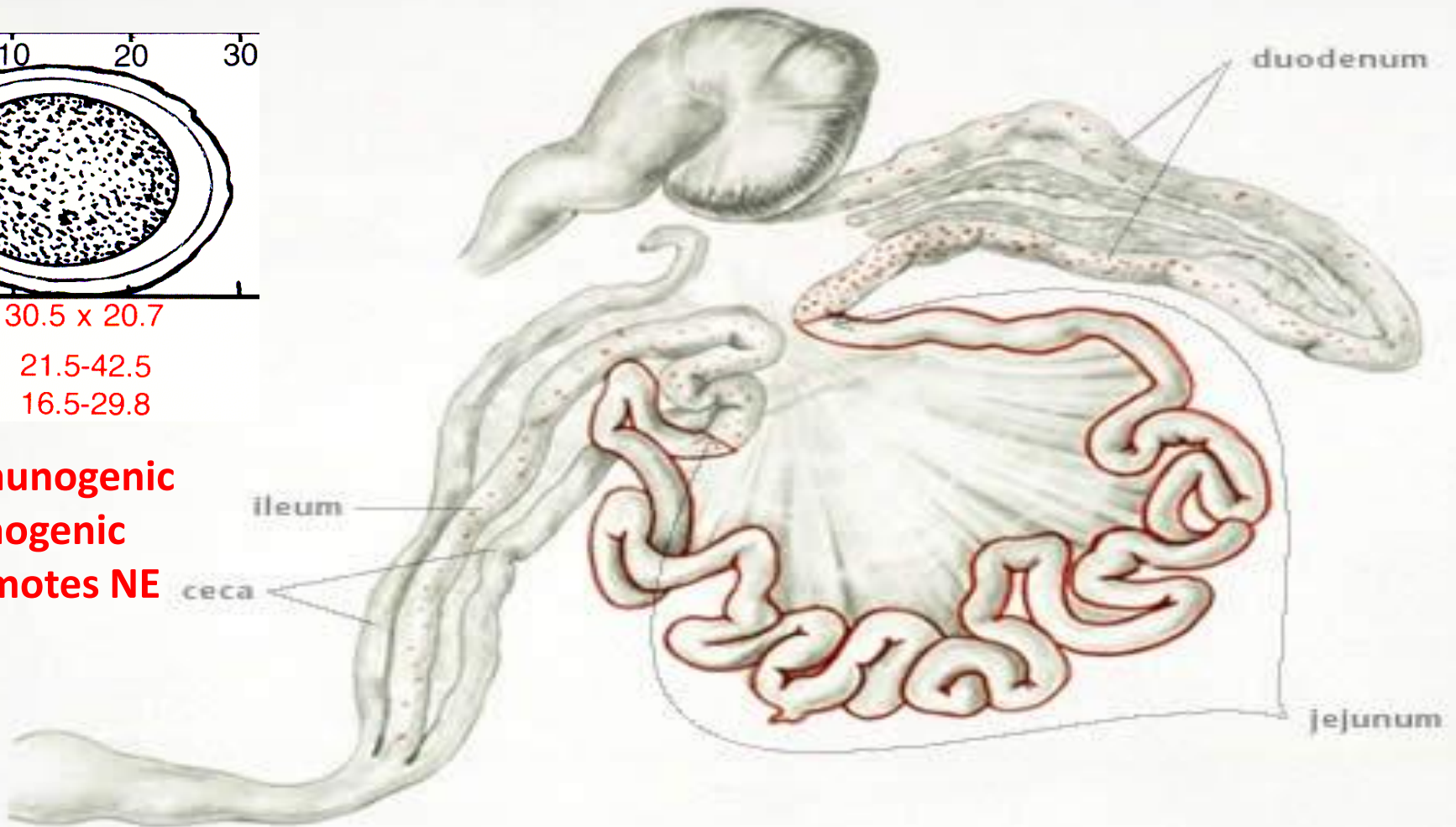


30.5 x 20.7

21.5-42.5

16.5-29.8

**Immunogenic**  
**Pathogenic**  
**Promotes NE**



# *Eimeria* species in Chickens

## *Eimeria maxima*

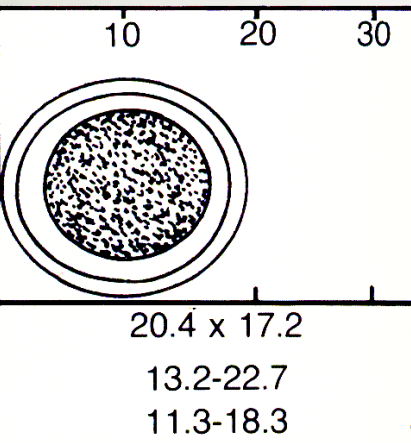
Immunogenic; Pathogenic; Promotes NE (excess mucus/inflammation)



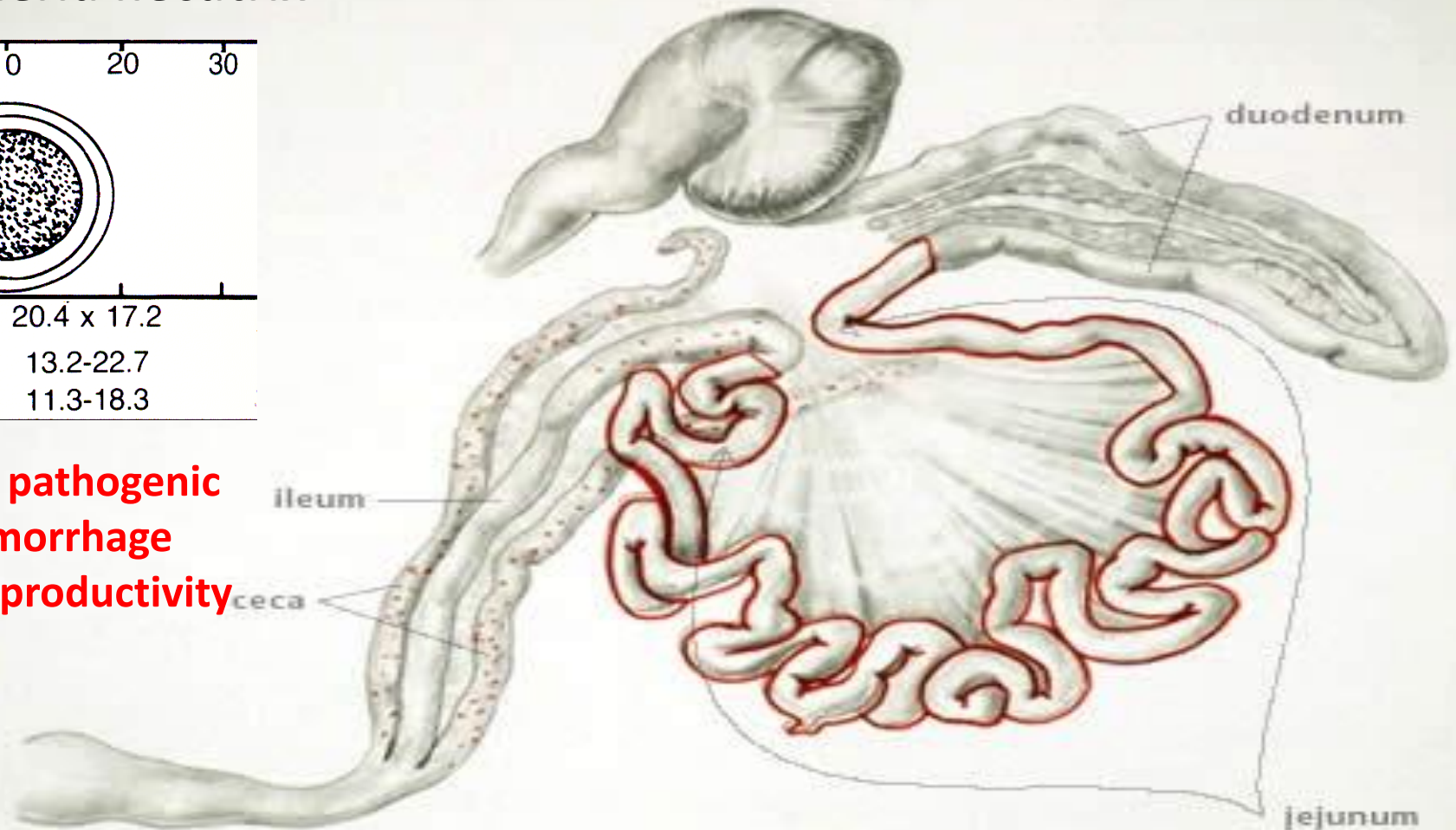


# *Eimeria* species in Chickens

## *Eimeria necatrix*



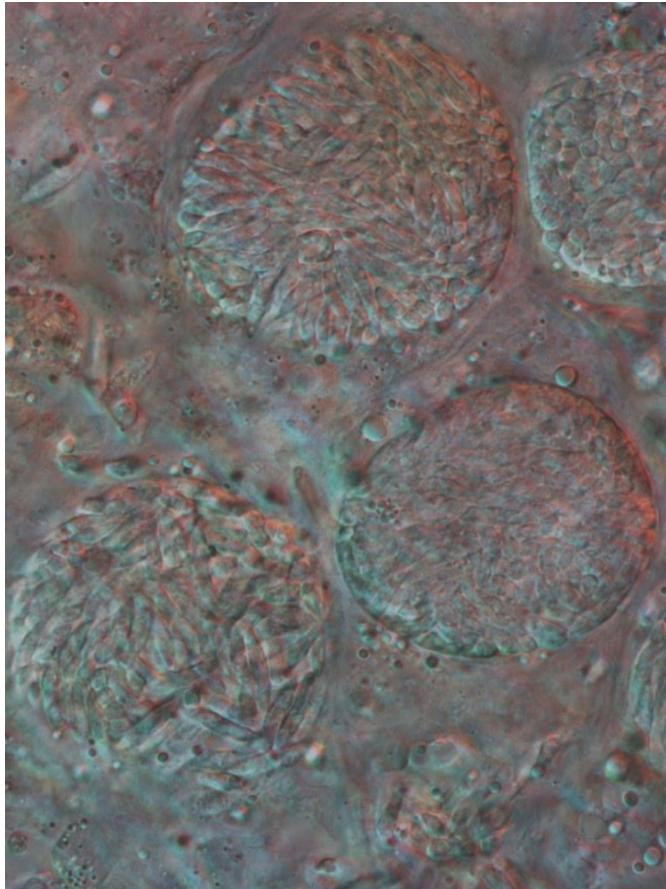
**Very pathogenic**  
**Haemorrhage**  
**Low productivity**



# *Eimeria* species in Chickens

## *Eimeria necatrix*

Very pathogenic; Haemorrhage; Low productivity

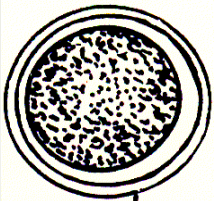




# *Eimeria* species in Chickens

## *Eimeria mitis*

10 20 30

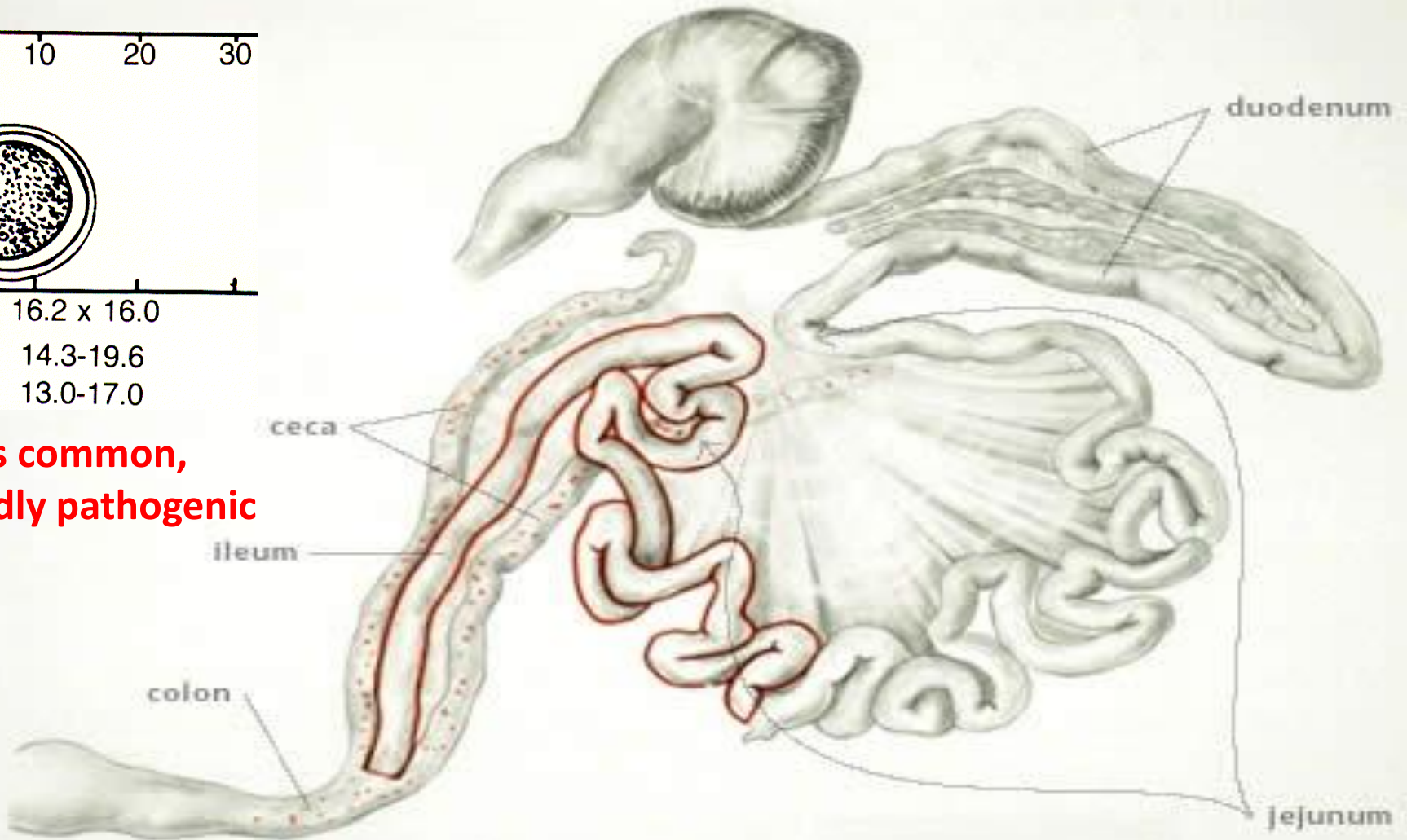


16.2 x 16.0

14.3-19.6

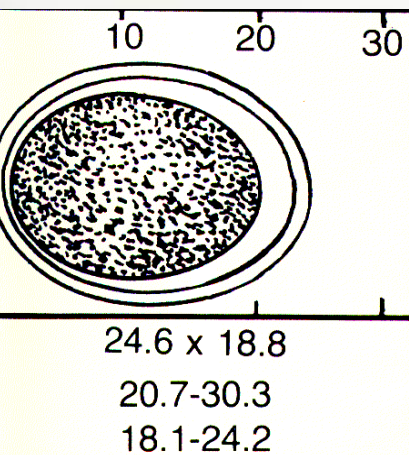
13.0-17.0

**Less common,  
Mildly pathogenic**

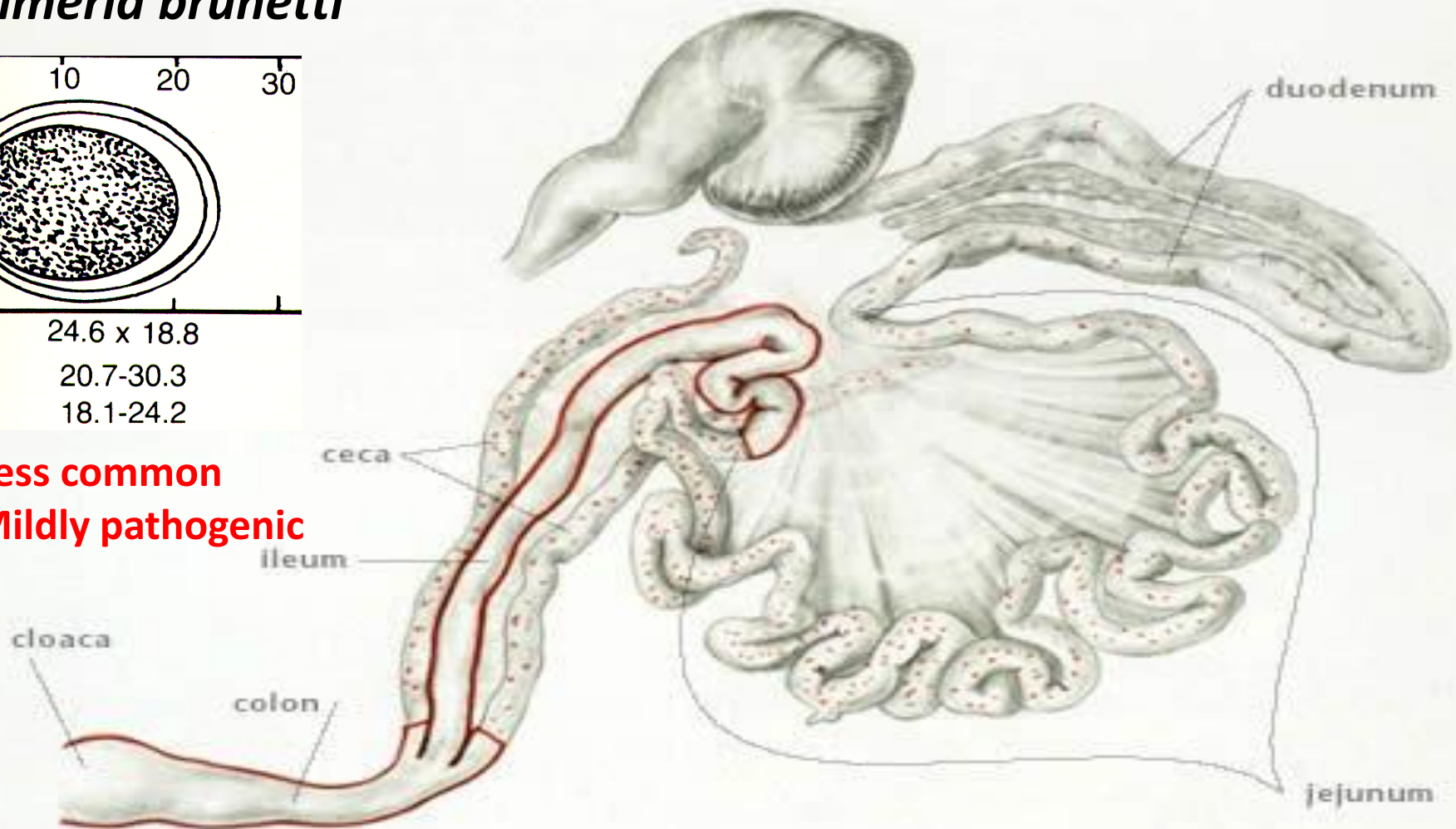


# *Eimeria* species in Chickens

## *Eimeria brunetti*



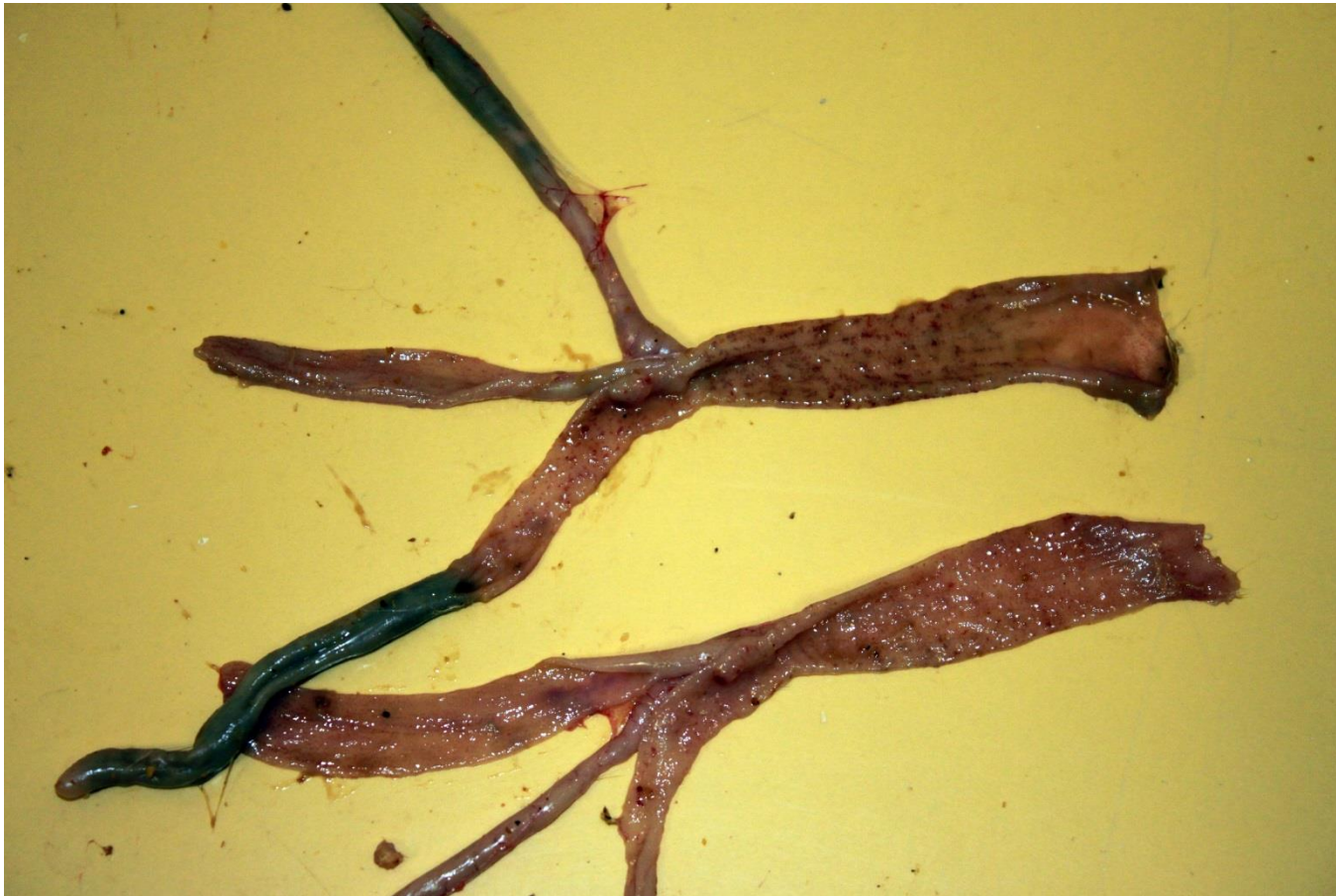
**Less common**  
**Mildly pathogenic**



# *Eimeria* species in Chickens

## *Eimeria brunetti*

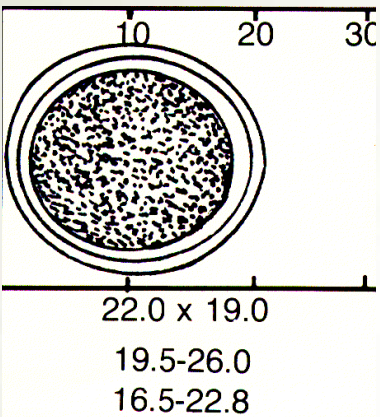
**Less common; Mildly pathogenic; Marked Dehydration; Modest Lesions**



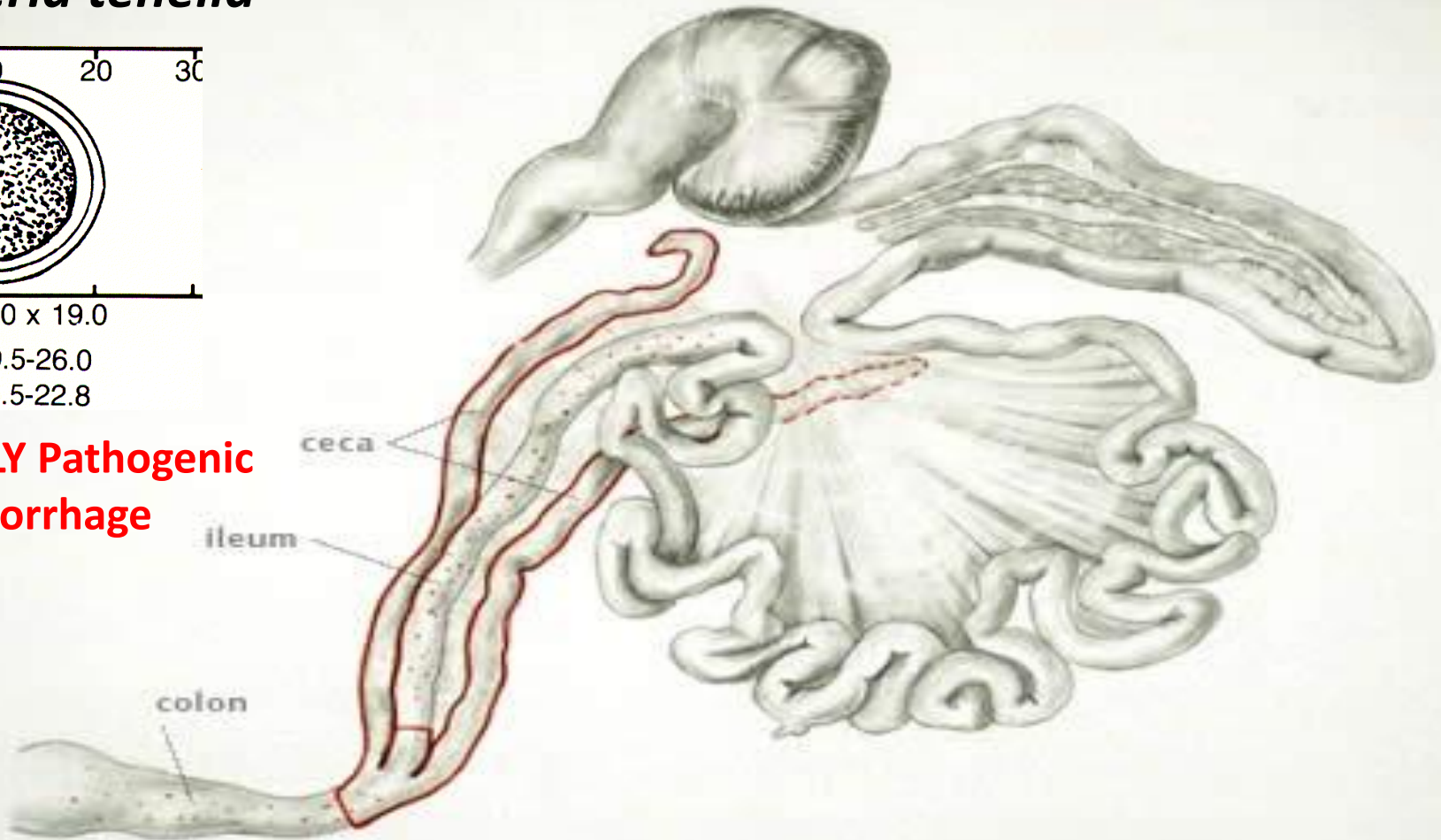


# *Eimeria* species in Chickens

## *Eimeria tenella*



**HIGHLY Pathogenic**  
**Haemorrhage**



# *Eimeria* species in Chickens

## *Eimeria tenella*

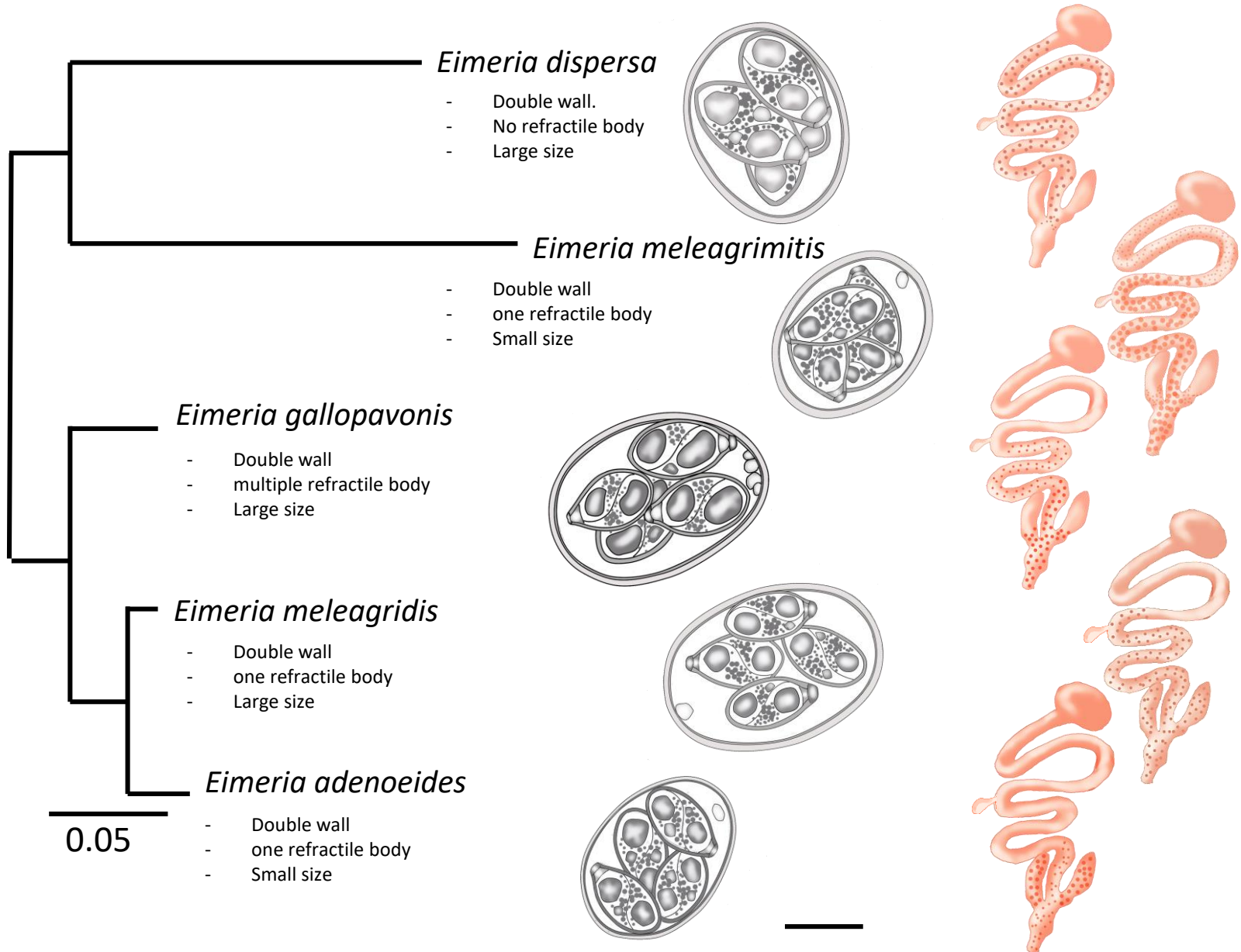
**HIGHLY Pathogenic; Haemorrhage**



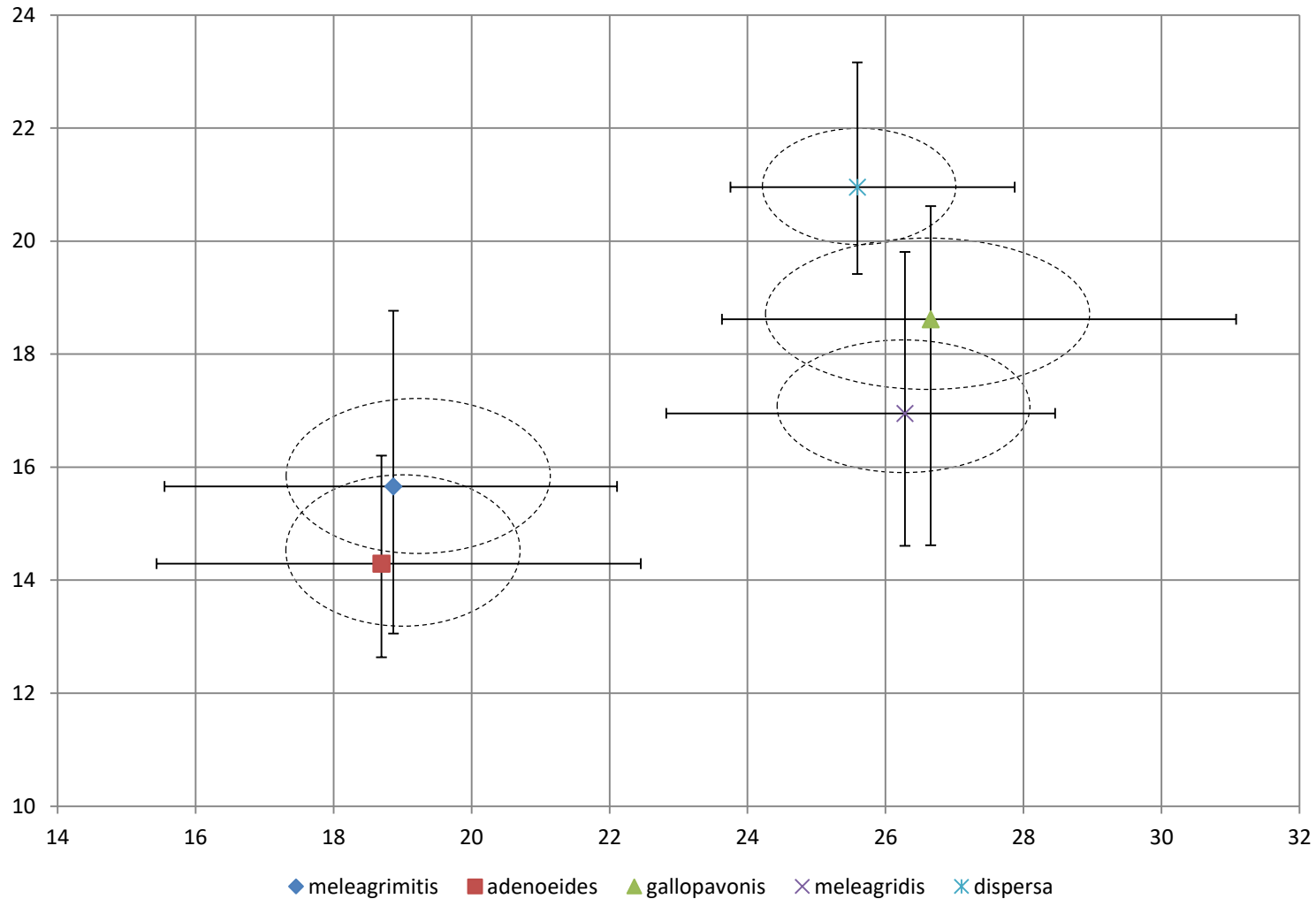
<http://images.objectivepathology.com/zoom.aspx?cols=10&zoomtarget=/UoGuelph/OVC/PathoBiology/Parasitology/PB-C61J>



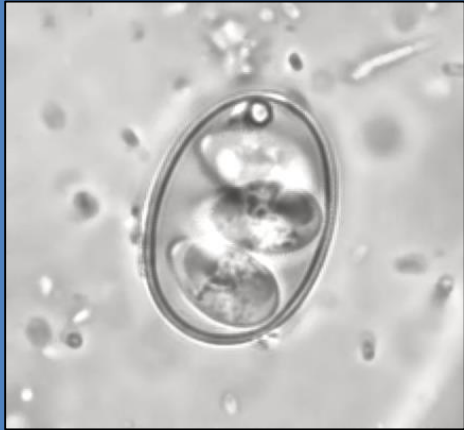
# *Eimeria* species in Turkeys



# *Eimeria* species in Turkeys



# *Eimeria adenoeides* and *E. gallopavonis*



18.8× 14.2μm



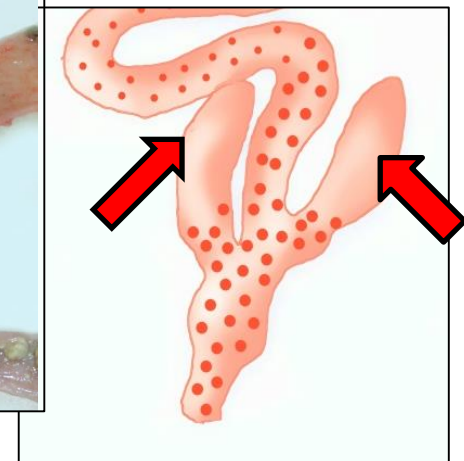
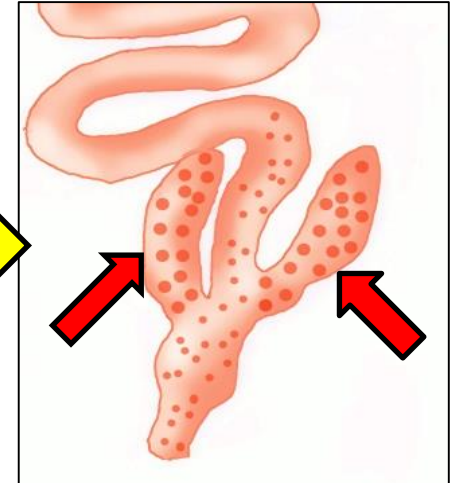
28.8× 17μm



Mainly in cecal pouch



Mainly in cecal neck



# Topics

- coccidiosis as an “artificial” disease  
(a by-product of poultry domestication)
- the coccidian life cycle
- the *Eimeria* species in chickens and turkeys
- **coccidiosis in the gut**
- coccidiosis in a flock



# Coccidiosis – Gross lesions

- Johnson and Reid, 1970 for descriptions
- host variation to infections (age/breed/type)
- highly dose associated
- ‘clean’ lesion scores in naïve birds BUT immunopathology/inflammation can confuse lesion scores in cocci-exposed birds.

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# Coccidiosis in the Barn



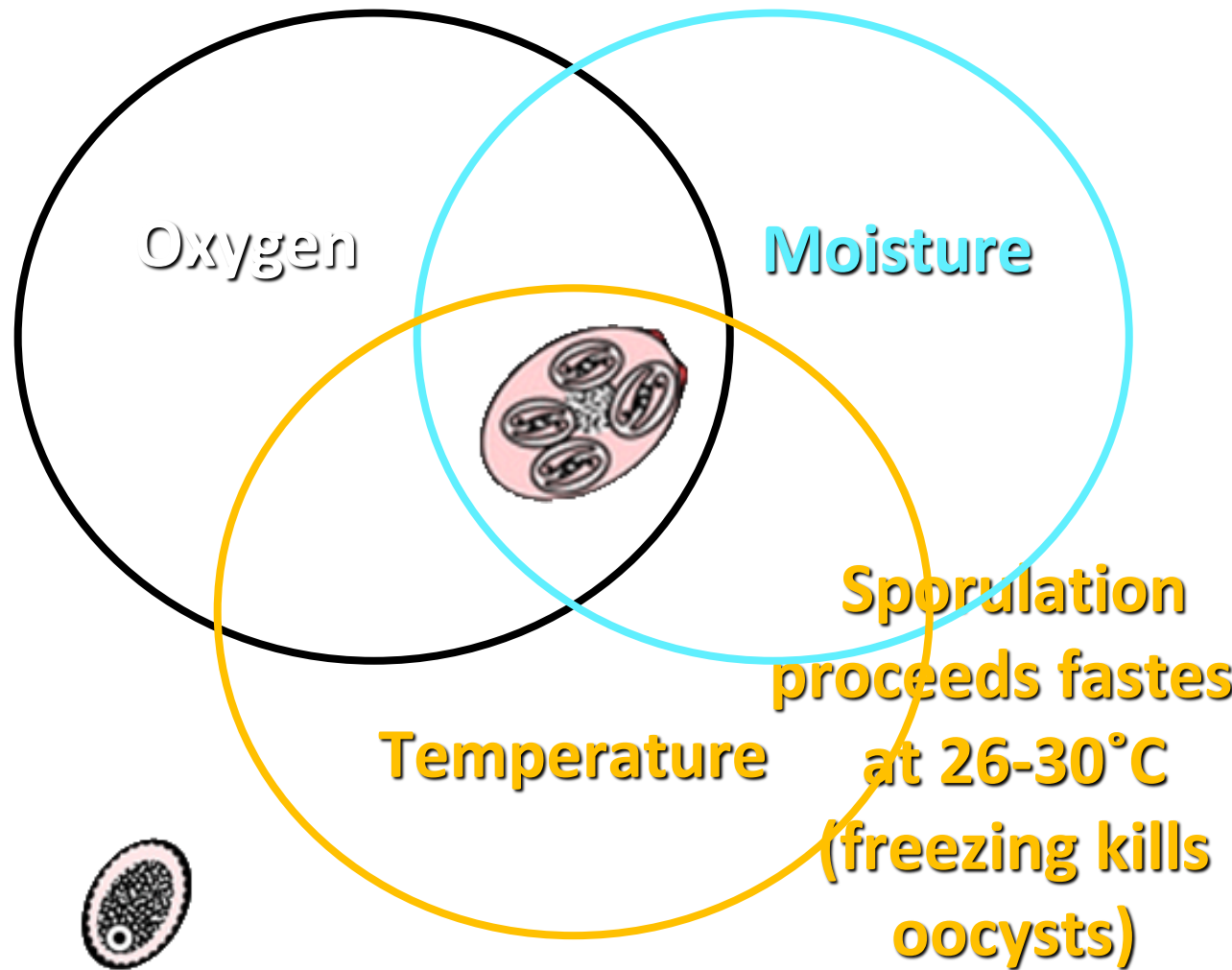
# Coccidia in the Barn - Oocyst Development and Survival

Oocysts are susceptible to desiccation -  
>16% litter moisture needed (25% optimal)

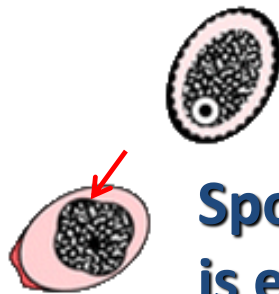
>30% reduces sporulation  
**Sporulation**

is an aerobic process

– access to oxygen



**Sporogonic development in environment is essential for "cycling"**

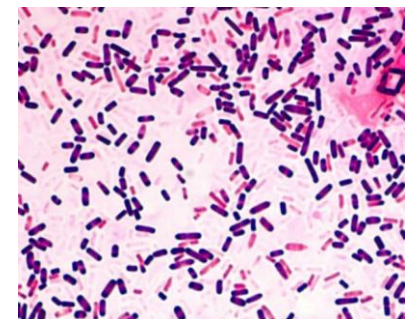
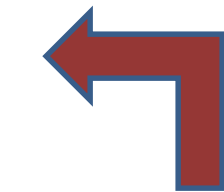
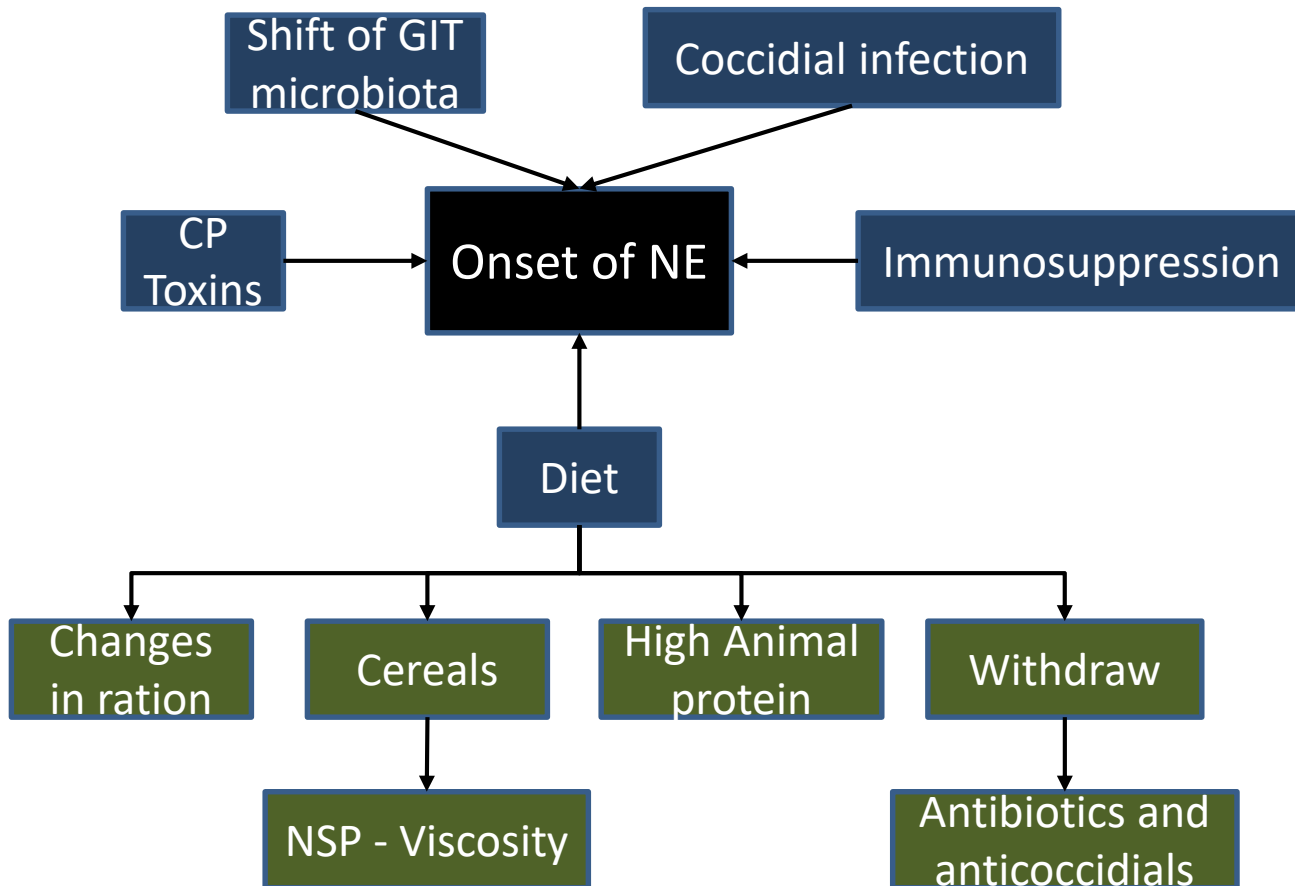




# Summary

- coccidiosis as an “artificial” disease (a by-product of poultry domestication)
- reproductive potential of life cycle is fixed
- multiple species makes it a disease complex
- lesions occur both microscopically and macroscopically – immune response can exacerbate
- control is highly dependent on controlling oocyst numbers at appropriate times

# Necrotic enteritis (NE)



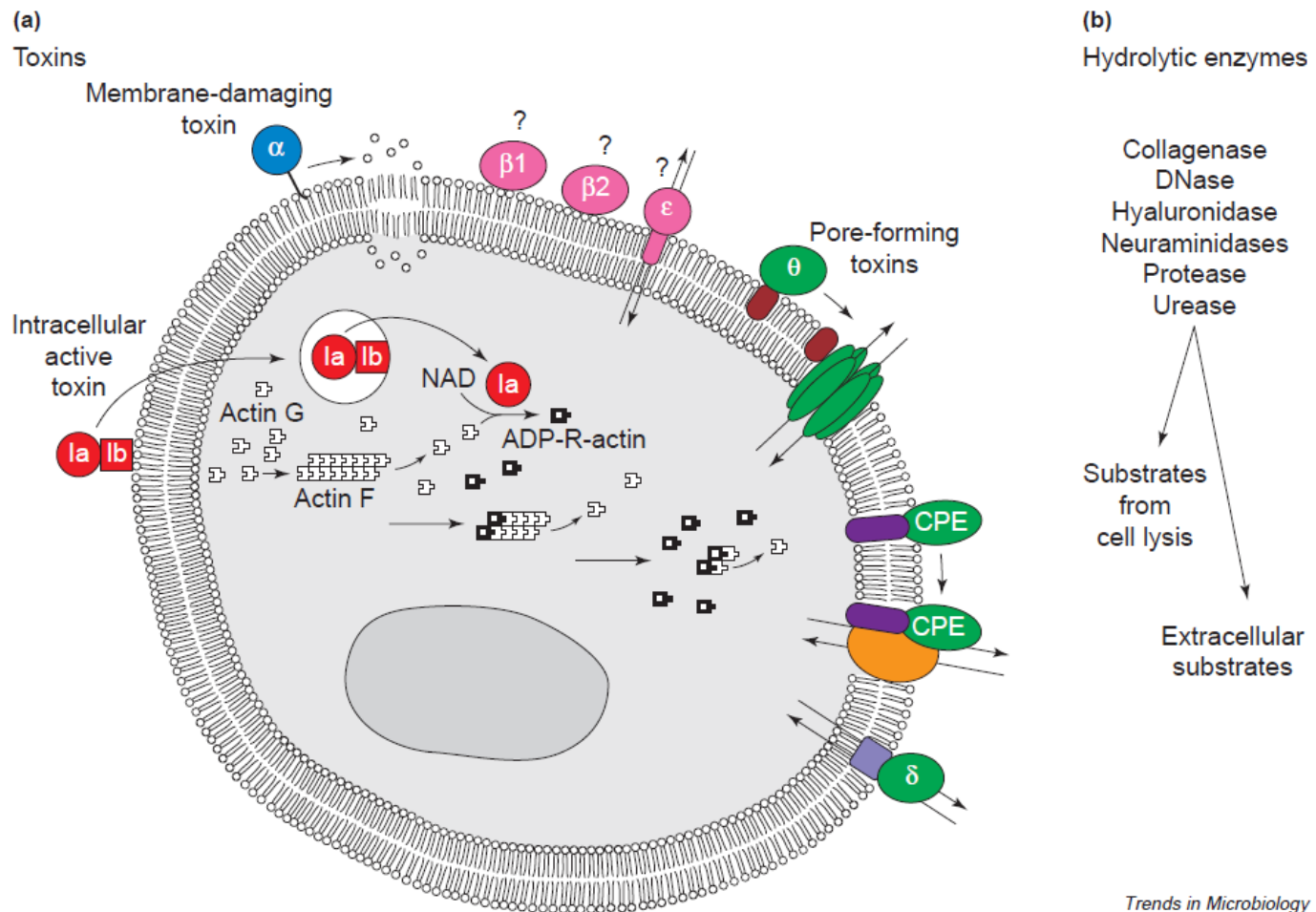
# Classification system of *C. perfringens* based on the production of six major toxins

## The 2018 *C. perfringens* toxin-based typing scheme

Toxinotype	$\alpha$ -toxin	$\beta$ -toxin	$\epsilon$ -toxin	$\iota$ -toxin	CPE	NetB
<b>A</b>	+	-	-	-	-	-
<b>B</b>	+	+	+	-	-	-
<b>C</b>	+	+	-	-	+/-	-
<b>D</b>	+	-	+	-	+/-	-
<b>E</b>	+	-	-	+	+/-	-
<b>F</b>	+	-	-	-	+	-
<b>G</b>	+	-	-	-	-	+



## Schematic representation of the targets and modes of action of some *C. perfringens* toxins



**Predisposing factors:**

Non-starch polysaccharides

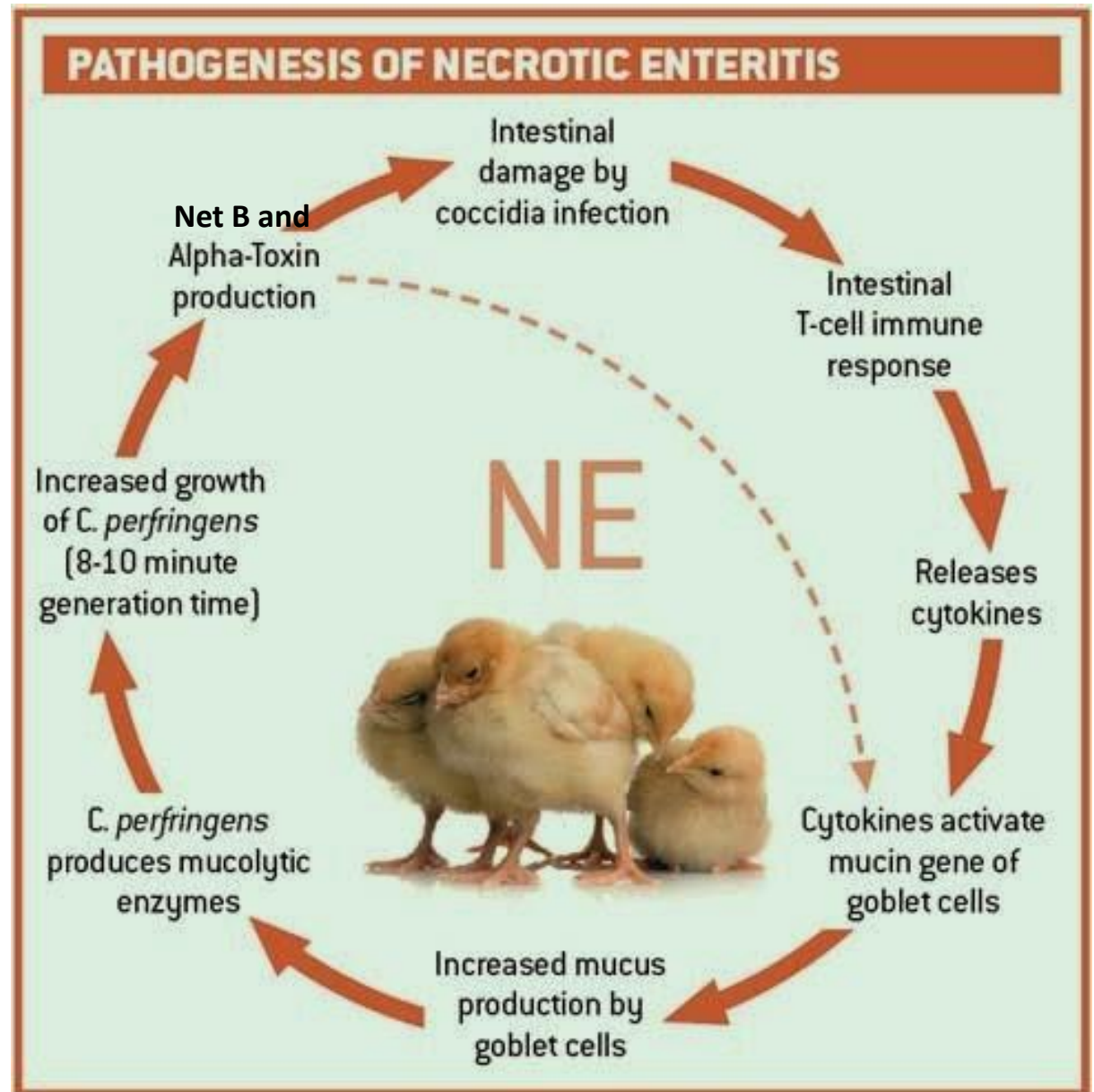
Animal protein (Fish meal)

Coccidiosis

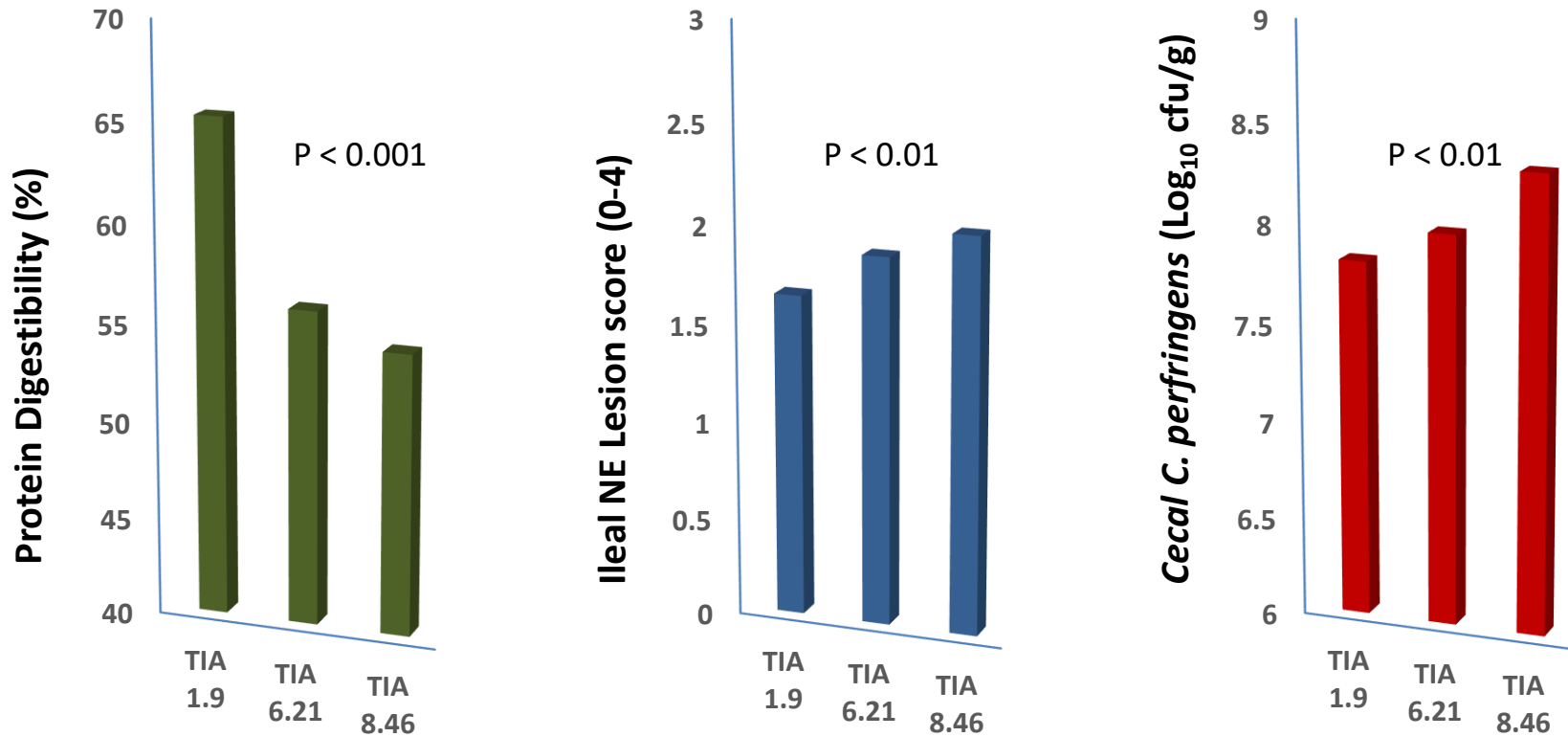
Immunosuppression and stress



Appropriate intestinal environment

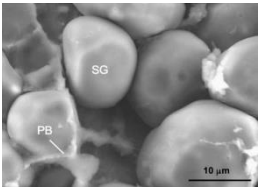


# Effect of TIA on Necrotic enteritis presentation



TIA: Trypsin Inhibitor Activity mg/g

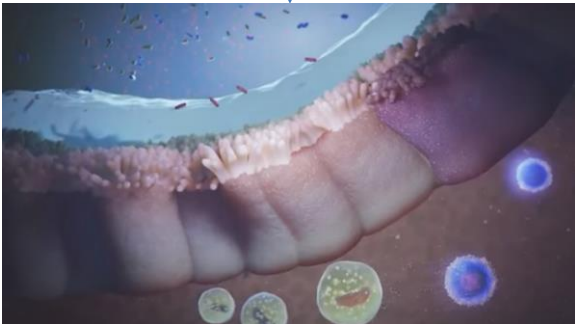
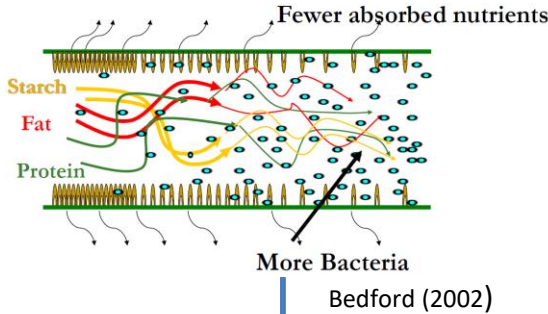
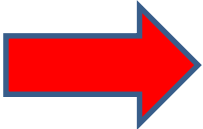
# Nutrient utilization and alternative grains: Non-starch polysaccharides (NSP)



Wong et al., 2009

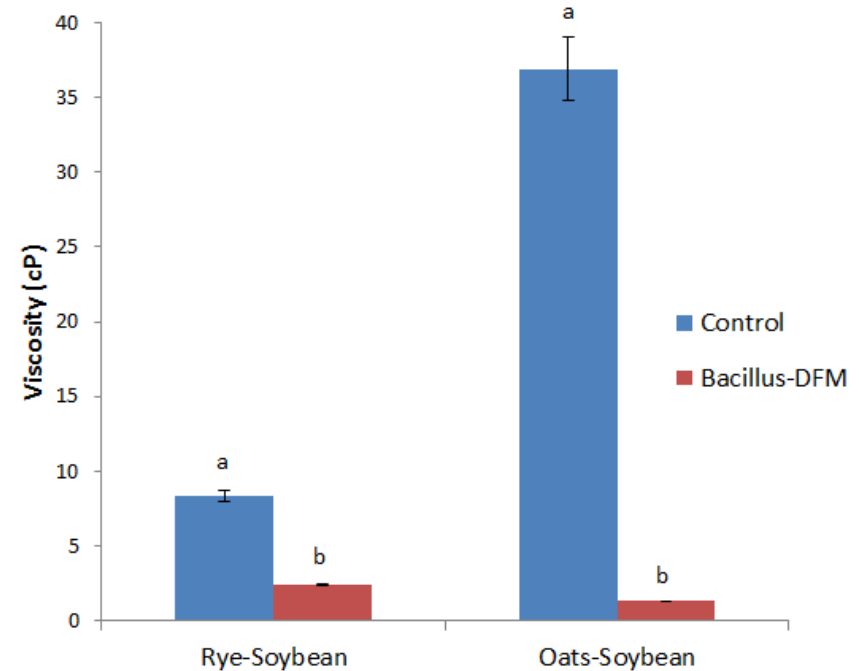
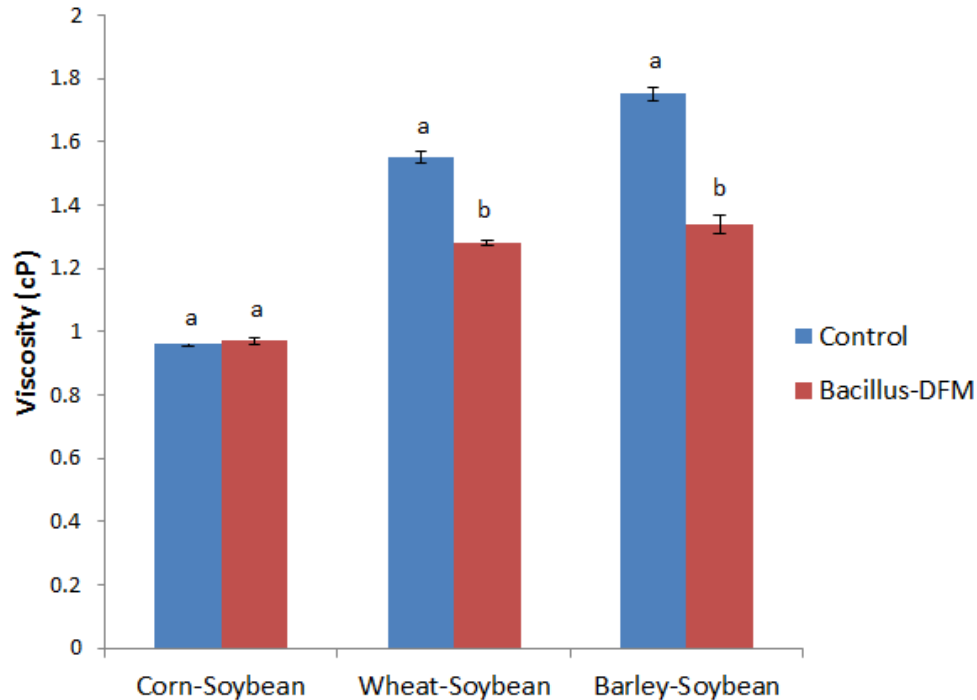
Ingredient	NSP g/kg DM
Corn	97
Wheat	119
Rye	152
Barley	186
Oats	232

Knudsen (1997)





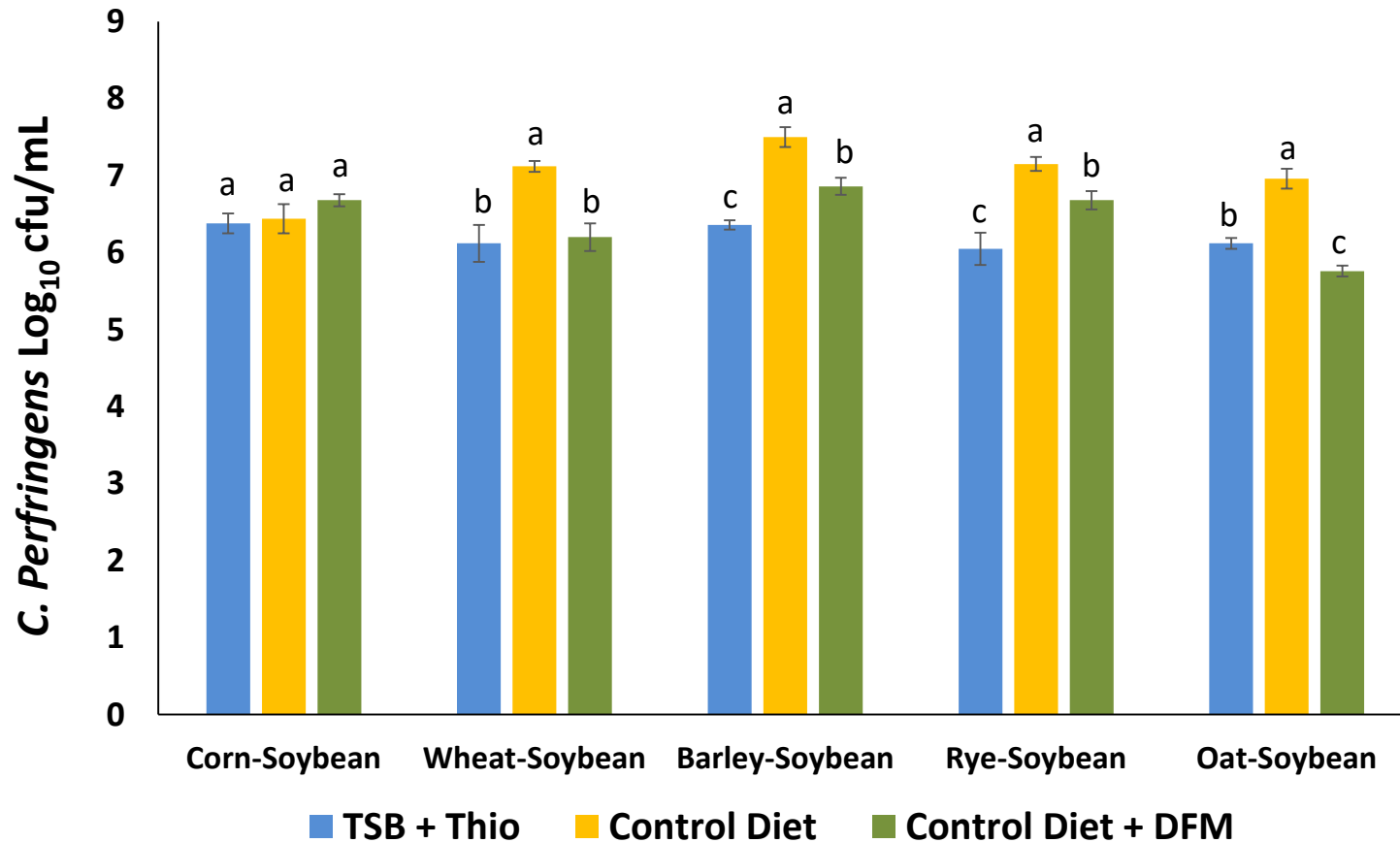
# Evaluation of *in vitro* viscosity of different diets with or without inclusion of a *Bacillus*-DFM candidate



a-b (P<0.05).

\* Viscosity was measured after 3 h and 15 min of *in vitro* digestion at 40°C, the data reported is the mean of 5 replicates per diet per treatment.

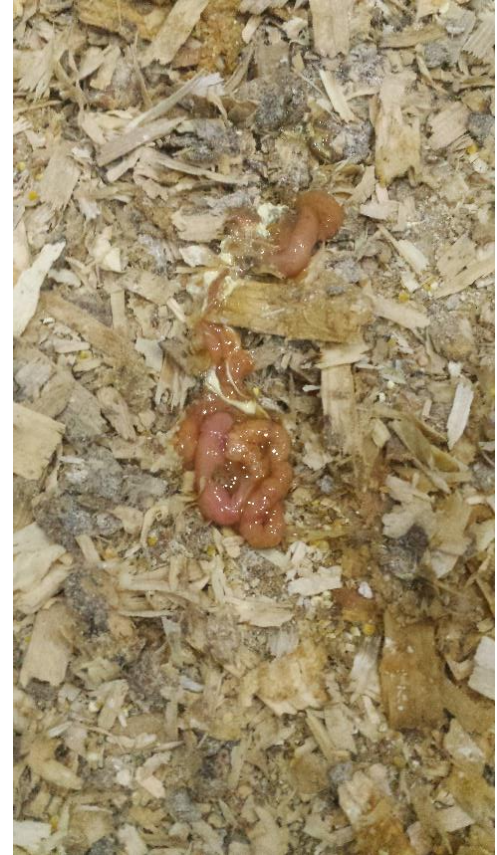
# ***In vitro* Proliferation of *C. perfringens* in different digested diets with or without inclusion of a *Bacillus*-DFM candidate**



<sup>a-c</sup> (P < 0.05).

\* Supernatant from each diet was used as part of the broth for *C. perfringens* growth. Inoculum used 10<sup>5</sup> cfu of *C. perfringens* and 10<sup>8</sup> spores/g of *Bacillus*-DFM candidate

# Necrotic Enteritis – Clinical Signs



# Necrotic Enteritis - Lesions



Gross lesions typical of experimentally induced necrotic enteritis. **(A)** Typical mucosal lesion following experimental inoculation, with pseudomembrane forming. **(B)** Typical necrotic lesions viewed from the serosal surface

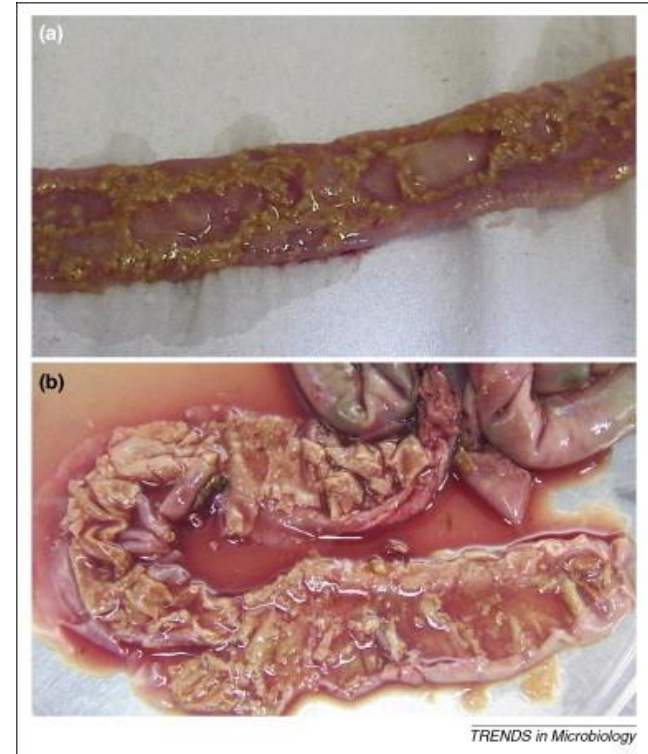


Figure above - Typical gut lesions in severe broiler necrotic enteritis. **(a)** These consist of patches of necrosis throughout the gastrointestinal tract and, in extreme cases, **(b)** extensive necrosis of the mucosal surface



# Necrotic Enteritis – Lesion Score system



Figure 1: Score = 1



Figure 2: Score = 2

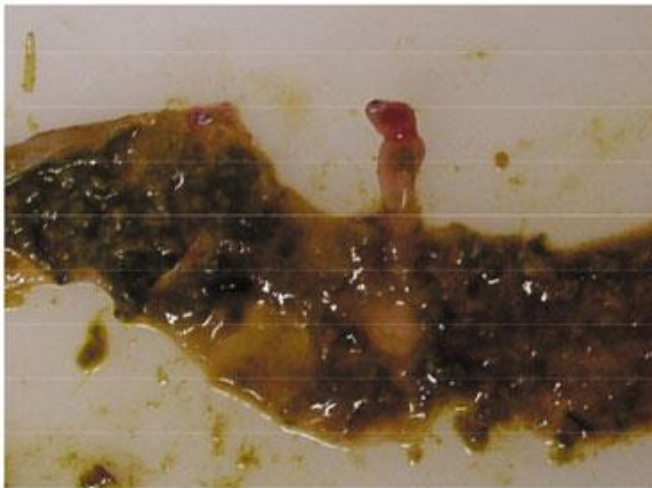


Figure 3: Score = 3

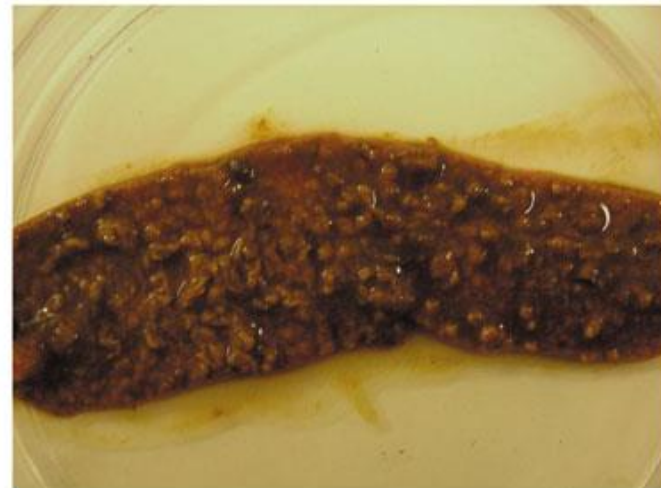
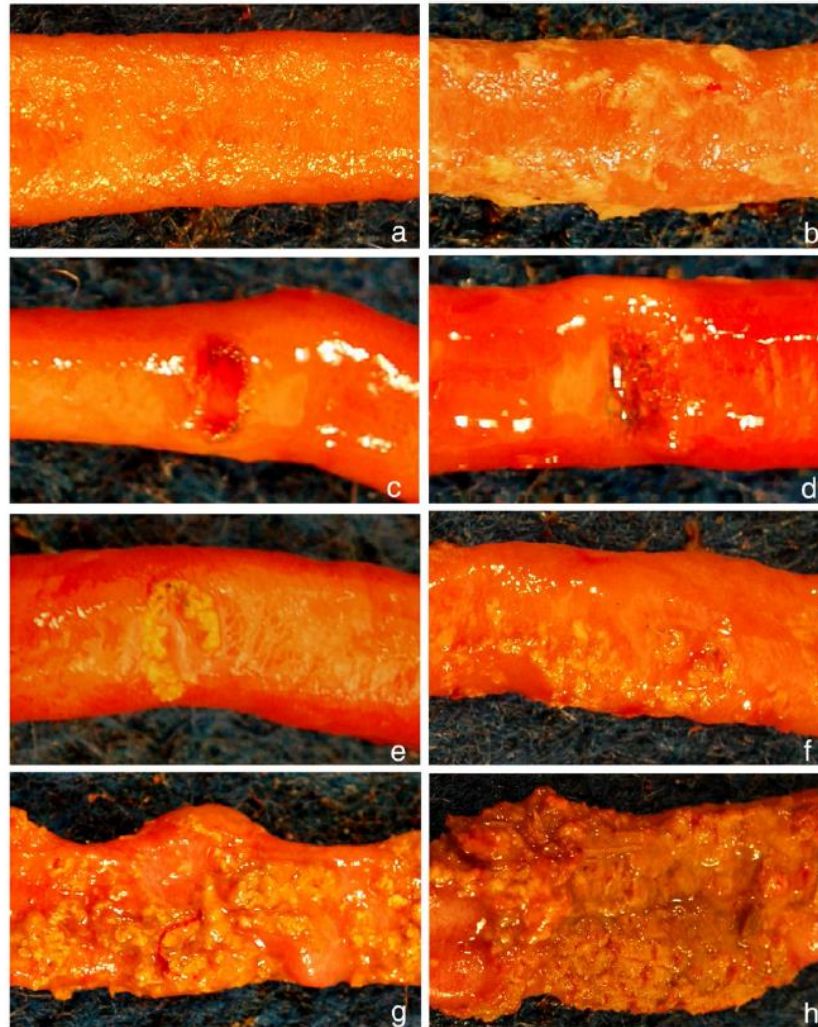


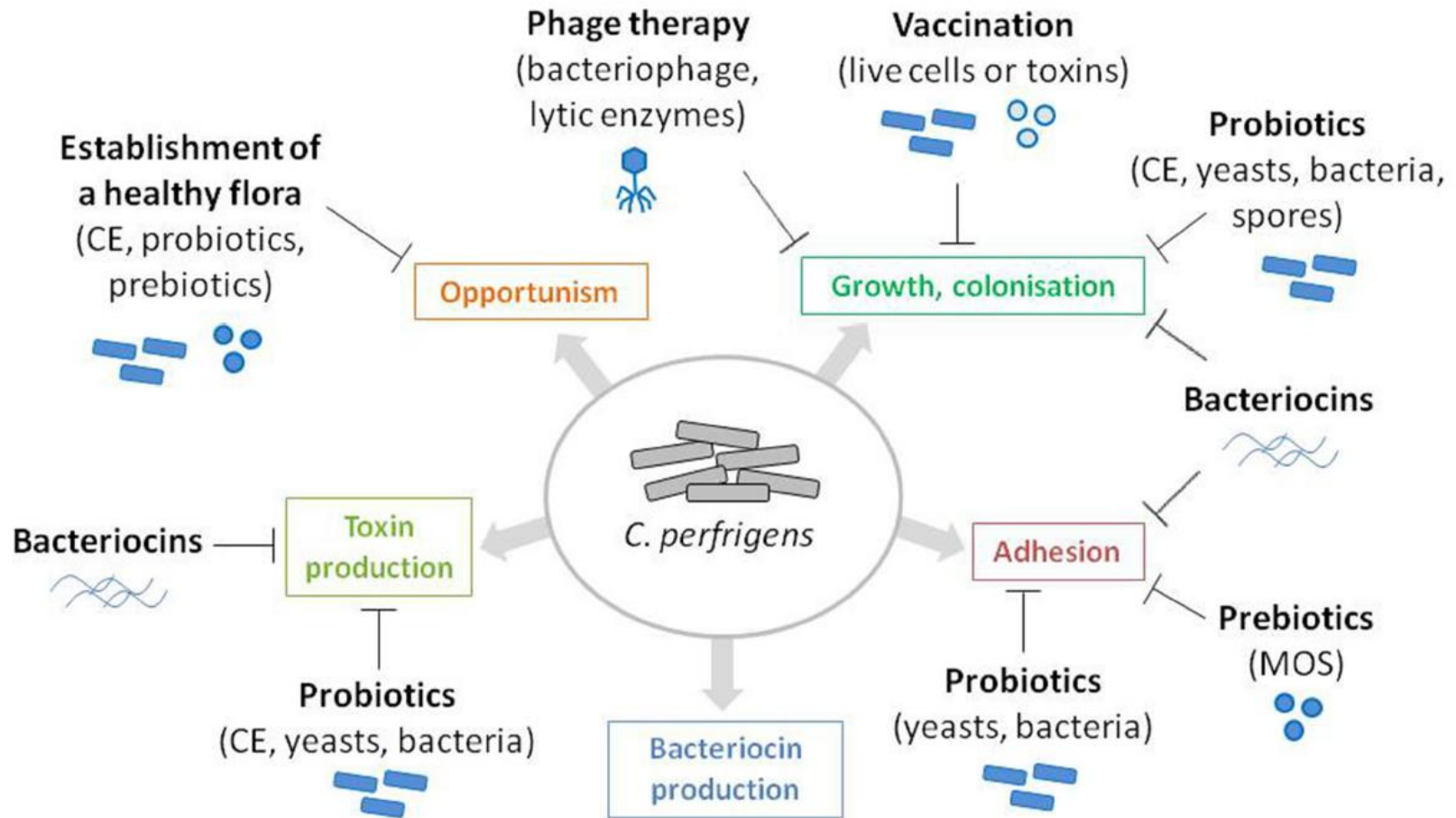
Figure 4: Score = 4

# Necrotic enteritis – Lesion Score System

## Different Scoring Systems



# ***C. Perfringens* virulence factors and potential targets for NE prevention**



# Objectives

1. Evaluate the possible role of:
  - Neonatal *Salmonella* Typhimurium infection as a predisposing factor for NE
  - *Eimeria maxima* strain (M6 or Guelph) on development and severity of NE
2. Evaluation of different NE models that could be used to determine the effect of different AGP alternative candidates





*Research Note*—

## The Role of an Early *Salmonella* Typhimurium Infection as a Predisposing Factor for Necrotic Enteritis in a Laboratory Challenge Model

S. Shivaramaiah,<sup>A</sup> R. E. Wolfenden,<sup>A</sup> J. R. Barta,<sup>B</sup> M. J. Morgan,<sup>A</sup> A. D. Wolfenden,<sup>A</sup> B. M. Hargis,<sup>A</sup> and G. Téllez<sup>AC</sup>

<sup>A</sup>Department of Poultry Science, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701

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Received 23 November 2010; Accepted and published ahead of print 26 February 2011

**SUMMARY.** Necrotic enteritis (NE) caused by *Clostridium perfringens* (CP) in poultry is an important bacterial disease in terms of economic implications. The disease is multifactorial and is invariably associated with predisposing factors. In the present experiments, we investigated the potential predisposing role of neonatal *Salmonella* Typhimurium (ST) infection for NE-associated mortality in a laboratory challenge model. In two experiments, day-of-hatch chicks were randomly assigned to four groups: Group 1, nonchallenged control; Group 2, chickens received *Eimeria maxima* (EM) and CP; Group 3, chickens received EM and CP and were also challenged with ST at day 1 of age; Group 4, chickens received EM and CP and were also challenged with ST at day 17 of age. Challenged groups received an oral dose of EM at 18 days of age and CP ( $10^8$  colony-forming units/chick) at 22–23 days of age. When compared to EM and CP, chicks challenged with ST (day 1) had increased NE-associated mortality and CP-associated lesion scores ( $P < 0.05$ ) in both experiments. Furthermore, body weight and body weight gain were lower ( $P < 0.05$ ) in chicks infected with ST (day 1) in the first experiment, even though no differences ( $P > 0.05$ ) were observed in weight gain in the second experiment. Chicks challenged with ST (day 17) were similar to the EM and CP group in all of the above-mentioned parameters, indicating that a paratyphoid infection in younger chicks remarkably alters the susceptibility to secondary bacterial infections. Based on this work, the authors suggest that an ST infection early in the age of a chick may be important for altering susceptibility to NE, an observation that may be useful from the perspective of experimental reproduction of this disease and, perhaps, as an economically important reason to address the problem of paratyphoid *Salmonella* infections in young chicks.

# Experimental groups and challenge protocol (Experiments 1 and 2\*\*)

Treatment*	<i>S. Typhimurium</i>	<i>E. Maxima</i>	<i>C. perfringens</i>
Non-challenged	-	-	-
EM + CP	-	+	+
ST (d1) + EM + CP	+ (day 1)	+	+
ST (d17) + EM+ CP	+ (day 17)	+	+

\*ST: *Salmonella* Typhimurium, EM: *Eimeria maxima* (M6), CP: *Clostridium perfringens*

\*\*Exp 1: 25 chickens/treatment

\*\*Exp 2: 4 replicates of 25 chickens/treatment

**Day 1:** *Salmonella*  
Typhimurium  
( $10^7$  cfu/chick)

**Day 18:** *Eimeria maxima*  
( $4 \times 10^4$  oocysts/chick)

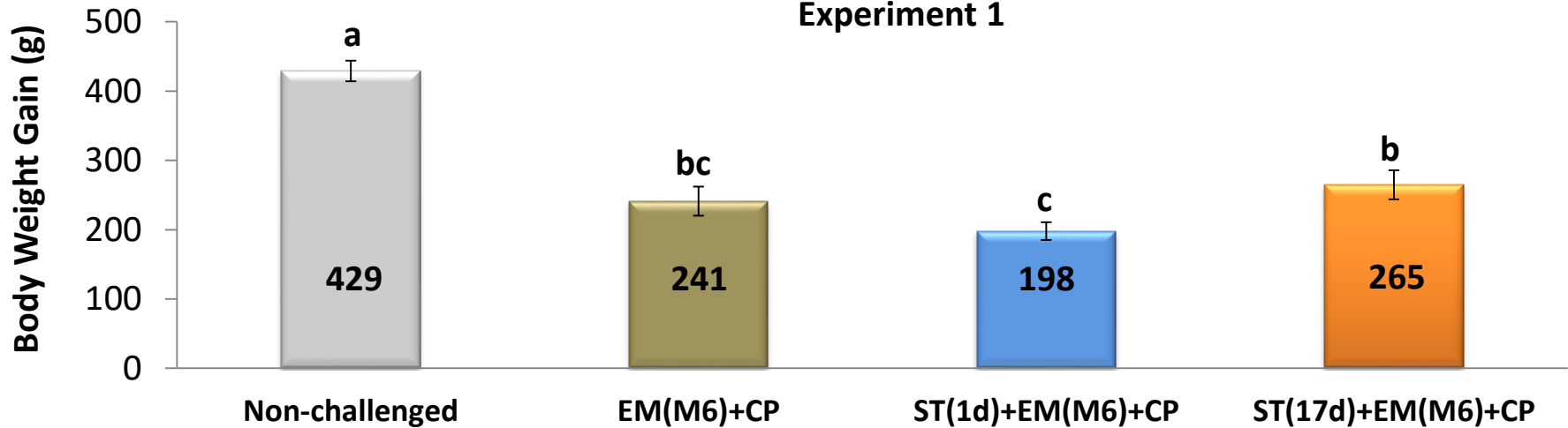
**Day 22-23:** *Clostridium*  
*perfringens*  
( $10^8$  cfu/chick)

**Day 17:** *Salmonella*  
Typhimurium  
( $10^7$  cfu/chick)

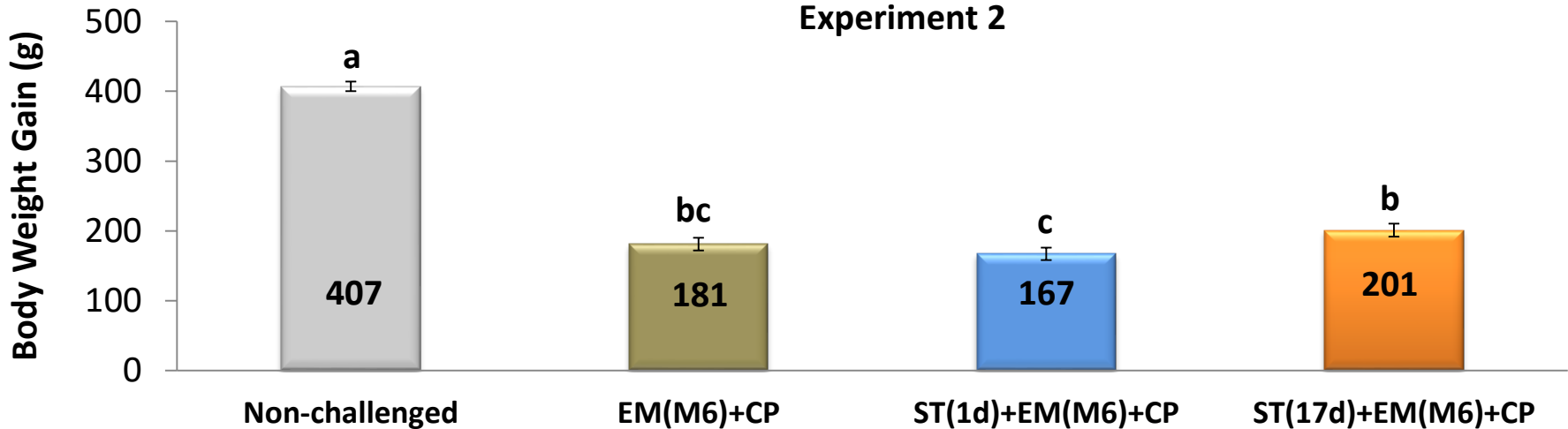


# Effect of *Salmonella* Typhimurium infection on body weight gain in a necrotic enteritis model (18-25d-of age)

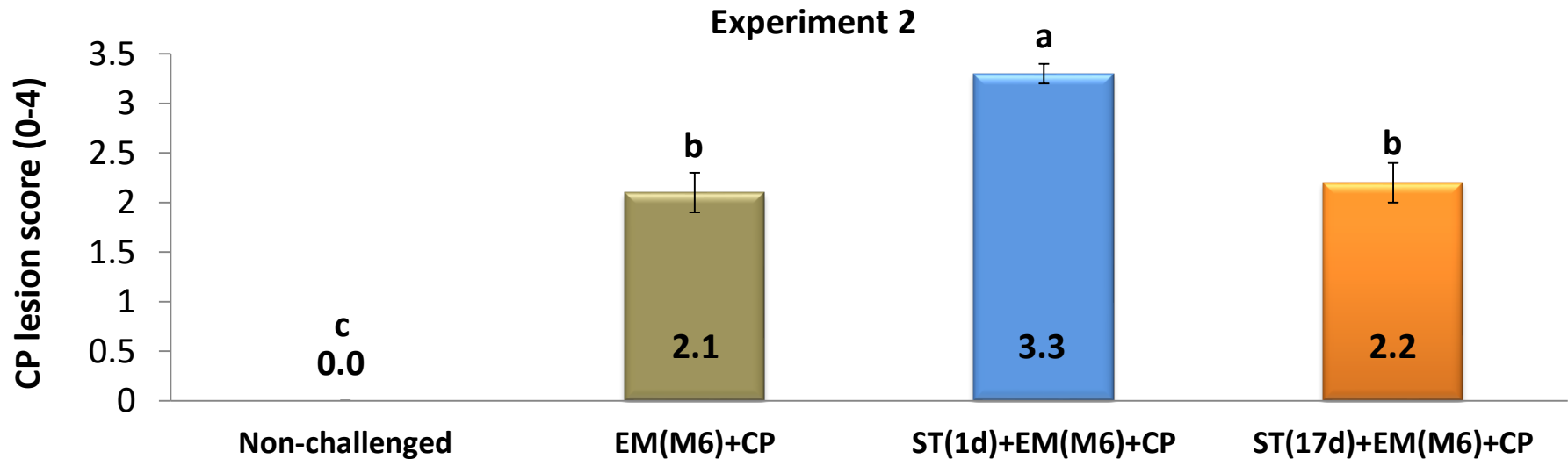
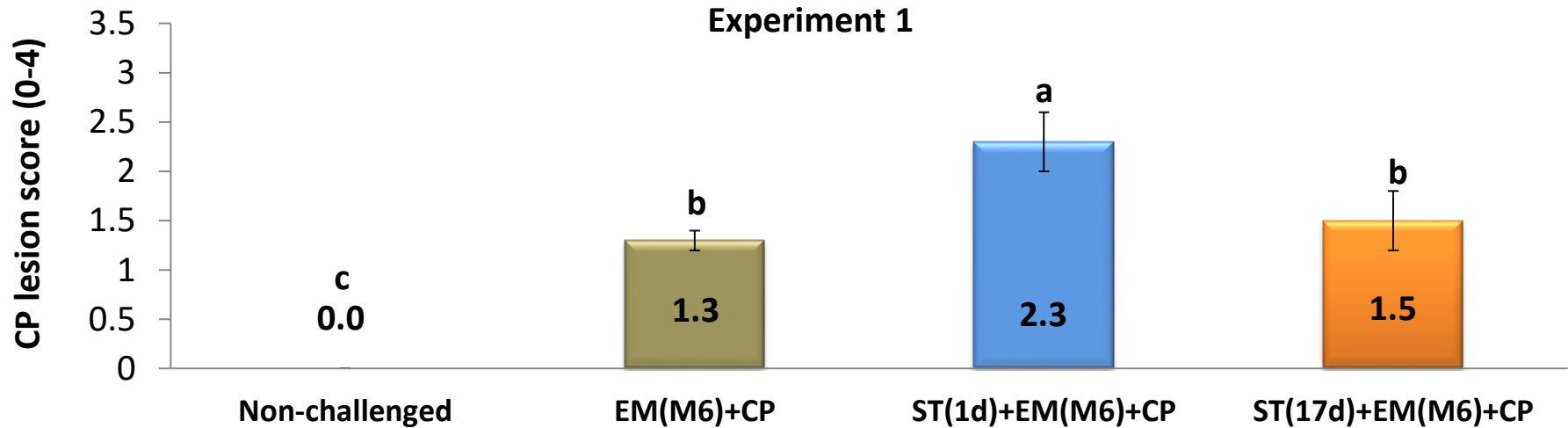
Experiment 1



Experiment 2

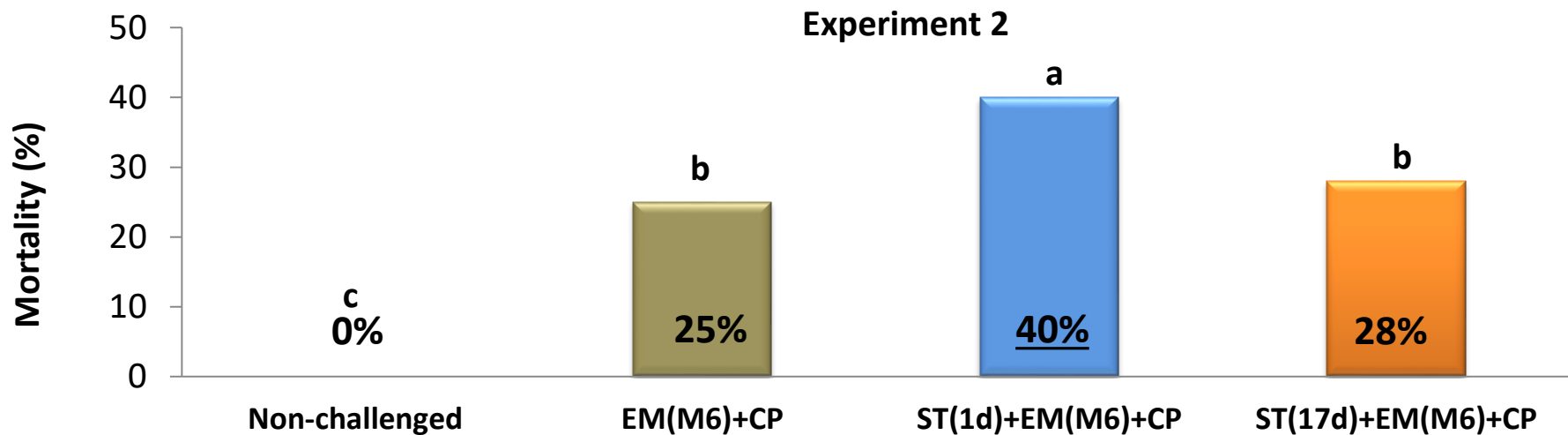
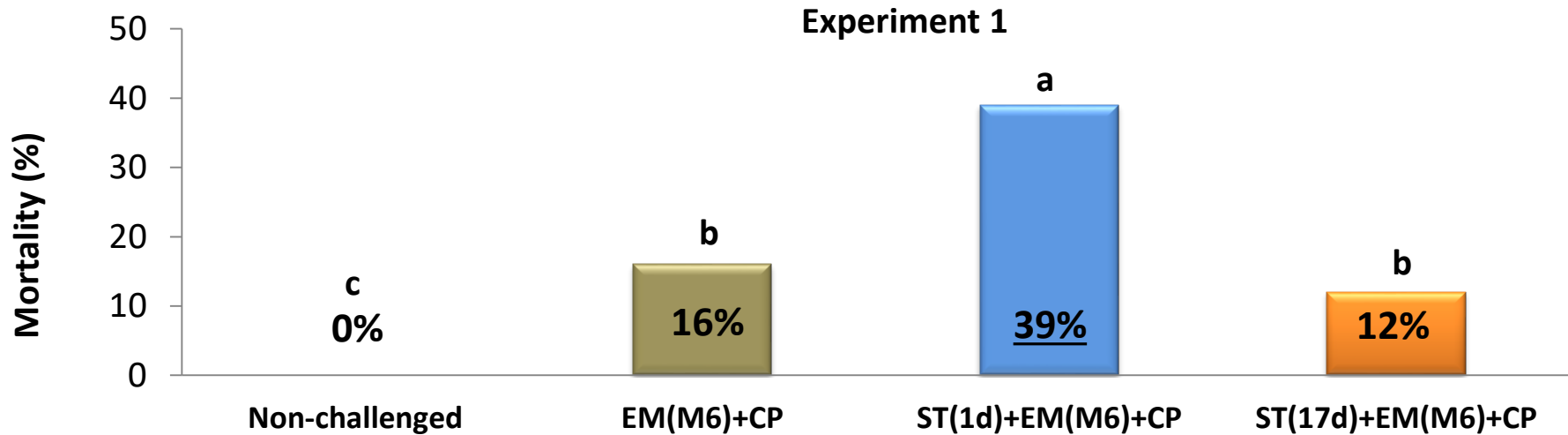


# Effect of *Salmonella* Typhimurium infection on *Clostridium perfringens* associated lesions in a necrotic enteritis model (25d-of age)





# Effect of *Salmonella* Typhimurium infection on total percent mortality in a necrotic enteritis model (25d-of age)



# Serum FITC-d levels

## Marker

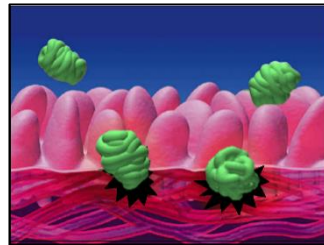
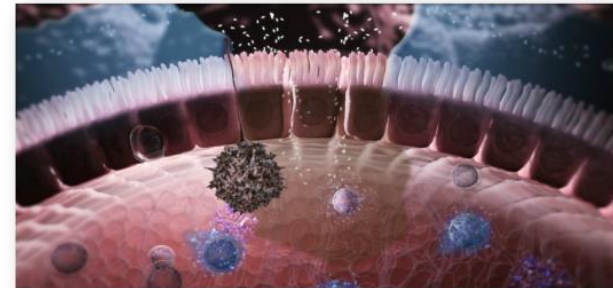
Fluorescein isothiocyanate dextran (FITC-d)  
3,000-5,000 Da; Green fluorescent dye



FITC-d oral gavage (8.34mg/kg)  
1 h before taking blood samples



Gut leakage



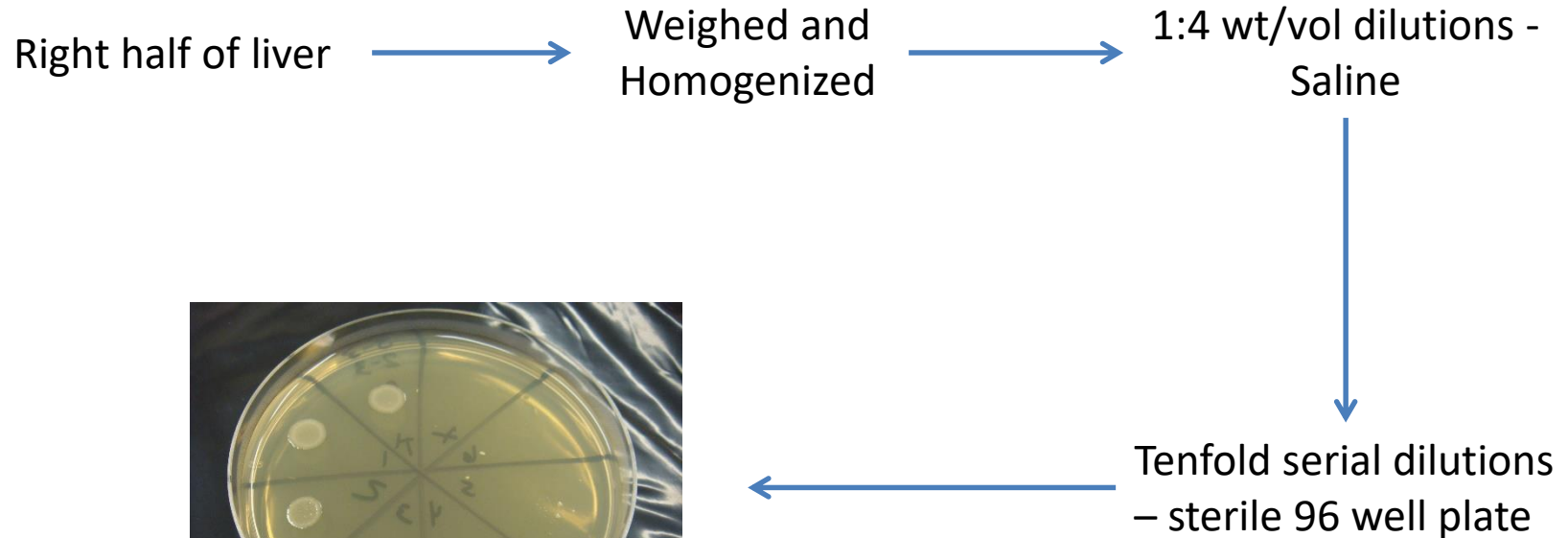
↑ Serum FITC-d levels



Serum FITC-d level:  
Excitation wavelength of  
485nm and emission  
wavelength of 528nm

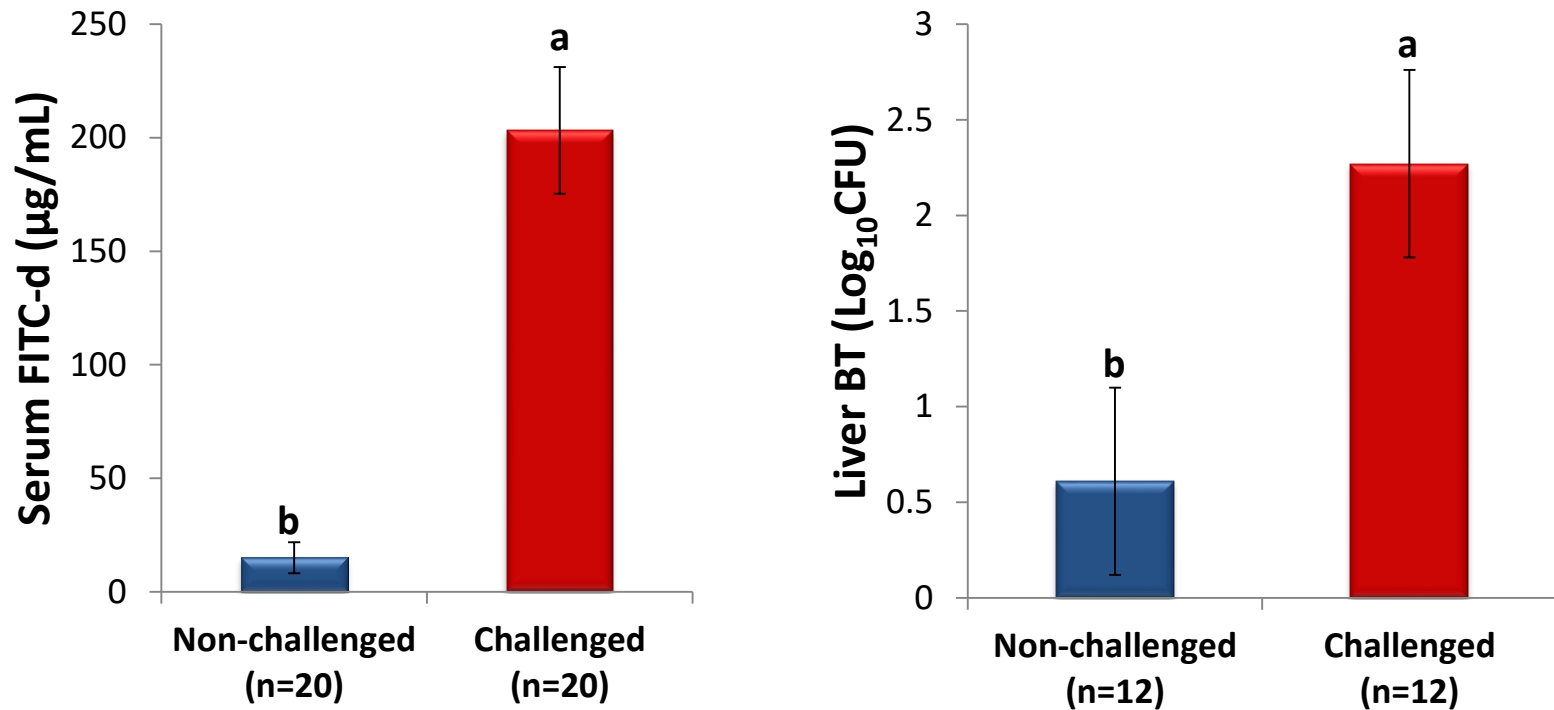
Kuttappan et al. 2015  
Vicuña et al. 2015

# Bacterial translocation



Tryptic soy agar with  
Thioglycollate plate

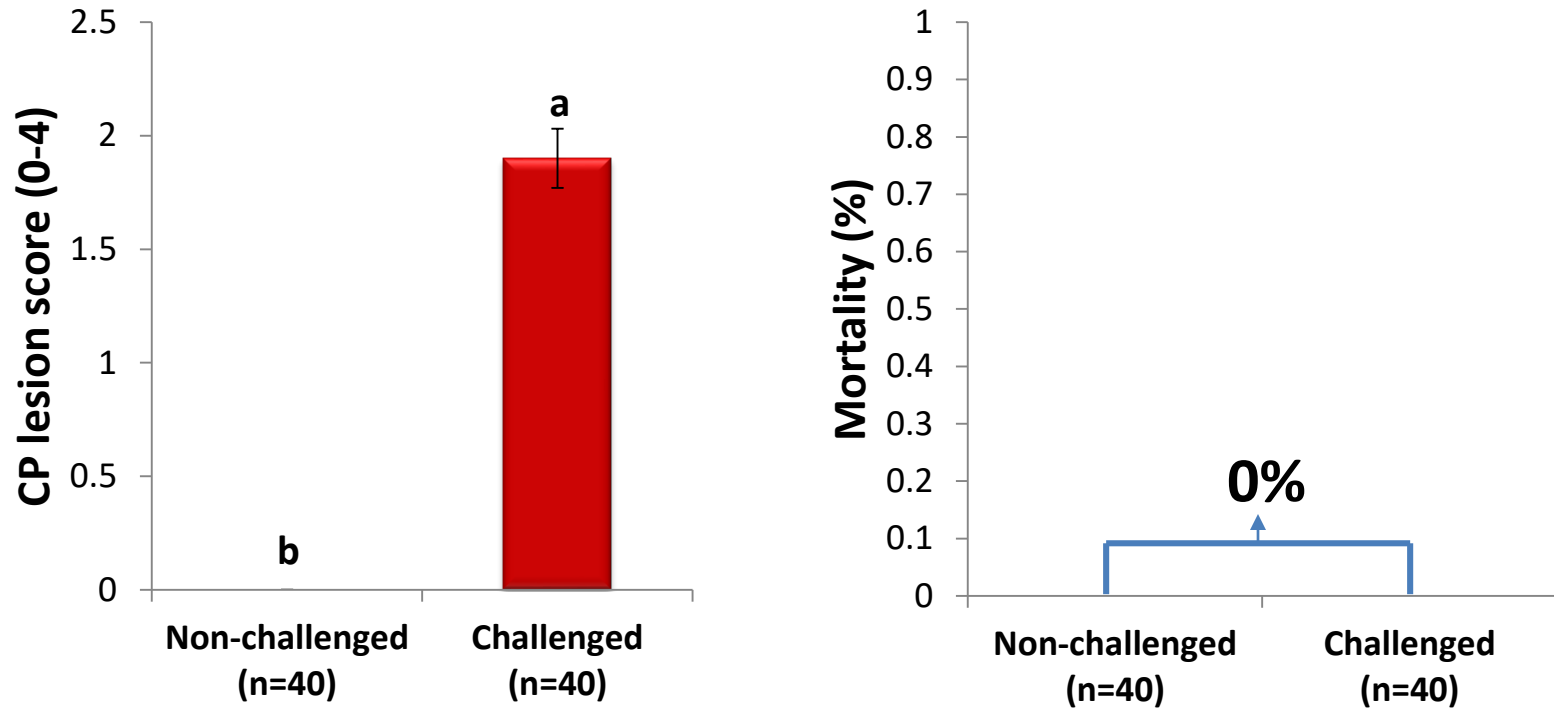
# Serum FITC-d level and liver bacterial translocation of broiler chickens in a challenged necrotic enteritis model in Experiment 3 (25d-of age)



Challenged: ST(1)+EM(Guelph)+CP



# ***Clostridium perfringens* lesion score and total percent mortality of 25d-old broiler chickens in a necrotic enteritis model in Experiment 3**



**Challenged: ST(1)+EM(Guelph)+CP**

# On going research



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in Veterinary Science

Veterinary Infectious Diseases



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The Animal Microbiome in Health and Disease

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE **Provisionally accepted** The full-text will be published soon. [Notify me](#)

Front. Vet. Sci. | doi: 10.3389/fvets.2018.00199

## Evaluation of the epithelial barrier function and ileal microbiome in an established necrotic enteritis challenge model in broiler chickens

Juan D. Latorre<sup>1,2</sup>, Bishnu Adhikari<sup>1,2</sup>, Si Hong Park<sup>2</sup>, Kyle D. Teague<sup>1,2</sup>, Lucas E. Graham<sup>1,2</sup>, Brittany D. Mahaffey<sup>1,2</sup>, Mikayla F. Baxter<sup>1,2</sup>, Xochitl Hernandez<sup>3</sup>, Young Min Kwon<sup>1,2</sup>, Steven C. Ricke<sup>2</sup>, Lisa Bielke<sup>4</sup>, Billy M. Hargis<sup>1,2</sup> and Guillermo Tellez<sup>1,2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Poultry Science, University of Arkansas, United States

<sup>2</sup>Department of Food Science, University of Arkansas, United States

<sup>3</sup>Department of Avian Medicine, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico

<sup>4</sup>Department of Animal Science, The Ohio State University, United States

# Conclusion

- *S. Typhimurium* = Predisposition to NE – Gut damage, immunosuppression, \$\$\$.
- *Eimeria maxima* strain may have a critical role on development and severity of NE
- In the urgent search for AGP alternatives, some candidates may be more likely to promote recovery of the enteric epithelium whereas others may be more protective for the inflammation-induced shock and high acute mortality associated with the more virulent challenge.
- Consideration of appropriate models for different candidate AGP alternatives may be important in future studies.

# Histomoniasis

- Synonyms: Blackhead disease and infectious enterohepatitis;
- Parasitic (protozoal) disease;
- **Etiology:** protozoa *Histomonas meleagridis*
- **Characteristics:**
  - highly transmissible within a flock;
  - incubation period 7-12 days;
  - Intermediate host: *Heterakis gallinarum*.

Figure 1. Histomonads in light microscopy.





Figure 2. Histomonad in light microscopy.

# Lesions



Caseous core - “cheesy core”

Figure 2. A normal ceca (A) and a ceca of a turkey experimentally infected with *H. meleagridis* (B).

# Lesions

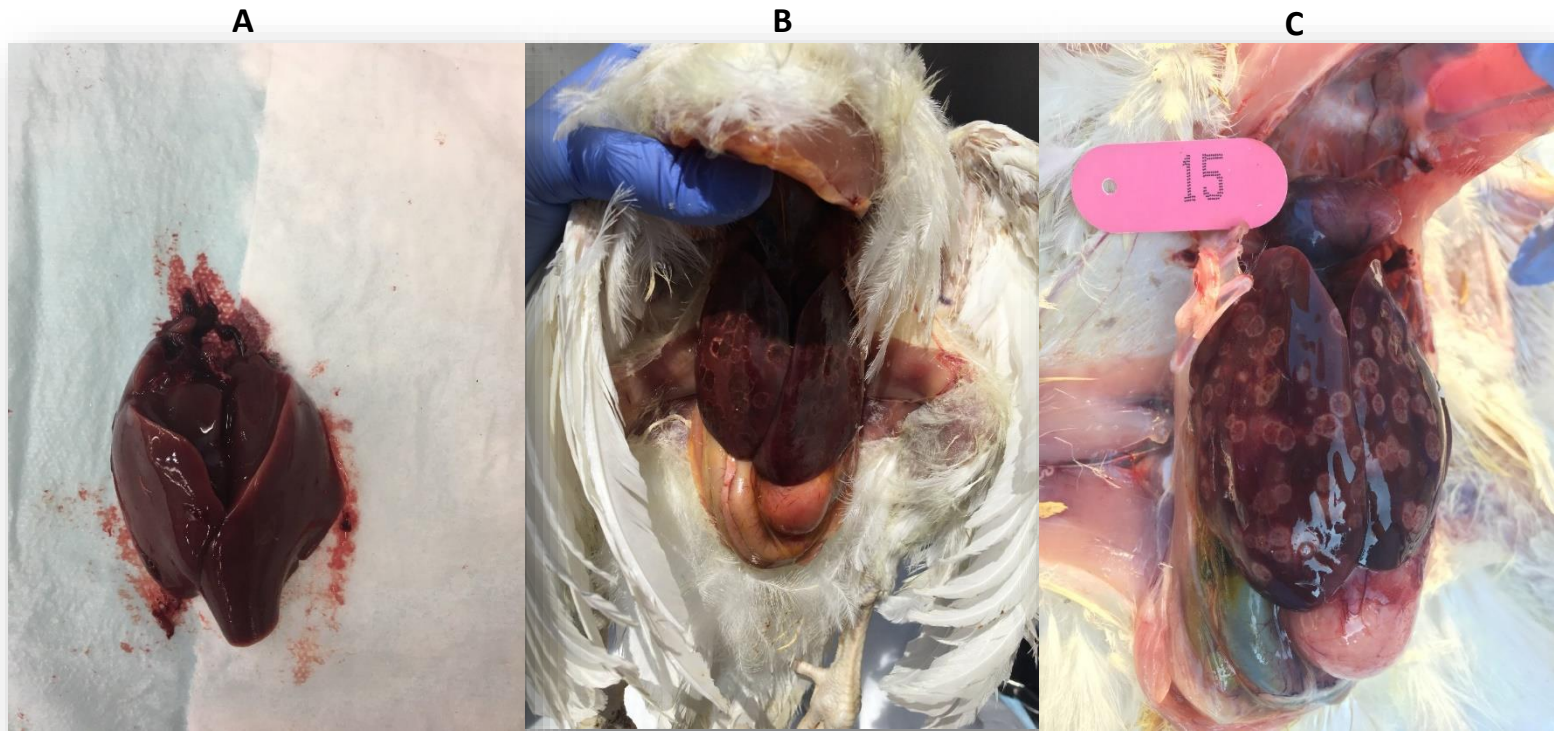


Figure 3. Normal turkey liver (A); Livers of turkeys experimentally infected with *H. meleagridis* (B and C).

# Lesions

b



(C)



(D)

Figure 4. Ceca and liver of experimentally infected turkeys (C) and chickens (D). From Sulejmanovic, Liebhart and Hess (2013). *In vitro* attenuated *Histomonas meleagridis* does not revert to virulence, following serial *in vivo* passages in turkeys or chickens. *Vaccine* 31, 5443-5450.



# Transmission

- Intermediate host
  - Ingestion of the cecal worm (*H. gallinarum*)
  - Earthworm may carry the *H. gallinarum*
- Bird to bird or fresh droppings (cloacal drinking)

- **Treatment?**

- No chemotherapeutic substances available

- **Prophylaxis?**

- Vaccines
    - no commercial option available.
    - Autogenous vaccine – modified live – growing in abnormal conditions (attenuation)
  - Biosecurity measures.
    - Avoid contact between turkeys and chickens;
    - C and D.
  - Control of the cecal worm especially in chicken flocks.

# Thank you



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