

Detection and characterisation of respiratory pathogens among habituated, wild living chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) of Taï National Park, Côte d'Ivoire

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Abstract

Respiratory diseases are one of the most important threats to wild great apes habituated to human presence for research or tourism. However, the aetiological agents of such diseases have not been documented so far. Between 1999 and 2006 five distinct respiratory disease outbreaks hit three communities of habituated chimpanzees at our research site in Taï National Park, Côte d'Ivoire. Three of the outbreaks resulted in high morbidity and mortality. Necropsies were performed on seven individuals found shortly after death and histopathologic examination revealed the presence of purulent bronchopneumonia. Based on these examinations, the main objective of the present study was to identify and characterise the causative pathogens and determine possible sources of infection.

Lung tissue samples were screened by PCR for a broad range of respiratory viruses. All samples tested were positive for either of two paramyxoviruses, the human respiratory syncytial virus (HRSV) or the human metapneumovirus (HMPV). To establish the origin of the viruses found, phylogenetic analyses were performed and revealed that the strains were closely related to strains circulating in contemporaneous, worldwide human epidemics. This represents the first direct evidence of anthroponotic virus transmission to wild great apes, suggesting that the close approach of humans to apes, which is central to both research and tourism programs, represents a serious threat to these animals.

Furthermore, isolation of bacteria was performed and revealed that some of the deceased individuals were co-infected with *Pasteurella multocida*. Isolates were subjected to a detailed phenotypic and genotypic characterisation providing the first description of *P. multocida* in wild living chimpanzees. Two different strains were identified, both showing high similarity to previously described strains from different host and geographical locations. This suggests that chimpanzees are involved in the epidemiology of *P. multocida*. The question of whether this bacterium is carried naturally by chimpanzees or was transmitted by other animals will be investigated in further studies.

To systematically evaluate the occurrence of respiratory pathogens without disturbing the chimpanzees' natural behaviour, the establishment of non-invasive diagnostics was another aim of this work. Therefore, faecal samples which had been collected during and between outbreaks were tested for HRSV and HMPV by PCR. Using this approach it was possible to identify the causative agents of lethal as well as of non-lethal outbreaks, to evaluate the virus prevalence among a larger study group, and to perform phylogenetic analyses of the viruses detected. This demonstrates that the screening of faecal samples is a suitable tool for monitoring acute respiratory diseases in wild living chimpanzees.

This is the first systematic study of respiratory diseases in wild great apes. The results presented are of great relevance for future conservation strategies as a deeper knowledge of the involved pathogens may help to prevent or mitigate future disease outbreaks.

Zusammenfassung

Respiratorische Erkrankungen sind eine der größten Bedrohungen für wildlebende Menschenaffen, die für die Wissenschaft oder Tourismus an die Anwesenheit des Menschen gewöhnt (habituiert) wurden. Trotz dieser Bedrohung fehlen bisher genaue Untersuchungen zu den dafür verantwortlichen Erregern. Bei drei habituierten Schimpansengruppen des Taï Nationalparks (Côte d'Ivoire) wurden zwischen 1999 und 2006 fünf verschiedene respiratorische Krankheitsausbrüche dokumentiert von denen drei hohe Morbiditäts- und Mortalitätsraten aufwiesen. Insgesamt konnte bei sieben verstorbenen Individuen eine Sektion durchgeführt werden, wobei in allen Fällen durch nachfolgende histopathologische Untersuchungen eine eitrige Lungenentzündung festgestellt wurde. Basierend auf diesen Voruntersuchungen waren die genaue Charakterisierung der verantwortlichen Erreger sowie die Identifikation möglicher Infektionsquellen Hauptziele dieser Arbeit.

Zum Nachweis ursächlicher Krankheitserreger wurden Lungengewebeproben mittels PCR auf ein breites Spektrum respiratorischer Erreger untersucht. Alle untersuchten Proben waren positiv für eines von zwei Paramyxoviren, dem humanen respiratorischem Synzytialvirus (HRSV) oder dem humanen Metapneumovirus (HMPV). Phylogenetische Untersuchungen der in den Schimpansen detektierten Virusstämme zeigten eine enge Verwandtschaft zu Stämmen, die zeitgleich weltweit in der menschlichen Bevölkerung zirkulierten. Dies ist der erste Hinweis auf eine anthroponotische Virusübertragung auf wildlebende Menschenaffen und legt nahe, dass der enge Kontakt zwischen Menschen und Menschenaffen - der sowohl bei wissenschaftlichen als auch touristischen Projekten gegeben ist - eine ernstzunehmende Bedrohung für diese Tiere darstellt.

In Voruntersuchungen zu möglichen bakteriellen Krankheitserregern ergaben sich Hinweise auf das Vorhandensein von *Pasteurella multocida*. Der Keim wurde aus dem Lungengewebe einiger Individuen angezüchtet und die verschiedenen Isolate einer breiten phäno- und genotypischen Charakterisierung unterworfen. Dies stellt die erste Beschreibung von *P. multocida* bei wildlebenden Schimpansen dar. Es wurden zwei unterschiedliche Stämme identifiziert, die beide eine große Ähnlichkeit zu bisher beschriebenen Stämmen von Wirten unterschiedlichster Spezies und Herkunft zeigten. Dies lässt vermuten, dass Schimpansen in die Epidemiologie von *P. multocida* involviert sind. Ob Schimpansen jedoch natürliche Träger dieses Bakteriums sind, oder ob dieses von anderen Tieren übertragen wurde, ist Thema weiterer Studien.

Ein weiteres Ziel dieser Arbeit war die Etablierung nicht-invasiver diagnostischer Methoden, welche die systematische Untersuchung respiratorischer Erreger ermöglichen, ohne dabei das natürliche Verhalten der Schimpansen zu stören. Dafür wurden Fäzes-Proben, die sowohl während als auch zwischen den respiratorischen Krankheitsausbrüchen gesammelt wurden mittels PCR auf HRSV und HMPV getestet. Hierdurch war es möglich, die verantwortlichen Erreger - auch von nicht letalen Ausbrüchen - zu identifizieren, die Virusprävalenz innerhalb einer größeren Studiengruppe zu evaluieren und die detektierten Viren phylogenetisch zu analysieren. Es konnte gezeigt werden, dass die Untersuchung von Fäzes-Proben eine geeignete Methode darstellt, um

ursächliche Krankheitserreger akuter respiratorischer Erkrankungen bei wildlebenden Schimpansen zu identifizieren.

Nur ein tiefgehendes Verständnis der involvierten Erreger kann dazu beitragen, neue Strategien zur Prävention und Kontrolle zukünftiger Krankheitsausbrüche zu entwickeln. Aus diesem Grund sind die hier vorgestellten Untersuchungen für den Schutz von Menschenaffen von größter Relevanz.

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List of abbreviations

∞	infinity
AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
as	antisense
BEAST	Bayesian Ecological Analysis of Statistical Trends
BHI	brain heart infusion
C	Celsius
ddH ₂ O	double distilled water
DMEM	Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium
dNTP	Deoxynucleoside triphosphate
DPZ	Deutsches Primatenzentrum
DTT	Dithiothreitol
dUTP	Desoxyuridine triphosphate
E. coli	Escherichia coli
EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
EM	Electron microscopy
f	feminine/female
FU	Freie Universität, Berlin
g	gram
GAHMu	Great Ape Health Monitoring Unit
GAHW	Great Ape Health Workshop
h	hour
H ₂ O	water
H ₂ O ₂	Hydrogen peroxide
HCl	Hydrochloric acid
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HMPV	Human metapneumovirus
HPIV	Human parainfluenza viruses
HRSV	Human respiratory syncytial virus
IPTG	Isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactopyranoside
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
K ₂ HPO ₄	Dipotassium phosphate
kb	kilo-base pairs
l	liter
LB	Lysogeny broth
m	masculine/male

Mb	mega-base pairs
MGB	minor groove binder
MgCl ₂	Magnesium chloride
min	minutes
ml	millilitre
mM	milliMol
MRCA	most recent common ancestors
n	nano
NaCl	Sodium chloride
NCBI	National Center for Biotechnology Information
NCTC	National Collection of Type Cultures
ATCC	American Type Culture Collection
neg	negative
NHP	Non human primates
nt	nucleotide
OD	Optical Density
PBS	Phosphate buffered saline
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
PFGE	Pulsed field gel electrophoresis
pH	pondus Hydrogeni; measure of acidity/basicity
pmol	picomol
pos	positive
p-value	probability
RKI	Robert Koch-Institut
RNA	Ribonucleic acid
s	sense
SARS	severe acute respiratory syndrome
sec	seconds
SFV	Simian Foamy Virus
SIV	Simian immunodeficiency virus
ssp	subspecies
STLV	Simian T-cell Leukemia Virus
TAE buffer	Tris-acetic acid-EDTA buffer
TBE buffer	Tris-boric acid-EDTA buffer
TCP	Taï chimpanzee project
TE buffer	Tris-EDTA buffer
TM	Taqman

U	Unit
UPGMA	Unweighted Pair Group Method with Arithmetic mean
UV	Ultraviolet
VAG	Virulence associated gene
WHO	World Health Organization

1 Introduction

Since 2000, all six species of the wild great apes, gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla* and *Gorilla beringei*), chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*), bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) and orang utans (*Pongo pygmaeus* and *Pongo abelii*), have been listed on the IUCN Red List (Hilton-Taylor, 2000). Among habitat loss and poaching, infectious diseases represent one of the major threats for endangered great apes. However, the full impact of infectious disease on wild populations has been underestimated for a long time (Ferber 2000; Woodford et al., 2002). Ebola virus infections, for example, have led to a decline of about 50 % in the gorilla- and chimpanzee population in Central Africa (Walsh et al., 2003; Leroy et al., 2004). Other diseases like respiratory diseases and anthrax have also caused significant numbers of mortalities (Goodall 1986; Homsy, 1999; Woodford et al., 2002; Leendertz et al., 2004a). Hence for the conservation of great apes it is highly relevant to evaluate their health status and monitor emerging infectious diseases.

Due to their close phylogenetic relatedness, humans and great apes are vulnerable to a considerable array of the same diseases. Mostly from studies on apes held in captivity it is known, that apes are susceptible to the common cold, pneumonia, influenza, hepatitis, smallpox, chicken pox, bacterial meningitis, tuberculosis, measles, rubella, mumps, yellow fever, paralytic poliomyelitis, encephalomyocarditis, and Ebola haemorrhagic fever. Parasitic diseases are also shared, including malaria, schistosomiasis and giardiasis, to name just a few (Benirschke & Adams, 1980; Kalter, 1980, 1989; McClure et al., 1986; Toft, 1986; Wolfe et al., 1998, 2001). In contrast, there is little knowledge about existing diseases and pathogen transmission in wild living great apes, thus a baseline about the pathogens that are “normal” in these animals is still missing.

During the last decade, several outbreaks of acute respiratory disease were observed among habituated chimpanzees of Taï National Park, Côte d’Ivoire, resulting in high morbidity and mortality (Formenty et al., 1999; Boesch & Boesch-Achermann, 2000; Leendertz et al., 2004a). Two major questions arose from these observations: First, which pathogens are responsible for apparent signs of disease and associated deaths and second, what is the origin of the pathogens that infect the chimpanzees? With regard to the origin of the pathogens, two scenarios are possible: First, the pathogens could be naturally circulating within chimpanzee population, in other animals within the same habitat or in the environment. Second, the pathogens could be introduced directly by humans or indirectly through human-induced habitat alterations or due to climatic changes.

The aims of this study were therefore i) to identify and characterise the pathogens inducing respiratory diseases in wild chimpanzees, ii) to study the origin of the pathogens detected in the chimpanzees and iii) to establish non-invasive diagnostic methods for systematic monitoring of respiratory pathogens in wild living chimpanzees to generate epidemiological data on prevalence and incidence of infections.

Based on these data the anthropo-/zoonotic risk for nonhuman and human primates should be assessed and incorporated into future prevention programmes. This is of great relevance not only for the Taï chimpanzee project but also for other great ape projects where close contact between humans and great apes exists (e.g. eco-tourism, research).

2 Background

2.1 Respiratory disease in great apes

The first evidence of the importance of respiratory diseases for wild great ape populations came from investigations in chimpanzee populations (*Pan troglodytes*). There are several descriptions of the lethal consequences of respiratory diseases on the chimpanzees of the Gombe Stream National Park, Tanzania, reporting many deaths (Goodall, 1983; Goodall, 1986). Additional outbreaks were observed in 1987 and 1996, affecting numerous chimpanzees and killing many (Wallis & Lee, 1999). Furthermore, in the Mahale Mountains National Park, Tanzania, 11 of 70 individuals were suspected to have fallen victim to a flu-like epidemic in 1993 and 1994 (Nishida et al., 2003). Respiratory diseases also affected the health of mountain gorillas (*Gorilla beringei*) of the Virunga Volcanoes in Rwanda, where 10.4% of the 356 observed cases of disease all affected the respiratory tract (Foster, 1993). This gorilla population experienced an outbreak of respiratory disease in 1988 with symptoms such as sneezing and coughing during which six individuals died and 33 showed severe symptoms (Sholley & Hastings, 1989). Also, among bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) at the field site in Wamba, Democratic Republic of Congo, respiratory disease has been observed and resulted in mortalities (Sakamaki et al., 2009).

Hence, among habituated African great ape research populations respiratory diseases play an important, demographic role. Especially for chimpanzees this is of major concern: possibly as a consequence of respiratory disease about half of the long-term chimpanzee research populations have shown major declines (Hill et al., 2001; Woodford et al., 2002). However, these reports are often based only on clinical signs and precise pathogen identification is mostly lacking, thus the origins of these diseases remain speculative (Leendertz et al., 2006). The major limitation to elucidate these questions is the fact that such indispensable investigations are limited to projects with great apes that have been habituated to human observers. Unfortunately, these projects represent only a small fraction of the total wild ape population and among the existing ones a veterinary infrastructure is mostly lacking. In addition, the knowledge gained from animals habituated to humans might be biased as we have to account for the possibility that pathogen transmission is related to the presence of humans (Wallis & Lee 1999; Woodford et al. 2002; Leendertz et al 2006; Goldberg et al. 2007).

2.1.1 Respiratory pathogens

There is a considerable number of pathogens that can induce or are involved in respiratory diseases. The following reviews the most common viruses and bacteria which are known to cause respiratory symptoms in both nonhuman primates and/or humans.

2.1.1.1 **Respiratory viruses**

Human respiratory syncytial virus

Human respiratory syncytial virus (HRSV) is an enveloped virus of the family *Paramyxoviridae* with a non-segmented, single-stranded, negative-sense RNA genome. It was originally recovered from a colony of captive chimpanzees with coryza and designated chimpanzee coryza agent (Blount et al., 1956; Channock et al., 1957). HRSV is the most common cause of acute lower respiratory tract infections in children worldwide (Simoes, 1999) but is also recognized as an important pathogen in adults. Immunity following primary exposure does not prevent secondary or subsequent infections (Henderson, 1979a), and re-infections with HRSV have been recorded throughout life (Sullender, 1998). Older children and healthy adults usually develop only mild, cold-like symptoms. In younger children and infants, HRSV can lead to severe infections including bronchiolitis, croup and pneumonia.

Transmission occurs by direct inoculation of contagious secretions from the hands or by large-particle aerosols into the eyes and nose, but rarely the mouth. Recently it has been shown, that HRSV is shed not only in respiratory secretion but also has been detected in faeces or sweat (von Linstow et al., 2006). The prolonged survival of HRSV on skin, cloth, and other objects emphasizes the importance of fomites in pathogen spread (Hall & Douglas, 1981). The incubation time is between 2 to 8 days (Hall, 2001) and the reported duration of shedding is 6.7 days with a range of 1-21 days (Hall & Douglas, 1975).

Several species of captive nonhuman primates (NHPs) have been infected experimentally with HRSV, including *Cebus* spp., *Saimiri* spp., *M. mulatta* and *P. troglodytes* (Bennet et al., 1998). However, only the chimpanzee developed clinical illness (Belshe et al., 1977). Captive chimpanzees are often naturally infected and in one serosurvey, 100% of the chimpanzees tested had antibodies (Kalter, 1983). Other great apes (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*, *G. g. beringi*, *Pongo pygmaeus* and *Pan paniscus*) are also often seropositive, but the association with clinical disease is uncertain. The signs observed in captive chimpanzees are coughing and sneezing, and in older individuals that have been previously exposed, the infection is usually limited to the upper respiratory tract. In very young animals, however, initial infections may lead to lower respiratory tract involvement (Bennet et al., 1998).

Human metapneumovirus

Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) was first identified in 2001 in the Netherlands (van den Hoogen et al., 2001). Soon after its discovery, HMPV was found in patients with respiratory disease worldwide and serological studies showed that the virus has been circulating in humans for at least 50 years. It is a member of the *Paramyxoviridae* family and has been assigned to the *Metapneumovirus* genus of the *Pneumovirinae* subfamily. HMPV is a leading cause of lower respiratory infection in very young children, elderly individuals and immunocompromised patients (Peret et al, 2002; Boivin et

al., 2003; Cane et al., 2003; Fouchier et al., 2005; Williams et al., 2005). It has been detected worldwide and serological surveys have demonstrated greater than 90% of those over the age of 5 having antibodies to HMPV. However, re-infections have been shown to occur frequently throughout life (van den Hoogen et al., 2001; Ebihara et al., 2004; Leung et al., 2005). The clinical syndrome of HMPV is currently indistinguishable from that resulting from HRSV infection, with some cases characterised by upper respiratory tract infection and others characterised by severe bronchiolitis and pneumonia (Freyemouth et al., 2003). The epidemiology and seasonality also resembles that of HRSV (Easton et al., 2004). Transmission is likely to occur via direct contact and droplets and incubation time ranges from 4-6 days. In chimpanzees, natural HMPV infection occurs, thus captive chimpanzees (*P. troglodytes*) have been found to be seropositive for HMPV and animal experiments revealed that they develop mild respiratory symptoms after infection (Skiadopoulos et al., 2004).

Human parainfluenza virus

Human parainfluenza viruses (HPIVs) are negative-sense, single-stranded RNA viruses of the family *Paramyxoviridae*. HPIVs are medically important respiratory pathogens and are a common cause of lower respiratory tract illness in infants and young children (Gardner et al., 1973; Mufson et al., 1973; Collins et al., 1996). Although re-infections in healthy older children and adults are typically less severe, serious lower respiratory tract illness caused by HPIVs has been reported among immunocompromised and elderly individuals (Jarvis et al., 1979; Apalsch et al., 1995; Arola et al., 1995). Of the four recognized serotypes of HPIV, HPIV3 is most commonly associated with serious lower respiratory tract illness (Hendley, 1990).

Antibodies to HPIV3 are common in captive nonhuman primates, although for newly captured monkeys it is uncommon to be seropositive for HPIV3 (Shah & Southwick, 1965). In chimpanzees, it has been demonstrated that infection with HPIV3 can predispose invasive pneumococcal infections (Jones et al., 1984).

Influenza A and B viruses

Influenza (flu) is a respiratory disease causing substantial morbidity and mortality worldwide. Influenza viruses are negative stranded, segmented RNA viruses and belong to the family *Orthomyxoviridae*. Influenza A viruses are divided into three types, designated A, B and C. Influenza A viruses infect a wide variety of mammals and birds and are the main pathogens associated with human epidemics and pandemics. Influenza B infects mammals only and cause diseases, but generally not as severe as influenza A types. Influenza C rarely cause disease and is genetically and morphologically different from A and B types.

Both influenza A and B viruses have been described in captive NHPs: experimental inoculations have been carried out in New World Monkeys (*Cebus* spp., *Saimiri* sp., *Aotus* sp.), Old World monkeys (*M. mulatta*, *M. fascicularis*, *Papio* spp.), and apes (*Hylobates* sp. and *P. troglodytes*) (Bennet et al., 1998). Reports on clinical signs include fever, coryza, tachypnea, dyspnea, coughing or sneezing, lethargy and anorexia. Although in many animals the signs are short-lived and self-limiting, illness and death have occurred in both cynomolgus (*M. fascicularis*) and rhesus monkeys (*M. mulatta*) (Saslaw & Carlisle, 1965). Further studies have also shown that chimpanzees and baboons follow the serological patterns to influenza virus observed in humans (Kalter & Heberling, 1978). Animal experiments with squirrel monkeys highlighted the significance of pneumococcal superinfection in causing lethal outbreaks (Berendt et al., 1975). Little is known about the infection of wild living nonhuman primates with influenza viruses. Antibodies to Influenza A virus were detected in sera of wild Macaques (*M. tonkeana*) in Sulawesi, Indonesia (Jones-Engel et al., 2001). However, these macaques lived in close proximity to human villages, thus transmission from humans or livestock cannot be excluded. As described in chapter 2.1, respiratory disease related to influenza has been assumed several times among wild apes, but was never confirmed virologically.

Adenoviruses

Members of the family *Adenoviridae* infect species throughout the vertebrates (Russell & Benkö, 1999), including many NHPs. Adenoviruses are non-enveloped, icosahedral viruses containing double-stranded DNA. In humans, adenoviruses most commonly cause respiratory illness and symptoms range from the common cold syndrome to pneumonia, croup and bronchitis. In chimpanzees, adenoviruses seem to be latent and clinical disease is less common (Bennet et al., 1998). Adenoviral pneumonia has been described in a captive, juvenile chimpanzee (Butchin et al., 1992). It was assumed that adenoviral pneumonia may be secondary to recrudescence of latent infection in the face of immunosuppression caused by retroviruses (King, 1993; Lowenstine, 1993). Phylogenetically, chimpanzee adenoviruses are closely related to human adenoviruses, making cross-species transmission highly possible (Davison et al., 2003). For example, neutralizing antibodies to chimpanzee adenovirus are more often observed in human sera from sub-Saharan Africa (compared to United States and Thailand), where hunting, butchering and consuming of bush meat is common (Xiang et al., 2006).

Picornaviruses

Members of the family *Picornaviridae* are non-enveloped, single-stranded, positive sensed RNA viruses that infect a number of mammals, including humans, NHPs and livestock. Picornaviruses are separated into twelve genera in which two genera are known to cause respiratory symptoms in humans: enteroviruses and rhinoviruses (Chonmaitree & Mann, 1995; Mäkelä et al., 1998). About 200 *Picornaviridae* serotypes have been identified, of which more than 100 belong to the genus

Rhinovirus. Rhinoviruses are among the main causative agents of the common cold (Stanway, 1990). The acquisition of immunity to the disease is, however, hampered by the existence of the numerous antigenically distinct serotypes (Gwaltney, 1975). Rhinovirus infections are generally restricted to the upper airways and induce usually mild symptoms. For elderly and very young individuals, it has been reported that rhinoviruses can also cause lower respiratory tract infections that may result in severe illness (Krillov et al., 1986; McMillan et al., 1993). Experimental infection with human rhinovirus has been achieved in chimpanzees, but clinical symptoms after challenge were absent (Dick & Dick, 1968; Huguenel et al., 1997).

About 66 enteroviruses serotypes are recognized of which most of them are human pathogens (Melnick, 1996). Enteroviruses are spread through the faecal-oral route and cause illness including poliomyelitis, meningitis, myocarditis and respiratory disease, but infections can also be mild or even asymptomatic. Subgroups of enteroviruses (poliovirus and coxsackievirus) are clearly associated with disease in nonhuman primates (Bennet et al., 1998). Eighteen different “simian” enterovirus serotypes have also been identified; although their association with disease is less clear.

Coronaviruses

Coronaviruses are large, enveloped, positive-stranded RNA viruses that infect multiple species of vertebrates. They are classified into three groups, which contain viruses pathogenic for mammals (group 1 and 2) and poultry (group 3) (Cavanagh, 1997). The human viruses HCoV-229E, -NL63, -OC43, and -HKU1 are endemic worldwide and cause mainly respiratory infections in children and adults, but have occasionally been associated with other pathologies, such as pneumonia, meningitis, and enteritis (Riski & Hovi, 1980; Resta et al., 1985). The severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) coronavirus (SARS-CoV) is a novel zoonotic coronavirus causing severe respiratory and enteric infections with high mortality. Animal experiments showed that NHPs can be infected with SARS-CoV (Fouchier et al., 2003; McAuliffe et al., 2004). Using electron microscopy (EM), coronavirus-like particles have been observed in faecal specimens of several NHP species, including chimpanzees (Smith et al. 1982, Wang et al., 2007), but no further characterisation had been done in these studies.

Measles

Measles virus infections are a public health problem worldwide and have therefore been designated as a target for eradication by the WHO. Measles viruses are enveloped, single stranded, negative stranded RNA viruses and belong to the genus *Morbillivirus* which is a member of the *Paramyxoviridae*. The virus is highly contagious and spreads by aerosolisation mostly from respiratory secretions. In humans the disease is systemic, inducing fever, cough, coryza, conjunctivitis, and a maculopapular rash that begins on the face and spreads downward. Blue-white spots on the buccal mucosa, called Koplik spots, are pathognomonic. Complications, including diarrhea, pneumonia,

encephalitis, and abortion, are observed in 30% of cases (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2000). While measles is proven to be a potentially devastating disease of many Old World monkey species, its effects on apes are less clear (Whittier et al., 2000). Signs include fever, nasal discharge and in severe cases, pneumonia (Bennet et al., 1998). In apes, the characteristic skin rash seen in humans and some monkeys has not been observed. Based on serological and pathological evidence, an outbreak among the Virunga gorillas in 1988 has presumed to be caused by measles (Sholley & Hastings, 1989). It has been assumed that the measles virus itself is not particularly pathogenic but that its immunosuppressive properties make apes susceptible to other infections (Bennet et al., 1998).

2.1.1.2 Respiratory bacteria

Streptococcus pneumoniae

Streptococcus pneumoniae, pneumococcus, is an important human bacterial pathogen that causes both serious invasive infections, such as meningitis, sepsis, and pneumonia, as well as mild upper respiratory infections. Pneumococci can colonize the nasopharynx and cause respiratory disease in several animal species, including rodent species (Percy & Barthold, 2007), equine species (Benson & Sweeney, 1984), rhesus monkeys (Fox & Soave, 1971), and chimpanzees (Solleveld et al., 1984). So far, 90 different capsular serotypes have been identified (Henrichsen, 1995). They are grouped into 46 serotypes based on antigenic similarities and more than one serotype can be carried simultaneously. Pneumococci spread through the respiratory route. Colonisation studies have shown that humans acquire pneumococci at a young age and carry them for various periods of time (Dowling et al., 1971; Gray et al., 1980). At the age of two, pneumococcal carriage is highest and decreases over the years. It is important to note that pneumococcal disease will not occur without preceding nasopharyngeal colonisation with the homologous strain (Gray et al., 1980; Faden et al., 1990). In addition, pneumococcal carriage is believed to be an important source of horizontal spread within the community, which is increased by crowding, as occurs in hospitals and day-care centres (Hoge et al., 1994; de Galan et al., 1999; Principi et al., 1999). The reported rates of bacterial acquisition and carriage depend on age, geographic area, genetic background and socioeconomic conditions (Principi et al., 1999; Bogaert et al., 2001, 2004). The local host immune response plays an important regulatory role in trafficking of pathogens in the upper respiratory tract (Faden et al., 1997).

Findings in a primate rehabilitation unit demonstrated that viral upper respiratory tract infections can predispose chimpanzees to invasive infections caused by *S. pneumoniae* (Jones et al., 1984). Whether these *S. pneumoniae* strains were of human or chimpanzee origin was not investigated, but it has been recently shown that virulent *S. pneumoniae* occurs in wild chimpanzees and cause infections similar to those in humans (Chi et al. 2007).

Pasteurella multocida

Pasteurella multocida is a gram negative coccobacillus which colonizes the nasopharynx and gastrointestinal tract of many wild and domestic animals. Certain serotypes are known to cause severe pasteurelloses, such as fowl cholera in poultry, atrophic rhinitis in swine, and hemorrhagic septicaemia in cattle and buffalo.

In humans, *P. multocida* is usually absent from the normal flora (Weber et al., 1984). Infections occur predominantly as a result of bites or scratches by dogs and cats (Holst et al., 1992; Talan et al., 1999). *P. multocida* may also cause upper respiratory tract infections, including sinusitis, otitis media, epiglottitis, pharyngitis. In rare cases, lower respiratory tract infections, including pneumonia and tracheobronchitis can develop, usually in individuals with underlying pulmonary disease (Klein & Cunha, 1997). *P. multocida* is a facultative pathogen. The manifestation of an infection depends on an increase in the rate of colonisation which is in turn promoted by various predisposing factors such as infections with other pathogens. The molecular basis of pathogenicity and virulence are still not fully understood, but it is known that various bacterial virulence factors are involved (Ewers et al., 2004)

In nonhuman primates, respiratory infections due to *P. multocida* have been described for various species held in captivity (Good & May, 1971; McClure et al., 1986; Kalter, 1989). Other than respiratory disease, *P. multocida* has been reported to be associated with septicaemia in Cebus monkeys (*Cebus albifrons*), septicaemia and meningitis in squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri sciureus*) and several systemic suppurative maladies in owl monkeys (*Aotus trivirgatus*) (Greensteins et al, 1965; Clarkson et al., 1968; Benjamin & Lang, 1971; Daniel et al., 1976). However, these reports refer to captive animals whereas not data exist about pasteurellosis in wild living nonhuman primates.

Haemophilus influenzae

Haemophilus influenzae is a Gram-negative coccobacillus belonging to the *Pasteurellaceae* family. *H. influenzae* exists as a commensal or as a pathogen and is an important etiological agent for respiratory diseases including bronchitis, otitis media, sinusitis and pneumonia in mainly children, but also adults. Of the six capsular antigenic types of *H. influenzae* (a-f), capsulate strain type b is responsible for more than 90% of human infections, although many non-encapsulated strains also cause disease. *H. influenzae* is primarily transmitted by respiratory droplets from the infected individual or carriers (McChlery et al., 2009).

Several NHPs are susceptible for *H. influenzae* and have been frequently used for animal experiments. Natural infection has been also observed in captive NHP colonies; *H. influenzae* (and other *Haemophilus* species) is one of the organisms most frequently identified as a cause of pneumonia (Good and May, 1971; McClure et al., 1986). *H. influenzae* has been also isolated from

cases of airsacculitis (McClure et al., 1986; Strobert and Swenson, 1979). In captive chimpanzees, *H. influenzae* has also been associated with meningitis (Solleveld et al., 1984).

2.2 Pathogen transmission between humans and nonhuman primates

Infectious diseases that cross species barriers pose an increasing threat to both human health and the conservation of wildlife. Emergent pathogens such as SARS and avian influenza virus have recently highlighted the critical importance of zoonotic diseases. One striking example for primate associated zoonoses is the global HIV-1/AIDS pandemic, which has been linked to zoonotic transmission of SIV (group M) from chimpanzees (Gao et al., 1999; Keele et al., 2006). Other viruses, such as Simian T-cell Leukemia Virus (STLV) or Ebolavirus, pass frequently between NHPs and humans (Leroy et al., 2004; Wolfe et al., 2004). Such transmission events have been traced to the butchering and consumption of bushmeat (Wolfe et al., 2005).

Whereas the concern for disease transmission is typically regarding the risk to humans from nonhumans, one should also consider the reverse relationship: the threat to NHPs by pathogens indigenous to humans. Particularly considering the increasing human encroachment on NHPs habitat, anthroponozoonosis are of major concern (Wolfe et al. 1998).

Apart from direct transmission via body fluids (i.e. respiratory secretions), transmission can also occur indirectly through vectors (i.e. arthropods) or environmental contamination. For example, looking at parasite levels of chimpanzees around the Gombe National Park a strong correlation has been found between parasite diversity and prevalence in regard to the proximity of chimpanzee communities to humans (Wallis & Lee, 1999). Similarly, the exchange of *E. coli* between humans and chimpanzees has been shown in known communities of chimpanzees living in Kibale National Park, Uganda (Goldberg, 2007). In a study from Jones-Engel (2001) antibodies to influenza A and parainfluenza-1 have been detected in samples from free-ranging macaques (*M. tonkeana*) living close to a village in Indonesia.

From zoo and laboratory facilities it is known, that anthroponozoonotic infections occur frequently among NHPs (Kalter, 1989; Kalter et al. 1997; Bennet et al., 1998). In captive great apes, studies have shown that the main route of transmission of human diseases to apes is respiratory (aerosol) and that common human respiratory viruses are easily transmittable (for example see Dick et al., 1968; Jones et al., 1984; Skiadopoulos et al., 2004). In this context, it was suspected that pathogen transmission from humans could account for outbreaks observed in wild chimpanzees habituated to the presence of humans (Bennett et al., 1998; Wolfe et al., 1998; Wallis & Lee, 1999; Woodford et al., 2002). Due to the relatively close contact between humans and wild chimpanzees, as is the case for researchers, field assistants, local hunters and tourist in National Parks, the introduction of

human pathogens is of concern. Therefore, detailed knowledge on pathogens and pathogen transmission is required to optimise prevention strategies.

2.3 Pathogen transmission between chimpanzees and monkeys

In chimpanzees, evidence exists that interspecies transmission of pathogens occurs. The most prominent example is that of chimpanzee SIV (SIVcpz). It has been shown that SIVcpz arose through successive cross-species transmission and recombination events of SIVs infecting several monkey species belonging to the *Cercopithecinae* family (Bailes et al., 2003). Similar, molecular data suggested a transmission of Simian T-cell Leukemia Virus Type 1 (STLV-1) from red colobus monkeys and sooty mangabeys to chimpanzees, both known to be prey species of the Tai chimpanzees (Boesch & Boesch-Achermann, 2000; Leendertz et al., 2004b; Junglen et al., 2010). It has also been demonstrated that Simian Foamy Virus (SFV) can be transmitted from red colobus monkeys or respectively *Cercopithecus* species to chimpanzees (Leendertz et al., 2008; Liu et al., 2008). It has been assumed that the chimpanzees acquired the monkey-associated virus strains in the context of predation. For example, several studies have shown how such an exposure might occur as saliva is a predominant route of SFV transmission (Brooks et al., 2003; Switzer et al., 2004; Jones-Engel, 2005; Calattini et al., 2006); as most chimpanzees are frequent hunters, they may have been bitten by their prey. Also, during consumption of their prey, chimpanzees have been reported to chew entire bones (Boesch and Boesch-Achermann, 2000), which may cause lesions in the oral cavity and increases the risk of pathogen transmission via body fluids.

Reports on the transmission of viruses from monkeys to chimpanzees are based on retroviruses that induce persistent infections. Whether or not the transmission of viruses causing acute disease or non-viral pathogens also occurs has not yet been studied systematically.

2.4 Health monitoring of great apes

The evaluation of the health status of wild primate populations is important to make evidence-based recommendations regarding conservation strategies. However, monitoring the health of wild great apes goes along with some difficulties. First, signs of disease are rarely observed in wild living primates, as infected animals have a tendency to mask their weakness in order to maintain their social position and avoid attacks by predators (Boesch & Boesch-Achermann, 2000; Krief et al., 2005; Leendertz et al., 2006). In the cases of mortality, with the rapid decomposition of carcasses in rainforests, time of necropsy is crucial as sample quality declines rapidly within a few hours. Thus, close monitoring is of critical importance so that key observations and rapid necropsy can be performed in the event of death. This is mainly possible with habituated animals (Leendertz et al.,

2006). The fact that diagnostic samples primarily originate from necropsies of deceased animals has its disadvantages, in that molecular diagnostic of an acute disease can only be performed if this disease results in mortality. Furthermore, baseline data about pathogens carried normally is still missing, as systematic and continuous sampling using invasive collection methods is not feasible. Therefore, methods are needed which allow reliable pathogen detection in materials which can be collected noninvasively (e.g., such as faeces, urine or saliva from food remains) with limited disruption to the chimpanzees' natural behaviour.

2.4.1 Non invasive diagnostic methods

In wild living great apes, non invasive methods have been used mainly for the detection of gastrointestinal parasites (Ashford et al., 1990, 2000; Lilly et al., 2002) or systemic chronic viruses such as Simian Immunodeficiency Virus, Simian Foamy Virus and Hepatitis B Virus which can be found in faeces (Keele et al., 2006; Santiago et al., 2002; Liu et al., 2008; Makuwa et al., 2005). In respect to the detection of pathogens causing acute diseases, non invasive diagnostics of faecal samples are well established for pathogens affecting the gastrointestinal tract (i.e., bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi). Recently it has been shown that the detection of respiratory viruses is also possible from faeces samples. In a study by von Linstow, faecal samples from 48 human infants with a confirmed HRSV infection were analysed for the presence of HRSV RNA and ten percent tested positive (von Linstow et al., 2006). The same approach was applied in order to detect HMPV, but detection of HMPV RNA from human stool samples was not possible. In contrast, HMPV RNA was detected in faecal samples from two habituated chimpanzees with respiratory symptoms at a research site in Mahale, Tanzania (Kaur et al., 2008). Both studies used PCR based methods for the screening of faeces samples. However, in the human study the assay sensitivity was low and in the chimpanzee study only a few samples were available. Thus, in order to examine the incidence of respiratory viruses in wild great apes, the evaluation of the applicability of PCR-based analyses of faeces as a screening tool would be of great advantage.

2.5 The Taï chimpanzee project

2.5.1 Study location: Taï National Park

The Taï National Park lies in the South of Côte d'Ivoire (see Figure 2.1 A). With an area of 4550 km² it is the largest protected rainforest area in West Africa since its creation in 1972. The study site is located in the westernmost part of the Park; it is an evergreen rain forest with an annual rainfall of 1800 mm and an average temperature of 24-28°C. The climate at Taï National Park is characterised by two dry season (major, Nov.-Feb.; minor, July-Aug.) and two rainy seasons (major, Aug.-Oct.; minor Mar.-June) (Boesch & Boesch-Achermann, 2000). The fauna of the park is rich,

including pygmy hippopotamus (*Cheoropsis liberiensis*), bushpig (*Potamochoerus porcus*), the giant forest hog (*Hylocheerus meinertzhageni*), six species of duikers (*Cephalophus jentink*, *C. sylvicultur*, *C. ogilbyi*, *C. dorsalis*, *C. zebra* and *D. monticola*), the honey badger (*Mellivora capensis*), the long-nosed mongoose (*Mungos obscurus*), the giant pangolin (*Manis gigantea*) and some carnivores - the leopard (*Panthera pardus*), the golden cat (*Profelis aurata*), the pardine genet (*Genetta pardina*), and the civet cat (*Viverra civetta*). Besides chimpanzees, ten species of primates live in the area: three colobus (*P. badius*, *C. polykomos*, and *C. verus*), four cercopithecoids (*Cercopithecus diana*, *C. petaurista*, *C. campbelli* and *C. nictitans*), the sooty mangabey (*Cercocebus atys*), the dwarf galago (*Galago dernidovii*), and the Bosman's potto (*Perodicticus potto*).

The human population of the region around the park increased strongly in the last decades. For example, the human density in the Taï sous-préfecture, close to the study side, increased from 8 inhabitants per km² in 1971 to 135 inhabitants per km² in 1991 (Boesch & Boesch-Achermann, 2000). Due to this increasing demographic pressure the size of the Taï forest has been reduced constantly. Both human encroachment and the increase of poaching that goes along with that are tremendous problems for the fauna around and within the park.

2.5.2 Taï chimpanzees

Chimpanzees of Taï National Park belong to the subspecies *Pan troglodytes verus*. Since 1979 Christophe Boesch and co-workers have studied the chimpanzees of Taï National Park. Three chimpanzee groups have been habituated: the “North Group”; “South Group”, and “Middle Group”¹. A further group named “East Group” is still under habituation. Chimpanzees were habituated to human presence without artificial provisioning of food (Boesch & Boesch-Achermann, 2000). At the time of writing, the communities included approximately 102 individuals (North: 17 individuals; South: 38 individuals; East: approx. 47 individuals; Middle: 2 individuals), living in the western part of the park, about 20 km from the village of Taï. Figure 2.1 B (Kouakou et al., 2009) shows the chimpanzees' territories except for the East Group, for which the territorial borders have not been evaluated yet. The territories of the South-, Middle- and East Group are slightly overlapping, but encounters with neighbouring groups rarely occurs (Boesch and Boesch-Achermann, 2000; Boesch et al. 2008). The chimpanzees of the North Group previously shared parts of their territory with the members of the Middle Group, but since the latter population one has been in a steep decline the North Group is now isolated from other habituated groups.

¹ Due to the strong decrease of the community size (13 individuals in 1998 versus 2 individuals in 2009), the Middle Group is not included in the present study.

Chimpanzees live in large social groups and have a flexible social structure, so called fission–fusion societies, where the community is regularly observed to split into several parties, thus only a small number of group members are seen every day (Boesch & Boesch-Achermann, 2000). There is seasonal variation in diet: during the dry season the Taï chimpanzee diet consists mainly of fruit, leaves and nuts and hunting occurs only occasionally; during the wet season the chimpanzees hunt more frequently (Boesch & Boesch, 1989). Their most common primate prey is the red colobus monkey (80%) and black and white colobus (13%), though they also eat olive colobus, and very rarely diana monkeys, spot nosed monkeys, mona monkeys and sooty mangabees (Boesch & Boesch-Achermann, 2000).

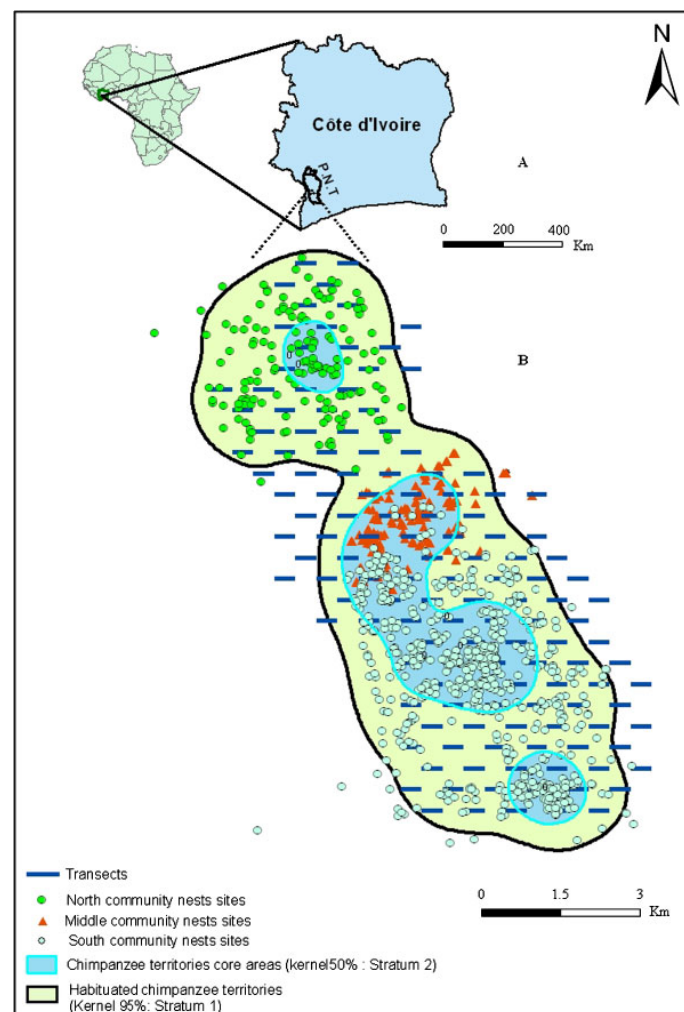


Figure 2.1 Map of the study area showing survey design and chimpanzees territories between 2004 and 2006. A: Location of Taï National Park (marked as P.N.T.) in Côte d'Ivoire; B: Territories of three communities of habituated chimpanzee based only on nest sites for each community. The territory of the East Group is not included in the figure but is situated east of the South Group's territory. Source: Kouakou et al., 2009.

2.5.3 Tai chimpanzee health project

In the last 24 years, the group size among the Tai chimpanzees decreased considerably. Due to the high number of unexplained deaths, the Tai Chimpanzee Health Project was established by the Max-Planck-Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (Leipzig, Germany) and the Robert Koch-Institut (Berlin, Germany). Since 2001 a veterinary unit is permanently assigned to the Tai chimpanzee project (TCP) in order to monitor disease and health in the chimpanzee population. Whenever a chimpanzee shows signs of weakness or disease, it is specifically followed and detailed data on the type and quantity of clinical symptoms, body condition, respiratory rates, food intake rates and resting time is recorded. As shown in figure 2.2, both the North and South Group experienced several multiple mortality events. In four of these events, the cause of death could be identified, including Ebola (Formenty et al., 1999), anthrax (Leendertz et al., 2004a), and two poaching incidents. Between 1999 and 2006 five outbreaks with a respiratory symptomatic had been observed and some of them lead to animal deaths (Figures 2.2 A and B).

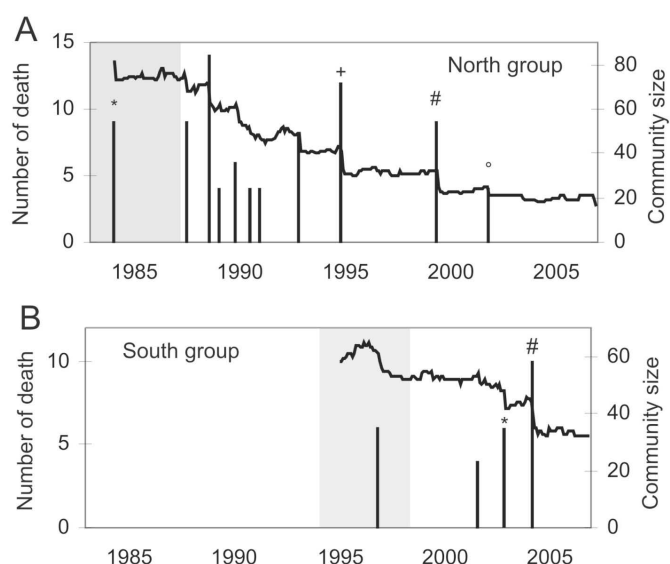


Figure 2.2 Multiple mortality events (consecutive months with a cumulative total of at least four deaths) in the North Group (A) and South Group (B). Causes of death are marked as follows: asterisk (*), poaching; plus symbol (+), Ebola virus infection; number symbol (#), respiratory disease; degree symbol (°), Anthrax infection. Grey shaded areas indicate the first 4 years after habituation in which chimpanzees allow increasingly closer approach by researchers. Data are pooled for north and South Groups. Source: Koendgen et al., 2008.

2.5.4 Hygiene measurements at the research camps of Tai National Park

Due to the high risk of anthropozoonotic disease transmission, strict hygiene protocols were implemented at the research camps in the Tai National Park. These rules include a minimum distance of 7m when observing chimpanzees, wearing of facemasks when in the field, disinfection of hands and boots before and after observing chimpanzees, disposal of faeces and to refrain from working in case of illness.

2.5.5 Respiratory outbreaks in Tai chimpanzees

Between 1999 and 2006 five outbreaks of acute respiratory diseases were observed² among the habituated chimpanzee communities (details are given in Schenk 2007). Morbidity was high in the outbreaks, with an average of 92.2% of individuals showing clinical symptoms, including elevated breathing rate, conspicuous breathing sounds, breathing with mouth open, sneezing, and either dry or moist coughing. Heavily affected animals showed a decrease in daily-food intake and signs of weakness such as increased resting time and decreased ability to keep up with other animals or to sustain physical activity. Recovery without medical intervention was not observed in such advanced cases. Time from first visible symptoms to death ranged from 1 day for infants to 11 days for adults. Three of the outbreaks resulted in mortalities, killing at least 6 of 32 (19%) individuals in the North Group and 8 of 44 (18%) individuals in 2004 and 1 of 34 (3%) in 2006 in the South Group. In between those severe outbreaks, two minor respiratory epidemics without fatalities occurred.

2.5.5.1 Preliminary work

Necropsy and pathological analyses on seven deceased chimpanzees found shortly after death were performed by the veterinarians F. Leendertz, S. Schenk and S. Leendertz (for details see Leendertz, 2006; Schenk, 2007). All necropsies were conducted under high safety standards and precautions such as protection suits, gloves, and face masks were used to avoid contamination of samples with human pathogens and exposure of the persons to pathogens.

Tissue samples were sent to the Robert Koch-Institut (Berlin, Germany) for molecular analysis and to the German Primate Centre (Göttingen, Germany) for histological examinations³: the main pathologic and histopathologic changes were observed in lung tissue, with severe purulent multifocal bronchopneumonia, lung oedema in all lobes, and involvement of the upper respiratory tract.

First results from a bacterial screening showed the presence of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* in all samples tested. In the outbreak in March 2004, first hints for *Pasteurella multocida* were also obtained (Chi et al., 2007). An overview about the already obtained results of the bacterial analysis is given in table 2.1.

Additionally, during the respiratory outbreaks in 2004, 2005 and 2006 throat swabs were collected from the field-assistants and researchers of the project and were tested for respiratory pathogens by S. Schenk and M. Leider (Schenk, 2007; Chi et al., 2007).

² Data on morbidity and mortality were recorded by: F. Leendertz; S. Leendertz, S. Schenk, A. Blankenburg

³ Histological examinations were performed by Dr. Mätz-Rensing

Table 2.1 Bacteria detected by PCR in lung tissue

Date of death	Group	Individual	<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	<i>P. multocía</i> (unclassified)	<i>H. influenzae</i>
May 1999	North	Loukoum	+ 2308 ^a	-	-
	North	Lefkas	+ 2308 ^a	-	-
March 2004	South	Orest	+ 2309 ^a	+	-
	South	Ophelia	+ 2309 ^a	+	-
	South	Virunga	+ 2309 ^a	+	-
Feb. 2006	South	Isha's Baby	+ 2309 ^a	-	-
	East	Candy	+ 2308 ^a	-	-
	East	Vasco	+ 2308 ^a	-	-

^a new *S. pneumoniae* strain 2308 and 2309 (see Chi et al., 2007)

2.6 Aims

The aims of the present work are to

- Identify and characterise the causative agents of respiratory disease outbreaks among the Taï chimpanzees:
 - Screening of lung tissue samples for the presence of respiratory viruses. Isolation and phylogenetic characterisation of the viruses detected.
 - Isolation and characterisation of the *P. multocida* strains found in the lungs from chimpanzees that died in the respiratory outbreak in March 2004.
- Study the origin of the pathogens detected in the chimpanzees:
 - Analysing additional samples from possible transmitters like humans (human villagers of the region) and animals sharing the same habitat (i.e., *P. badius* and *C. polykomus*) for the pathogens detected in the chimpanzees.
 - Performing phylogenetic analysis to trace potential transmission events.
- Estimate the incidence and prevalence of respiratory viruses among the study group
 - Establishment of non invasive diagnostic methods
 - Systematic testing of symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals using faecal samples

On the basis of these aims, the chapters 4 (Methods) and 5 (Results) are divided into three parts: the first part focuses on the detection and characterisation of respiratory viruses and bacteria from Taï chimpanzees. In the second part, samples from possible transmitters are specifically screened for the pathogens found in the chimpanzees to study their origin. The last part deals with the evaluation of the applicability of non invasive diagnostic methods.

3 Materials

3.1 Chemicals, media and buffer

3.1.1 Chemicals

5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl-b-D-galactopyranoside (X-Gal)	Carl Roth GmbH, Karlsruhe
Ampicillin	Sigma, Deisenhofen
Acetic acid	Carl Roth GmbH, Karlsruhe
Amyl alcohol	Merck, Darmstadt
Bacto tryptone	BD, Heidelberg
Bacto peptone	BD, Heidelberg
Bacto yeast extract	BD, Heidelberg
BBL™ Sensi-Disc™ Susceptibility Test Discs	BD, Heidelberg
Boric acid	Sigma, Deisenhofen
Bromphenol blue	Merck, Darmstadt
p-Dimethylaminobenzaldehyde	Merck, Darmstadt
Deoxynucleoside triphosphate (dNTP)	Invitrogen™, Karlsruhe
Desoxyuridine triphosphate (dUTP)	Fermentas GmbH, St. Leon-Rot
Dipotassium hydrogen phosphate	Merck, Darmstadt
Dithiothreitol (DTT)	Invitrogen™, Karlsruhe
Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM)	Gibco, BRL®, Eggenstein
Casein-peptone	Merck, Darmstadt
Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA)	Sigma, Deisenhofen
Ethanol (RNase-free)	Carl Roth GmbH, Karlsruhe
Ethidium bromide (10 mg/ml)	Promega GmbH, Mannheim
Foetal calf serum (FCS)	Gibco, BRL®, Eggenstein
GeneRuler™ 1 kb DNA Ladder	Fermentas GmbH, St. Leon-Rot
GeneRuler™ 100 bp DNA Ladder	Fermentas GmbH, St. Leon-Rot
Glucose	Sigma, Deisenhofen

Hydrochloric acid	Carl Roth GmbH, Karlsruhe
6xDNA Loading Dye	Fermentas GmbH, St. Leon-Rot
Isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG)	Carl Roth GmbH, Karlsruhe
Difco meat extract	BD, Heidelberg
Magnesium chloride (PCR)	Invitrogen TM , Karlsruhe
Monopotassium phosphate	Merck, Darmstadt
Sodium chlorid	Merck, Darmstadt
L-glutamine	Biochrom KG, Berlin
L-Ornithine Monohydrochloride	Carl Roth GmbH, Karlsruhe
Penicillin/streptomycin	Biochrom KG, Berlin
Peq Gold Universal Agarose	Peq Lab, Erlangen
1,4 Phenylendiamoniumdichloride	Merck, Darmstadt
Primers and probes	TIB Molbiol, Berlin
	Invitrogen TM , Karlsruhe
Phenol red	Carl Roth GmbH, Karlsruhe
PeqGOLD pulsed-field certified agarose	Peq Lab, Erlangen
Pyridoxolhydrochloride	Carl Roth GmbH, Karlsruhe
MGB probes	Applied Biosystems, UK
Random primer (Hexamer)	Metabion, Martinsried
Urea agar base	Oxoid, Wesel
Tris-HCl	Sigma, Deisenhofen
Trypsin	PAA, Pasching
Sarcosyl	Sigma, Deisenhofen
Water (nuclease free)	Applied Biosystems, Darmstadt

3.1.2 Media

3.1.2.1 Culture medium for *Escherichia coli* XL-1 blue

Luria-Bertani (LB) agar

in house production RKI

(supplemented with 10 mg/ml ampicillin)

10 g Bacto-tryptone

5 g Bacto yeast extract

10 g NaCl, 15 g agar

Remaining filled with double distilled water to 1000 ml total volume, pH 7

X Gal

200 mg/ml

IPTG

0.1 M

3.1.2.2 Cell culture media

Phosphate-buffered saline (PBS)

in house production RKI

8 g NaCl

0.2 g KCl

1.44 g Na₂HPO₄

0.24 g KH₂PO₄

Remaining filled with double distilled water to 1000 ml total volume, pH 7.2

Trypsin-EDTA diluent

8 g NaCl

0.4 g KCl

0.06 g KH₂PO₄

0.06 g Na₂HPO₄

1 g glucose, C₆H₁₂O₆

0.375 g NaHCO₃

Remaining filled with double distilled water to 1000 ml total volume, pH 7

add 0.2 % EDTA

3.1.2.3 Culture media for *P. multocida* cultivation and characterisation

Transport Medium Amies (with and without charcoal)	BD, Heidelberg
Blood agar	Oxoid, Wesel
Test tubes for carbohydrate fermentation reaction	in house production FU

Bromthymol blue bouillon

10 g pancreatic peptone

5 g NaCl

0.025 g Bromthymol blue

pH 7.2 ± 0.3

dissolve under heating, autoclave for 12 min at 121°C,

add the following carbohydrates:

0.5 % trehalose

0.5 % xylose

2 % arabinose

1 % sorbite

1 % maltose

Heat for 20 min at 100°C

Urea

in house production FU

250 ml trypsin bouillon

(urea agar base according to Christensen; Oxoid)

2.5 g urea

Indole trypsin bouillon

in house production FU

9 g Bacto-peptone (Difco)

1 g K₂HPO₄

20 ml NaCl (saturated solution)

Remaining filled with double distilled water to 1000 ml total volume

3.1.3 Buffer and solutions for DNA analytics

3.1.3.1 PCR buffer

10x Rxn-buffer

Invitrogen™, Karlsruhe

3.1.3.2 Gel electrophoresis (PCR)

TAE-buffer (50x)

242.28 g Tris

18.61 g EDTA

60 ml acetic acid

Remaining filled with double distilled water to 1000 ml total volume, pH 8

Ethidium bromide

10 mg/ml

3.1.3.3 Pulsed field gel electrophoresis

ES-Solution

18.62g EDTA

1 g Sarcosyl

Remaining filled with double distilled water to 100 ml total volume, pH 9.5

ESP Solution

0.9 mg Proteinase K

1 ml ES-Solution

TE-buffer

2.42 g Tris

7.45 g EDTA

Remaining filled with double distilled water to 2000 ml total volume, pH 7.5

EDTA-solution

EDTA (500mmol/l): 18.62 g in 80 ml double distilled water

Remaining filled with double distilled water to 100 ml total volume, pH 8

TBE-buffer (10x)

108 g Tris

55g boric acid

40 ml EDTA (0.5M)

Remaining filled with double distilled water to 1000 ml total volume, pH 8

3.1.4 Reagents

Cytochrome oxidase reagent

in house production FU

0.5 g 1.4 Phenylendiamoniumdichloride

50 ml double distilled water

Use the following day.

Catalase reagent

in house production FU

3 % H₂O₂-solution

Kovacs Indole reagent

in house production FU

5 g p-Dimethylaminobenzaldehyde

75 ml Amyl alcohol (100 %)

Dissolve in amyl alcohol in a water bath at 50-60°

25 ml HCl (concentrated)

Add HCl to the cooled solution while stirring constantly

Ornithine-Decarboxylase bouillon (according to Rinka)

in house production FU

5 g peptone

3 g yeast extract

3 g meat extract

1 g NaCl

0.5 g Monopotassium phosphate

1 g D-glucose

0.01 g Pyridoxolhydrochloride

0.03 g Phenol red

dissolve in 1l of double distilled water, pH 7.4

add 1.8 g L-Ornithinmonohydrochlorid on 250 ml

3.2 Enzymes

Platinum® <i>Taq</i> DNA- Polymerase	Invitrogen™, Karlsruhe
Superscript Reverse Transkriptase	Invitrogen™, Karlsruhe
SmaI	Fermentas GmbH, St. Leon-Rot
ApaI	Fermentas GmbH, St. Leon-Rot
Proteinase K	Carl Roth GmbH, Karlsruhe

3.3 Cell lines

Hep-2	human epidermoid cancer cells, ECACC Number: 86030501
LLC-MK2	kidney rhesus monkey cells, ATTC CCL-7

3.4 Bacterial strains

<i>Escherichia coli</i> XL-1 blue	Gibco, BRL®, Eggenstein
<i>Pasteurella multocida</i> (reference strains)	
	National Collection of Type Cultures (NCTC), UK: NCTC 10322 (capsular type A)
	American Type Culture Collection, Manassas, USA: ATCC 12948 (capsular type D)

3.5 Kits

BigDye® Terminator v3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit	Applied Biosystems, Darmstadt
DNeasy Tissue Kit	Qiagen, Hilden
ExoSAP-IT® For PCR Product Clean-Up	USB Corporation, USA
Jet Quick Gel Extraction Spin Kit	Genomed GmbH, Löhne
GenMatrix stool DNA purification Kit	Roboklon, Berlin
Master Pure Genomic DNA Purification Kit	Biozym, Hess. Oldendorf
QIAquick PCR purification Kit	Qiagen, Hilden
QIAamp Viral RNA Mini Kit	Qiagen, Hilden
RNeasy Tissue Kit	Quiagen, Hilden

SuperScript™ II Reverse Transcriptase Kit

Invitrogen™, Karlsruhe

TOPO TA Cloning Kit

Invitrogen™, Karlsruhe

3.6 Technical equipment

ABI Prism 3130xl Genetic Analyzer (sequencer)

Applied Biosystems, Darmstadt

Bench Scale

Sartorius, Göttingen

Centrifuges Labofuge 400e

Heraeus, Hanau

Centrifuge Heraeus Sepatech

Heraeus, Hanau

Centrifuge 5402 PA

Eppendorf AG, Hamburg

CHEF DR® III (PFGE chamber)

Bio-Rad Laboratories, Munich

Table centrifuge

Eppendorf AG, Hamburg

FlexCycler

Biozym Scientific GmbH,
Oldendorf

Incubator Heraeus B6030

Heraeus, Hanau

Incubator Heraeus B6060

Heraeus, Hanau

Incubator shaker Innova™ 4200

New Brunswick Scientific,
Edison, USA

Power supply gel electrophoresis

Neolab, Heidelberg

FastPrep® FP120, cell disruptor

Qbiogene, Heidelberg

Gel electrophoresis chamber

Neolab, Heidelberg

Light microscope Axiophot

Zeiss, Oberkochen

Mastercycler epgredient

Eppendorf AG, Hamburg

Microwaves

SB-Großhandels GmbH, Quelle
Gruppe, Nürnberg

Neubauer counting chamber

Carl Roth, Karlsruhe

Nanodrop ND-1000

Peq Lab, Erlangen

Pipetus®-akku

Hirschmann Laborgeräte,
Eberstadt

Pipettes	Gilson, Abimed Analysen Technik, Langenfeld and Eppendorf AG, Hamburg
Table-top scale	Sartorius, Göttingen
Taqman Stratagene Mx3000P	Agilent Technologies, USA
Biological Safety cabinet HeraSafe	Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA
Scalpel	Carl Roth, Karlsruhe
Dissecting set (Scissors and forceps)	Carl Roth, Karlsruhe
Gel documentation system	Phase, Lübeck
Vortexer (Labdancer)	Carl Roth GmbH, Karlsruhe
Water bath	P-D Group, Dresden

3.7 Consumables

24-, 12-, and 6 well plates	Nunc, Wiesbaden
ABgene PCR Plates	Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA
Cryotubes (1.2 ml)	Carl Roth GmbH, Karlsruhe
Cell culture flasks (25, 75, 175 cm ²)	Nunc, Wiesbaden
Centrifuge tube (15 ml, 50 ml)	Neolab, Heidelberg
Ceramic beads (Ø 1.4 mm)	Precellys, USA
Clear Seal Diamond, ABgene	Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA
Falcon tubes (15 ml)	TPP, Swiss
Filters (0.22µm, 0.45µm)	Millipore, USA
Micropipette tips	nerbe plus GmbH, Winsen/Luhe
Micro tubes (2 ml)	Sarstedt AG, Nümbrecht
Parafilm	American National Can, USA
Reaction tubes (0.2 ml)	Peq Lab, Erlangen und Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA
Reaction tubes (0.5 ml)	Carl Roth GmbH, Karlsruhe
Reaction tubes (1.5 ml, 2 ml)	Sarstedt AG, Nümbrecht

Toothpicks

BTS Biotech, St. Leon-Rot

3.8 Software

BioEdit 7.0.9

Ibis Bioscience, USA

BLAST 2.2.18

NCBI, Bethesda, MD, USA

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/

Corel Draw 12

Corel Corporation, USA

DNASTAR® Lasergene™

DNASStar Inc., USA

(PrimerSelect®, SeqMan® II, EditSeq®)

Microsoft Office

Microsoft, USA

MxPro 4.0

Stratagene

PHYLP Software-Paket (3.572)

PHYLogeny Inference Package

Treeview 1.6

Gubusoft, USA

BioNumerics 4.6

Applied Maths, Belgium

4 Methods

4.1 Detection and characterisation of respiratory pathogens from chimpanzees

4.1.1 Sample collection

Necropsies and sample collection has been performed prior to the beginning of the present work and is summarised in chapter 2.5.5. Lung tissue from deceased chimpanzees was preserved in liquid nitrogen and sent to the Robert Koch-Institut (RKI) for further analysis. Table 4.1 provides an overview of the individuals on which subsequent molecular analyses were performed.

Additionally, swab samples were obtained from a male group member that was immobilised for the purpose of surgically treating of air-sacculitis in May 2009 (Lancaster, in prep.). Here, swabs were taken from purulent discharge of the air sac and transported in charcoal Amies Medium at 8°C.

Table 4.1 Samples used in this study

Date of death	Group	Individual	Sex	Material	Symptoms
May 1999	North	Loukoum	f	Tissue	Respiratory
	North	Lefkas	m	Tissue	Respiratory
March 2004	South	Orest	m	Tissue	Respiratory
	South	Ophelia	f	Tissue	Respiratory
	South	Virunga	f	Tissue	Respiratory
February 2006	South	Ishas Baby	m	Tissue	Respiratory
	East	Candy	f	Tissue	Respiratory
May 2009	South	Sagu	m	Pus	Airsacculitis

f: feminine

m: masculine

4.1.2 Screening and phylogenetic analysis of respiratory viruses

4.1.2.1 Extraction of nucleic acids

DNA and RNA were extracted from frozen lung tissue with DNAeasy and RNAeasy tissue kits. A lentil-size piece of tissue was added to a Bead tube containing the lysis buffer. Samples were homogenized with a FastPrep cell disruptor at and further processed according to the manufacturer's instructions. DNA was eluted with 200 µl and RNA with 60 µl RNase free water. DNA and RNA were stored at -20°C and -80°C respectively.

4.1.2.2 **cDNA synthesis**

cDNA was synthesized by using the Superscript Kit according to the manufacture's instructions. The maximum amount of RNA was added to the mix, primers were random hexamer primers.

4.1.2.3 **PCR assays**

In order to identify relevant pathogens, Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) has been used (Mullis et al., 1986). Various established PCR approaches were applied, both conventional and real-time PCR. Samples were screened for influenza virus A-H1, A-H3, B, adenovirus, measles virus, coronaviruses, enterovirus, rhinovirus, parainfluenza virus types 1-3, HRSV and HMPV. The respective protocols are given in table 4.2 – 4.6. PCR assays for Influenza A+B, Enterovirus, Adenovirus and HRSV were adopted from B. Schweiger and co-workers and had been designed for a rapid throughput of large sample amounts (Table 4.6). Positive and negative controls were included in each run. For further information about the used primers and probes see table 4.9.

Table 4.2 PCR protocol and cycling conditions Coronavirus and Rhinovirus

Rxn-Puffer (10x)	2.5 µl	Cycling conditions:		
dNTPs (2.5 mM)	2 µl	94°C	10 min	
MgCl ₂ (50mM)	1 µl	94°C	30 sec	} 45x
Forward Primer (10 µM)	0.75 µ	50-60°C ^a	30 sec	
Reverse Primer (10 µM)	0.75 µl	72°C	1 min	
Platinum Taq Polymerase (5U/µl)	0.1 µl	72°C	10 min	
Template	2-5 µl			
Double distilled water	ad 25 µl			

^a Annealing Temperature for CoV PCR: 60°C; for Rhinovirus PCR: 50 °C

Table 4.3 PCR protocol and cycling conditions Measles virus (nested PCR)

Rxn-Puffer (10x)	2.5 µl	Cycling conditions:		
dNTPs (2,5 mM)	2 µl	94°C	10 min	
MgCl ₂ (50mM)	2 µl	94°C	30 sec	} 25x
Forward Primer (25 µM)	0.3 µ	54°C	30 sec	
Reverse Primer (25 µM)	0.3 µl	72°C	1 min	
Platinum Taq Polymerase (5U/µl)	0.2 µl	72°C	10 min	
Template	2.5-5µl ^b			
Double distilled water	ad 25 µl			

^b first round: 5µl; nested round: 2.5µl

Table 4.4 Protocol and cycling conditions Parainfluenza 1-3 (nested PCR)

Rxn-Puffer (10x)	2.45 µl	Cycling conditions:	
dNTPs (2.5 mM)	2 µl	94°C	10 min
MgCl ₂ (50mM)	1 µl	94°C	30 sec
Forward Primer 1+2 +3 (25 µM)	0.5 µ each	50/58°C ^d	30 sec
Reverse Primer 1+2+3 (25 µM)	0.5 µl each	72°C	1 min
Platinum Taq Polymerase (5U/µl)	0.25 µl	72°C	10 min
Template	2.5/4.5µl ^c		
Double distilled water	ad 25 µl		

^c first round: 4.5µl; nested round: 2.5µl ; ^d first round: 50°C ; nested round: 58°C

Table 4.5 Real -time PCR protocol HMPV

Rxn-Puffer (10x)	2.5 µl	Cycling conditions:	
dNT(U)Ps (2.5 mM)	25 µl		
MgCl ₂ (50mM)	2 µl	94°C	10 min
Primer F4 (10µM)	0.7 µl	94°C	15 sec
Primer R9 (10µM)	0.7 µl	60°C	34 sec
Primer F4-I (10µM)	0.7 µl		
Primer R9-I (10µM)	0.7 µl		
Probe (10µM)	0.25		
Platinum Taq Polymerase (5U/µl)	0.25 µl		
Template	5 µl		
Double distilled water	ad 25 µl		

Table 4.6 Real-time PCR protocols, buffer mixes and primer mixes for HRSV, Influenza A+B, Enterovirus and Adenovirus**PCR PROTOCOL**

		Cycling conditions:		
Buffer Mix	8 µl			
Primer Mix	3 µl	94°C	10 min	
Platinum Taq Polymerase (5U/µl)	0,1 µl	94°C	15 sec	} 40x
Template	3 µl	60°C	34 sec	
Double distilled water	ad 25 µl			

BUFFER MIX

	for 10 samples	for 100 samples
Rxn-Puffer (10x)	25 µl	250 µl
dNT(U)Ps (2.5 mM)	25 µl	250 µl
MgCl ₂ (50mM)	20 µl	200 µl
Double distilled water	10 µl	100 µl

PRIMER MIXES**HRSV + Adeno**

Forward Primer (25 µM)	3 µl	30 µl
Reverse Primer (25 µM)	12 µl	120 µl
Probe (20µM)	1.875 µl	18.75 µl
Double distilled water	13.125 µl	131.25 µl

Enterovirus

Forward Primer (25 µM)	3 µl	30 µl
Reverse Primer (25 µM)	6 µl	60 µl
Probe (20µM)	1.25 µl	12.5 µl
Double distilled water	13.75 µl	137.5 µl

Influenza A+B

Forward Primer (25 µM)	3 µl	30 µl
Reverse Primer (25 µM)	12 µl	120 µl
Probe (20µM)	1.25 µl	12.5
Double distilled water	13.75 µl	137.5 µl

4.1.2.4 Generation of phylogenetically relevant DNA fragments

Samples tested positive in the screening PCR were further characterised with PCR assays targeting phylogenetically relevant DNA fragments. For HMPV a 937 bp fragment of the P Gen was amplified. For HRSV, first and heminested PCRs targeting the hypervariable region of the G protein were performed. Protocols are given in table 4.7 and 4.8. PCR products were analysed by electrophoresis in a 1.5 % agarose gel.

Table 4.7 PCR protocol for HMPV P gene

Rxn-Puffer (10x)	2,5 µl	Cycling conditions:	
dNTPs (2,5 mM)	2 µl	94°C	10 min
MgCl ₂ (50mM)	2 µl	94°C	30 sec
Forward Primer (10 µM)	0.75 µ	54°C	30 sec
Reverse Primer (10 µM)	0.75 µl	72°C	1 min
Platinum Taq Polymerase (5U/µl)	0.25 µl	72°C	10 min
Template	5 µl		
Double distilled water	ad 25 µl		

} 45x

Table 4.8 PCR protocol HRSV G gene (semi nested)

Rxn-Puffer (10x)	2.5 µl	Cycling conditions:	
dNTPs (2.5 mM)	2 µl	94°C	10 min
MgCl ₂ (50mM)	2 µl	94°C	30 sec
Forward Primer (10 µM)	0.75 µ	50°C	30 sec
Reverse Primer (10 µM)	0.75 µl	72°C	1 min
Platinum Taq Polymerase (5U/µl)	0.25 µl	72°C	10 min
Template	3-5 µl ^e		
Double distilled water	ad 25 µl		

} 35x

^e first round: 5µl; nested round: 3µl

Table 4-9 Primers and probes used in this study

Pathogen	Name	Sequence	AT (°C)	Gene	Reference
RSV A+B (Taqman)	N15 s N184 as RSV MGB	GATGGCTCTTAGCAAAGTCAAGTT CATCTTCWGTGATTAATARCATCRCACATA 6-FAM-ACAGGAGATARTATTDAYACTC	60	N	Reiche et al. 2009
HMPV (Taqman; used for screening of tissue samples)	F4 s R9 as F4-Inosin s R9-Inosin as HMPV-MGB	ACCTTGCTTAAGGAATCATCAGG GTCCCACTTCTATGGTTGATGCTAG ACCTTGCTTAAGGAATCATCAGG GTCCCACTTCTATGGTTGATGCTAG 6-Fam TCAGCACCAGACACACC	60	N	Finsterbusch in prep.
HMPV (Taqman; used for screening of faecal samples)	HMPV Fs HMPV Fs 1 HMPV Fas HMPV Fas1 HMPV TMG HMPV TMGB1	GCTCCGTAATYTACATGGTGCA GAAGCTCYGTGATTTACATGGTYCA GACCTGCARTCTGACAATACCA AGTKGATCCTGCATTTTTACAATACCA 6-Fam CCYTGCTGGATAGTAAAA 6-Fam CCTTGTTGGATAATCAA	60	F	Reiche in prep.
Influenza A (Taqman)	M+25 s M-124 as probe +64	AGATGAGTCTTCTAACCGAGGTCG TGCAAAAACATCTTCAAGTCTCTG 6-FAM-TCAGGCCCCCTCAAAGCCGA-TAMRA	60	M	Schweiger et al. 2000
Influenza B (Taqman)	B-MP-46 s B-MP-214 as BS-MP-103	CAATTGCCTACCTGCTTTCA TAGAGGCACCAATTAGTGCT TET-CTGCTAGTTCTGCTTTGCCTTCTCCATCT-TAMRA	60	M	Schweiger et al. 2000
Adeno Virus (Taqman)	AD-024 s AD-024 as AD-024 probe	GACGCTCGGAGTACCTGAG RGCCAGIGTRWAICGMRCYTTGTA 6-FAM-CTGGTGCAGTTTGCCCGC-TAMRA	60	DPol	Chmielewicz et al. 2005
Enterovirus (Taqman)	E-TM1 s E-TM2 as Enterovirus probe	GCCCCGAATGCGGCTAAT RATTGTCACCATAAGCAGYCA 6-FAM AACCGACTACTTTGGGTGTCCGTGTTTC-TAMRA	60	5' UTR	Push et al. 2005

AT: annealing temperature; s: sense; as: antisense

Table 4.9 continued

Pathogen	Name	Sequence	AT (°C)	Gene	Referenc
PIV 1-3 (1st round)	HPIV1 s HPIV1 as HPIV2 s HPIV2 as HPIV3 s HPIV3 as	CCTTAAATTCAGATATGTAT GATAAATAATTATTGATACG AACAACTCTGCTGCAGCATTT ATGTCAGACAAATGGGCAAAT CTGTAAACTCAGACTTGGTA TTTAAGCCCTTGTCAACAAC	50	HN	Echevarría, et al. 1998 * modified by Schweiger et al.
PIV 1-3 (nested)	HPIV1 s HPIV1 as HPIV2 s HPIV2 as ParaIII-1060 s ParaIII-1150 as	CCGGTAATTTCTCATACCTATG CTTTGGAGCGGAGTTGTTAAG CCATTTACCTAAGTGATGGAAT GCCCTGTTGTATTTGGAAGAGA CCTGGTCCAACAGATGGGT (modified*) ACACCCAGTTGTG TTGCAGATT (modified*)	58		
Measles (1st round)	MaN 1 s MaN 2 as	GGTYCGGATGGTTCGAGAACA GRITCATCAAGGACTCAAGTG	54	N	Santibanez et al. 1999
Measles (nested)	MaN 3 s MaN 4 as	TGAAGTGCAAGACCCTGAGGG TTC ATG CAG TCC AAG AGC AGG	54		
Corona	CoVall s CoVall as	AARTTTTAYGGYGGBTGGVATRAYATGTT TGYTGDGARCARAAYTCRTGWGGTCC	60	<i>pp1ab</i>	Nitsche in prep.
Picorna (seminested)	OL-26 s OL-27 as JWA-1b as	GCACITCTGTTTCCCC CGGACACCCAAAGTAG CATTCAGGGGCCGGAGGA	55	5'UTR	Jang et al. 2005
HMPV	MPVP 01.6 s MPVM 02.4 as	ATGTCATTCCCTGAAGGA GTCTACTAGGTAGGACTCCAT	54	P	Mackay et al. 2004
RSV A (seminested)	GPA s F1 as nRSAG s	TTGAAGTGTTCAACTTCGTTCC CAACTCCATTGTTATTTGCC TATGCAGCAACAATCCAACC	50	G	Sato et al. 2005
RSV B (seminested)	GPB s F1 as nRSBG s	AAGATGATTACCATTTTGAAGT see RSV A GTGGCAACAATCAACTCTGC	50		

AT: annealing temperature; s: sense; as: antisense

4.1.2.5 DNA purification

PCR products of HRSV and HMPV were purified using the QIAquick PCR purification kit. When multiple bands were present, the expected band (458bp for HRSV and 937bp for HMPV) was cut out of the gel, purified using the Gel Extraction Spin Kit and then cloned with the Topo TA Cloning Kit according to the manufacture's instructions. Colonies were analysed by colony PCR and PCR products of positive clones were purified with ExoSAP according to the manufacture's instructions.

4.1.2.6 Sequencing

Sequence analysis was performed according to Sanger (Sanger et al., 1977). For the sequencing reaction the ABI Big Dye Termination Kit was used (Table 4.10). For sequences longer than 500bp the "1/2 mix" was used. Primers were the same as used for DNA amplification (unless otherwise stated). Samples were processed by an ABI Prism 3100 Genetic analyser.

Table 4.10 Sequence protocol

	¼ Mix	½ Mix	Cycling conditions:		
Primer	0.5 µl	0.5 µl	96°C	2 min	
Big Dye	1 µl	2 µl	96°C	10 sec	} 25x
ABI Buffer	1.5 µl	1 µl	50-60°C	5 sec	
Double distilled water	Ad 10 µl	Ad 10 µl	60°C	4 min	
DNA	see below	see below			

PCR products:	100-200bp	1-3ng
	200-500bp	3-10ng
	500-1000bp	10-20ng

4.1.2.7 Phylogenetic analysis

The obtained sequence data was analysed with Seqman software. Sequences were aligned to human sequences from the GenBank database using the program BioEdit.

Viral sequences generated from chimpanzee samples were compared to sequences amplified from human patients that were available in GenBank (see appendix, table 8.1 and 8.2). Final data sets contained 99 taxa for HRSV and 36 taxa for HMPV and were trimmed in length to 381 and 867 bp, respectively, to avoid large end gaps. The following analyses were conducted in cooperation with Dr. R. Biek (University of Glasgow): adequate substitution models were selected based on Akaike's Information Criterion from the set of models included in Modeltests (Posada & Crandall, 1998) as well as several codon-position (CP) models (Shapiro et al., 2006). Model likelihoods were calculated

in Paup* v4.0b10 (Swofford, 2003) and in baseml which is part of the PAML package (Yang, 1997). The selected models were GTR+G for HRSV and HKYuf₁₁₂ + CP₁₁₂ + G₁₁₂ for HMPV (Biek et al., 2007). Maximum Likelihood (ML) trees were found using heuristic searches in Treefinder (Jobb, 2007) based on the previously estimated model parameters. The same program was used to assess the statistical support for individual nodes based on 1000 bootstrap replicates. Trees were rooted using the two oldest sequences from 1960 and 1962 as an outgroup in the case of HRSV and by midpoint rooting in the case of HMPV.

Evolutionary rates and the corresponding divergence dates associated with the human virus/chimpanzee virus splits were estimated in BEAST v1.4.8 (Drummond & Rambaut, 2007). Only taxa for which the year of sampling was available were included in the analysis (HRSV: n = 90, HMPV: n = 25). Six HMPV sequences from 2003/2004 were randomly assigned in equal parts to each of the two years. Two independent runs with 10 Million generations under a constant population size model were performed with the first 1 Million generations being subsequently removed as burn-in. Convergence between runs and effective sample sizes for parameters of interest were assessed using program Tracer (Rambaut & Drummond, 2007). No date was available for a HRSV sequence from Beijing which was the human-derived virus in the data set most closely related to the chimpanzee viruses found during the 2006 outbreak. In this case the estimated genetic ML divergence between the two groups was combined with the median evolutionary rate estimate to produce a divergence date. Upper and lower bound of the 95% highest posterior density interval of the rate estimate were used to provide a confidence interval.

4.1.3 Virus isolation

To isolate and further characterise the viruses found in the chimpanzees lung tissue from Virunga, Ophelia, Orest, Candy and Isha's Baby were selected⁴. Virus isolation was performed under high safety (BSL3) conditions, as it was not known if human-pathogenic viruses were present in the samples.

4.1.3.1 Cell lines and cultivation of cells

The following cell lines for isolation of HRSV and HMPV were used: Hep2 for RSV (Hall et al., 1975) and LLC-MK2 for HMPV (Boivin et al., 2002). Both cell lines are adherent growing and were incubated in cell culture flasks. Growth medium (D-MEM) was supplemented with 1% L-glutamine and 5 % FCS for Hep2 and respectively 10 % FCS for LLC-MK2. For LLC-MK2, trypsin was also

⁴ Leonardo, Loukoum and Lefkas were not included due to scarcity of sample material

added to the medium (0.08 %). Cells were incubated at 37°C in a 5 % CO₂ incubator and split every 3-4 days. Therefore, cells were detached using a trypsin-EDTA solution (1:2) and resuspended in fresh medium in a proportion of 1:3 to 1:6.

4.1.3.2 Preparation of tissue samples

Based on the results from PCR screening, HRSV-positive samples were used for inoculation of Hep2 cells and HMPV-positive samples were used for inoculation of LLC-MK2 cells. Medium used for homogenization and inoculation was D-MEM. For HMPV, no supplements were added while for RSV, D-MEM contained 1% FCS.

Samples were processed based on three approaches:

A piece of tissue (size of a lentil) was homogenized in 1 ml of D-MEM using a micro-homogeniser. Homogenized tissue was then centrifuged for ten minutes at 3000 rpm. Both supernatant and pellet were used for infection of the cells: The supernatant was filtered (4.5 nm filter) and then used for infection of the cells (approach 1). The pellet was resuspended in 500 µl of D-MEM and the suspension was used for infection (approach 2). Additionally, one small piece of tissue (Ø 3mm) was placed directly on the cells and 0.5ml of D-MEM was added (approach 3).

4.1.3.3 Infection of cells

One day before infection, 2 x 10⁴/cm² Hep2 cells and respectively 4 x 10⁴/cm² LLC-MK2 were seeded on 24-well plates to get 70-80 % cell layers on the day of inoculation. Cells were counted with a Neubauer counting chamber. Negative controls were incubated separately. Medium was removed and cells were then inoculated with sample material processed as described above. Cells were incubated for 1h at 37 °C. After incubation, the supernatant was removed and 1ml of D-MEM (for RSV: 3 % FCS; for HMPV: 5 % FCS and 0.08 % Trypsin) was added. Attention was paid to ensure that the piece of tissue (approach 3) was still placed on the cells. Except for the cells infected with the filtrate, antibiotics (penicillin/streptomycin; 10x) was added to the medium. Cells were cultivated for seven days at 37°C in an incubator (5 % CO₂); daily, the cultures were observed microscopically for the presence of a cytopathic effect (CPE).

Three days after infection, daily samples were taken for molecular analysis of viral growth; in this process 140 µl of the supernatant were taken and replaced with fresh medium. The supernatant was then used for RNA extraction using the QIAamp viral Kit according to the manufactures recommendation. cDNA synthesis (see chapter 4.1.2.2) was performed and samples were tested quantitatively by real time PCR (see chapter 4.1.2.3) for HMPV and HRSV, respectively.

4.1.3.4 Cell culture passage

As the incubation time of HMPV is longer than one week, supernatant from the infected cultures was not passaged but cells and media were split after the first and the second week. Therefore, the supernatant was removed and kept aside, the cells were washed and detached as described above. To remove the trypsin, cells were resuspended in 10 ml D-MEM and centrifuged for 10 min at 1000 rpm. The supernatant was discarded and cells were resuspended in 3ml D-MEM (5 % FCS and 0.08 % trypsin). Finally, the supernatant from the previous passage was added to the medium and the suspension was split 1:3.

For cultivation of HRSV, 200µl of the supernatant was passaged on new cells, which had been seeded on 24-well plates ($2 \times 10^4/\text{cm}^2$) the day before. Cells were incubated for 1 h at 37 °C. Cells from the previous passage were then harvested after one freeze-thaw cycle and stored at -80°C as a backup sample. Virus passage was performed after 7 and 14 days.

In total, cells were incubated for 14 days and 21 days for HRSV and HMPV, respectively.

4.1.4 Characterisation of respiratory bacteria

Previous work on the detection of respiratory bacteria in the lung tissue revealed the presence of *S. pneumoniae* and *P. multocida*; methods and results concerning their detection as well as the characterisation of *S. pneumoniae* are described elsewhere (Chi et al., 2007). The present work focuses on the isolation and characterisation of *P. multocida*.

4.1.4.1 Sources of isolates

Isolates originated from the lungs from two female chimpanzees from the South Group that died due to respiratory disease in March 2004 and from the pus of a male group member that suffered from airsacculitis (see chapter 4.1.1). An overview about the analysed material and the respective isolates is given in table 4.11.

Table 4.11 Origin of isolates

Isolate Nr.	Individual	Material	Date of sample collection	Symptoms
996	Sagu	Pus	May 09	Airsacculitis
114	Virunga	Lung tissue	March 04	Respiratory
121				
122				
127				
420	Ophelia	Lung tissue	March 04	Respiratory

4.1.4.2 Culture conditions and biochemical analyses

Lung tissue was placed in brain heart infusion (BHI) and incubated overnight at 37°C.⁵ Consecutively, the BHI as well as the swabs from the pus were inoculated on tryptic soy yeast extract (TSYE) agar supplemented by 5 % of defibrinated sheep blood and were identified as *P. multocida* using standard biochemical procedures, including production of catalase, oxidase, and indol, urease activity, as well as production of ornithine. Biochemical analyses were done according to the Manual of Clinical Microbiology (Murray et al., 1999). Isolates were further characterised by fermentation reactions to eight carbohydrate substrates as has been described by Mutters (Mutters et al., 1989). A total of six isolates from three different individuals were selected for further investigation (see table 4.11). Of these, five were isolated from two deceased individuals from the respiratory outbreak in 2004 and one was from the chimpanzee which underwent surgery of the air sacs in 2009.

4.1.4.3 Antimicrobial susceptibility testing

Antimicrobial susceptibility was tested by agar diffusion test according to the standards given by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI, 2004). Therefore, isolates were grown overnight in BHI at 37 °C. A 0.5 McFarland suspension of each isolate was prepared in sterile distilled water and inoculated on TSYE agar supplemented by 5 % of defibrinated sheep blood.

The antimicrobial compounds tested included amoxicillin amoxicillin with clavulanic acid (20/10 µg), amikacin (30 µg), ampicillin (10 µg), cefalexin (30 µg), cefazolin (30 µg), cefovecin (30 µg), chloramphenicol (30 µg), clindamycin (2 µg), doxycycline (30 µg), enrofloxacin (5 µg), gentamycin (10 µg), marbofloxacin (5 µg), penicillin (10 U), polymyxin B (300 IU), sulfamethoxazole with trimethoprim (23,75/1, 25 µg), and tetracycline (30 µg). Plates were incubated at 37 °C for 16-24 h and resistance to the drugs was interpreted based on the measurements of the zone diameters.

4.1.4.4 DNA preparations

DNA Extraction

Bacterial DNA was extracted by a boiling procedure. Colony material was suspended in 50 µl of ddH₂O, boiled for 10 minutes and centrifuged. Two microliters of the supernatant served as a template for PCR reactions. For the *sodA* PCR as well as for MLST analysis, total DNA was

⁵ Primary cultivation from lung tissue was performed by M. Leider. All further biochemical and molecular analysis were performed by the author.

extracted using the Master Pure™ Genomic DNA Purification Kit according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

Capsular typing and detection of virulence associated genes

P. multocida strains were analysed by two Multiplex PCRs for the presence of capsule biosynthesis genes *capA*, *D* and *F* and several virulence associated genes (VAG) as has been described before (Ewers, 2006; Townsend et al., 2001).

In the first Multiplex PCR, isolates were tested for the the *P. multocida* specific *kmt* gene, the *toxA* gene and the genes *capA* and *capD*. For further characterisation a second Multiplex PCR targeting the VAG *ptfA/fim4*, *exbB/tonB*, *oma87*, *nanB*, *nanH*, *pflAB*, *hgbB*, *hgbA* was performed. For *thpA*, *sodC*, *sodA* and *ompH* single PCRs were performed. PCR protocols are given in table 4.12 and 4.13. DNA-sequences of oligonucleotide primers are shown in table 4.14. *P. multocida* strains NCTC 10322 (capsular type A) and ATCC 12948 (capsular type D) served as positive controls. Amplification products were analysed by gel electrophoresis on a 1.5% agarose gel, stained with ethidium bromide, and photographed under UV exposure.

Table 4.12 PCR protocol for Multiplex 1 and 2

	Multiplex 1	Multiplex 2		
Rxn-Puffer (10x)	2.5 µl	2.5 µl	Cycling conditions:	
dNTPs (2,5 mM)	2 µl	0.6 µl	94°C	5 min
MgCl ₂ (50mM)	2 µl	2 µl	94°C	30 sec
Each pair of primers (100 µM)	0.1 µ	0.1 µ	58°C	45 sec
Platinum Taq Polymerase (5U/µl)	0.2 µl	0.3 µl	68°C	210 sec
Template (heat boiled DNA)	2 µl	2 µl	72°C	10 min
Double distilled water	ad 25 µl	ad 25 µl	4°C	∞

} 25x

Table 4.13 PCR protocol for single PCRs

		Cycling conditions:	
Rxn-Puffer (10x)	2.5 µl	94°C	5 min
dNTPs (2,5 mM)	2 µl	94°C	30 sec
MgCl ₂ (50mM)	1 µl	52-58°C ^f	45 sec
Forward primer (10 µM)	0.75 µ	68°C	90 sec
Reverse primer (10 µM)	0.75 µl	72°C	10 min
Platinum Taq Polymerase (5U/µl)	0.1 µl	4°C	∞
Template (heat boiled DNA)	2-5 µl		
Double distilled water	ad 25 µl		

} 25x

^f respective annealing temperatures are listed in table 4.14

Multi Locus Sequence Typing

Multilocus sequence typing (MLST) is an established technique for characterising isolates of bacterial species using the sequences of internal fragments of seven house-keeping genes. For each house-keeping gene, the different sequences present within a bacterial species are assigned as distinct alleles and, for each isolate, the alleles at each of the seven loci define the allelic profile or sequence type (ST). Hence, to investigate the relationships among the chimpanzees and other isolates of *P. multocida*, MLST analysis was performed and PCR fragments of all seven housekeeping genes were obtained for all isolates. Standard primers and protocols were used as described at http://pubmlst.org/pmultocida_rirdc/info/primers.shtml.

Pulsed-field gel electrophoresis

Pulsed field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) has been first described in 1984 (Schwartz and Cantor 1984) and is since then considered as the gold standard for bacterial genotyping. PFGE enables the separation of extremely large DNA, raising the upper size limit of DNA separation in agarose from 30-50 kb to well over 10 Mb.

The protocol was as follows: *P. multocida* isolates were grown overnight in BHI at 37 °C and adjusted with PBS to an optimal density (OD)₆₀₀ of approximately 0.7. Strain NCTC 10322 (*P. multocida*, capsular type A) served as experimental control. One and a half milliliters of culture was used for DNA preparation and centrifuged to obtain a bacterial pellet (8000rpm for 5min). The supernatant was discarded and the Pellet resuspended in 250 µl of PBS by vortexing. The bacterial suspension was warmed to 37 °C. The 1.2 % PFGE agarose was melted and equilibrated to 60 °C. Two-hundred and fifty millilitres of agarose were added to the bacterial suspension and mixed thoroughly. The mixture was transferred to plug moulds and the agarose was allowed to solidify at 4 °C for 20 min. The solidified plugs were incubated in 0.5 ml of ESP solution (containing proteinase K) at 56 °C overnight. The plugs were washed four times in 13 ml TE buffer for 30 minutes each at 4 °C with gentle agitation. The plug were halved and rinsed with 1 ml of fresh TE buffer. Prior to restriction, each plug was incubated with 0.2 ml 1x restriction buffer for 30 °C at room temperature for equilibration. One half of the plug was digested with ApaI restriction enzyme, the other with SmaI restriction enzyme. For ApaI, plugs were incubated overnight in 150 µl of 1x restriction buffer containing 20 units of the restriction enzyme at 37 °C. For SmaI, plugs were incubated overnight in 200 µl of 1x restriction buffer containing 10 units of the restriction enzyme at 30 °C. After digestion, the buffer was removed and plugs were then equilibrated in 0.5 ml TE buffer. The fragments were separated in a 1.2 % agarose gel in 0.5 x TBE buffer by using a CHEF-DR III system. The electrophoresis condition for ApaI were 6V/cm at 14 °C for 22 h, the ramping times were 1-30 s. The separation of the SmaI fragments was conducted at 5.6 V/cm and pulse time was ramped from 2-5 s for 11 h and 20-40 s for 13 h. Gels were stained with ethidium

bromide, visualized under UV illumination and recorded. PFGE profiles were compared digitally using BioNumerics software (version 4.6). Cluster analysis of Dice similarity indices based on the unweighted pair group method with arithmetic mean (UPGMA) was exerted to generate dendrograms depicting the relationships among PFGE profiles.

4.1.4.5 Phylogenetic Analysis

Sequences from the Mn-dependent superoxide dismutase (*sodA*) and seven housekeeping genes (*adk*, *pgi*, *mdh*, *gdh*, *est*, *pmi*, *zvf*) were generated for phylogenetic and/or MLST analysis. Therefore, PCR products were purified using ExoSAP according to the manufactures recommendation and sequenced as described in chapter 4.1.2.6

The phylogenetic tree for *sodA* was calculated with sequences collected from *P. multocida* strains from the public database NCBI (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) and included all available sequences from strains that had been previously typed to the subspecies level. Alignments were constructed using the ClustalW software program in BioEdit software version 7.0.9 (Hall 1999) and sequences were collapsed into unique haplotypes using FaBox (Villesen 2007). The final data set contained 12 taxa and 464 positions. Accession numbers of all sequences used are listed in the appendix, table 8.3. Furthermore, phylogenetic analysis was performed using concatenated MLST allele sequences of all available STs from the MLST database (72 taxa; 3696 positions (http://pubmlst.org/pmultocida_rirdc/)).

To determine the appropriate nucleotide substitution model, alignments were then exported into jModeltest v0.1.1 (Guindon & Gascuel, 2003; Posada 2008). According to the Akaike information criterion (AIC), comparisons of model likelihoods were most favourable to GTR+G (*sodA*) and GTR+I+G (MLST). Phylogenetic trees were built using the PhyML webserver (<http://www.atgc-montpellier.fr/phyml/>; (Guindon & Gascuel 2003; Guindon et al., 2005). Equilibrium frequencies, topology and branch lengths were optimised, the starting tree was determined using BioNJ and both nearest neighbour interchange (NNI) and subtree pruning and regrafting (SPR) algorithms of tree search were used (keeping the best outcome). Branch robustness was assessed by performing nonparametric bootstrapping with 500 replicates (*sodA*) or 100 replicates (MLST).

Table 4.14 Primers used in this study

Name	Sequence (5' - 3')	Gene	AT (C°)	Reference
KMT_T7 s KMT_SP6 as	ATCCGTATTTACCCAGTGG GCTGTAAACGAACTCGCCAC	<i>Kmt</i>	58	Townsend et al. (2001)
ToxA s ToxA as	CTTAGATGAGCGACAAGGTT GGAATGCCACACCTCTATA	<i>toxA</i>		
CapA s CapA as	TGCCAAAATCGCAGTCAG TTGCCATCATTTGTCAGTG	<i>hyaD</i>		
CapD s CapD as	TTACAAAAGAAAGACTAGGAGCCC CATCTACCCACTCAACCATATCAG	<i>debF</i>		
CapF s CapF as	AATCGGAGAACGCAGAAATCAG TTCCGCCGTCAATTACTCTG	<i>fcbD</i>		
Oma87 s Oma87-1 as	ATGAAAAAACTTTTAATTGCGAGC TGACTTGCGCAGTTGCATAAC	<i>oma87</i>	60	Ewers (2006)
Fim4 s Fim4 as	TGTGGAATTCAGCATTTTAGTGTC TCATGAATTCCTTATGCGCAAAATCCTGCTGG	<i>pjfA</i>		Doughty et al. (2000)
Pm TbPA s Pm TbPA as	TTGGTTGGAAACGGTAAAGC TAACGTGTACGGAAAAGCCC	<i>tbPA</i>		Ewers (2006)
Pm NanB1 s Pm NanB1 as	GTCCTATAAAGTGACGCCGA ACAGCAAAGGAAGACTGTCC	<i>nanB</i>		
Pm NanH1 s Pm NanH1 as	GAATATTTGGGCGGCAACA TTCTCGCCCTGTCACTACT	<i>nanH</i>		
MhPm ExbB s Pm TonB as	GGTGGTGATAATTGATGCGGC GCATCATGCGTGACGGTT	<i>exbBD</i> <i>tonB</i>	60	Ewers (2006)
Past sodA s Past sodA as	ACTGCAGAGAAATAATGATC GTATAGATTGTGATCTCTCT	<i>sodA</i>	55	
Pm SodC s Pm SodC as	AGTTAGTAGCGGGGTGGCA TGGTGCTGGGTGATCATCATG	<i>sodC</i>	55	
Pfha1 s Pfha1 as	AGCTGATCAAGTGGTGAAC TGGTACATTGGTGAATGCTG	<i>pfbB2</i>	60	
HgbA s HgbA as	TGGCGGATAGTCATCAAG CCAAAGAACCACTACCCA	<i>hgbA</i>	60	
HgbB s HgbB as	ACCGCGTTGGAATTATGATTG CATTGAGTACGGCTTGACAT	<i>hgbB</i>	60	
OmpHs_318 OmpHas_317	ATGAAAAAGACAATCGTAGCATTAGC TTAGAAGTGTACGCGTAAACC	<i>ompH</i> ^{PS}	52	

AT: annealing temperature; s : sense; as: antisense

4.2 Analysis of samples from possible transmitters

4.2.1 Humans: sample collection

In cooperation with the Institute Pasteur, Côte d'Ivoire (IPCI), a study on zoonotic diseases in the region of the Tai-National Park was started. People from the surrounding villages were asked about their contact with bushmeat, i.e. hunting and meat consumption, but also about past and recent diseases⁶. During the examination, a blood sample and a throat swab has been taken and stored in liquid nitrogen. All together 779 humans had been sampled. Out of these, 71 swab samples obtained from humans with acute and chronic signs of respiratory disease were selected for the present study. Time of swab sample collection was May 2006 and January 2007.

4.2.2 Colobus monkeys: sample collection

Further samples from other potential pathogen transmitters were collected. Ten red colobus monkeys (*P. badius*) and ten black and white colobus monkeys (*C. polykomus*) were narcotised and blood samples as well as throat and nose swabs were obtained and stored in liquid nitrogen. Anaesthesia and sample collection have been done by F. Leendertz and S. Leendertz.

4.2.2.1 Extraction of nucleic acids from throat swabs

Throats swabs from both human and colobus samples were vortexed for 30 s in 1 ml of DMEM⁷. RNA and DNA were extracted simultaneously using the QIAamp viral Kit according to the manufactures recommendation, except that columns were loaded twice for higher RNA/DNA concentrations. Therefore, the volume of starting material, AVL buffer and ethanol was doubled.

4.2.2.2 Screening for respiratory pathogens

cDNA was synthesized as described in chapter 4.1.2.2. Both human and colobus samples were screened for the presence of the respiratory viruses found in the chimpanzees using the HRSV and HMPV real-time PCR assays described above (see table 4.5 and 4.6). Additionally, DNA from colobus monkeys was screened for the *P. multocida* specific *ktm* gene (see table 4.13).

⁶ Sample collection has been done by Dr. E. Adjougou, IPCI

⁷ DMEM was used to allow subsequent cell culture experiments using the same sample (data not shown).

4.3 Non invasive diagnostics: PCR screening of faecal samples

The following study design is build on the results obtained from the analysis of the lung tissue from the chimpanzees that died during the respiratory outbreaks, where two paramyxoviruses, HMPV and HRSV were found (see chapter 5.1.1).

4.3.1 Faecal sample collection

Faecal samples are collected continuously from symptomatic and asymptomatic chimpanzees immediately after defecation and are assigned to the respective individual; thus samples can be linked to age, sex and the presence of symptoms. Samples are then transported on ice to the field camp and preserved in liquid nitrogen and thereafter sent to the Robert Koch-Institut for molecular analyses.

Faecal samples analysed in this study originate from four respiratory disease outbreaks, for two of these outbreaks (March 2004 and February 2006) the causative pathogens have been described through analyses of necropsy samples (see chapter 5.1.1), for the other two (October 2004 and August 2005) the causative pathogens were not known.

The duration of each outbreak was defined by the first and last observed clinical symptoms in the group. Sample size varied between 29-65 depending on the duration of the outbreaks with 1-12 samples collected per day and between 1-7 samples collected from individual chimpanzees over the course of an outbreak. As a control, two sets of samples were tested: First, samples were selected from a 4-week period in June/July 2005, when the whole group appeared healthy and showed no respiratory symptoms. Samples were chosen from the same individuals that had been tested during outbreak times, resulting in a total of 21 individuals that were tested for the presence of HMPV and HRSV (one sample each). Second, in order to determine if HMPV and HRSV were persistent in affected individuals, additional samples which had been collected in the time between consecutive outbreaks were tested (33 samples from 10 individuals) (see figure 4.1).

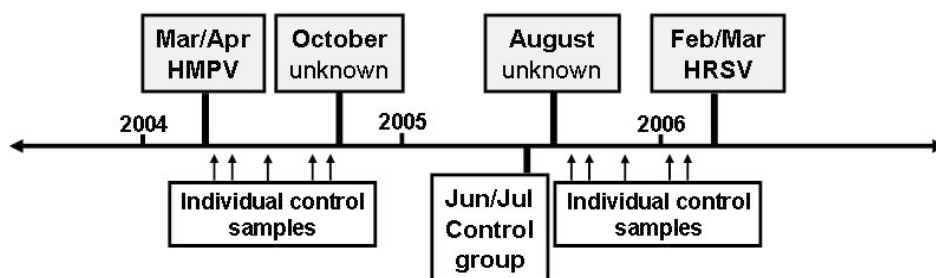


Figure 4.1 Schematic overview about the outbreak times and sample collection

4.3.2 Molecular analysis

4.3.2.1 Extraction of nucleic acids

RNA was extracted from approximately 60 mg faeces using the GeneMATRIX Stool DNA Purification Kit according to manufacturer's instructions aside from a minor modification in the first step where 5 µl of carrier-RNA were added to the bead tubes containing the dispersion and lyses buffer. It should be noted that the kit was specified for recovery of DNA, but viral RNA was co-purified.

4.3.2.2 Screening for HMPV and HRSV

cDNA was synthesized as described in chapter 4.1.2.2. Using established Taqman PCR assays, samples were screened for HRSV (Reiche et al. 2009) and HMPV (Reiche et al., submitted). Information on primers and probes are given in table 4.9.; for PCR protocols see table 4.6 (HRSV) and table 4.15 (HMPV). Samples were screened in duplicate and PCR products were additionally analysed by electrophoresis in a 2 % agarose gel. To control for false-negative results due to PCR inhibitors, negative tested cDNA samples were diluted 1:10 in H₂O and retested. For quantification, plasmids containing the PCR target region in already defined concentrations were used (range of 10⁶ to 10¹ plasmid copies; 10-fold serial dilutions). Negative controls were included in each run.

Table 4.15 Real time PCR protocol HMPV (used for faecal samples)

Rxn-Puffer (10x)	2.5 µl	Cycling conditions:		
dNT(U)Ps (2.5 mM)	2,5 µl			
MgCl ₂ (50mM)	1 µl	94°C	10 min	} 40 x
HMPV Fas (10µM)	0.5 µl	94°C	15 sec	
HMPV Fs (10µM)	0.5 µl	60°C	34 sec	
HMPV Fas1 (10µM)	0.5 µl			
HMPV Fs1 (10µM)	0.5 µl			
Probe HMPV MGB (10µM)	0.25			
Probe HMPV MGB1 (10µM)	0.25			
Platinum Taq Polymerase (5U/µl)	0.1 µl			
Template	3 µl			
Double distilled water	ad 25 µl			

4.3.2.3 Phylogenetic analysis of HMPV and HRSV RNA from faecal samples

Randomly, positive samples with a viral load > 10 copies/ μ l cDNA (determined by Taqman PCR) were selected for further characterisation by PCR assays targeting phylogenetically relevant DNA fragments (4/21 for the 2004, 6/22 for the 2005 and 3/6 for the 2006 outbreak). Concerning the HRSV outbreaks, we included samples from individuals that had been tested positive in both 2005 and 2006 (n=3). Protocols are given in chapter 4.1.2.4.

Viral sequences generated from faeces were then compared to sequences previously generated from tissue samples using BioEdit.

4.3.3 Analysis of observational and molecular data

The prevalence of respiratory disease was calculated for every outbreak based on both molecular data (percentage of positive tested individuals) and observational data (percentage of individuals observed with symptoms). Differences in the number of positive tested individuals between outbreaks caused by the same virus were calculated using the McNemar test and based on repeated observations of the same respective individuals. We used exact test since the sample sizes were small (Siegel & Castellan, 1988; Mundry & Fischer, 1998). A p-value < 0.05 was considered significant.

To compare molecular and observational data, the percentages of observed symptomatic individuals and PCR positive faecal samples were plotted against the time course of the respective outbreaks including the mean viral load of the samples. For graphic illustration, the viral load was represented in terms of categories that differentiate between a low, medium and high viral load. Therefore, all copy numbers were logarithmised to the base of 10 and the according range was divided in an upper, middle and lower third (separately for HMPV and HRSV). Since faecal sample size ranged from 1-12 samples per day, data from every 2 days was pooled to avoid small sample sizes. Observational data was pooled in the same way to fit the molecular data. Between 2 and 35 chimpanzees were observed per day during the outbreaks.

5 Results

5.1 Detection and characterisation of respiratory pathogens

5.1.1 Screening for respiratory viruses

Necropsy samples were screened for influenza virus A and B, HRSV, HMPV, measles virus, adenovirus, enterovirus, rhinovirus and coronavirus by using different generic PCR methods (see chapter 4.1.2.3). All available samples tested positive for one of two paramyxoviruses: HRSV was diagnosed in two individuals (“Lefkas” and “Loukoum”) that died in the 1999 North Group outbreak and in one adult female (East Group, “Candy”) and one infant (South Group, “Isha's Baby”) who died in the 2006 outbreak, which occurred simultaneously in both groups. The second virus identified was HMPV, detected in three animals (“Ophelia”, “Orest”, “Virunga”) that died in the 2004 South Group outbreak. PCR screening results are given in table 5.1, together with an overview about mortality, morbidity and the outcomes from the bacterial PCR screening (performed by M. Leider).

Table 5.1 Characteristics of three respiratory epidemics observed in the Tai chimpanzees

	May 1999	March 2004	February 2006	
Group	North	South	South	East
Group size	n = 32	n = 44	n = 34	n.d. ^b
Pathogens identified	HRSV	HMPV	HRSV	HRSV
	S. pneu. (2308) ^f	S. pneu. (2309), P. multo. ^f	S. pneu. (2309) ^f	S. pneu. (2308) ^f
Morbidity^a	100%	100%	92%	n.d. ^b
Mortality^d	6 ^c / 32	8 / 44	1 / 34	2
- adult/adolescent^e	5 / 15	0 / 22	0 / 19	2
- juvenile^e	1 / 7	3 / 10	0 / 5	0
- infant^e	0 / 10	5 / 12	1 / 10	0

^a Morbidity rates refer to the total number of weaned individuals observed with respiratory symptoms during an epidemic.

^b nd, not determined because this group is not fully habituated and the number of individuals unknown.

^c After this outbreak three infants died of starvation after their mothers died of disease.

^d Mortality refers to total group size and the number of cases of death due to respiratory disease excluding indirect cases (c).

^e Age classes for Tai chimpanzees: infant, 0–5 years; juvenile, 5–10 years; adolescent, 10–15 years; adult, >15 years.

^f For completeness, results from the bacterial screening (performed by M. Leider) are also shown here.

5.1.2 Phylogenetic analysis of detected respiratory viruses

To establish the origin of the chimpanzee disease outbreaks, phylogenetic analyses on HRSV and HMPV were conducted. Both HMPV and two strains of HRSV clustered firmly within known human clades (figures 5.1 A and B). The 1999 chimpanzee HRSV contained a specific insert of 60 base pairs that were first found in human respiratory outbreaks in Buenos Aires in 1999 (Trento et al., 2003). The HRSV strain found in the chimpanzees in 2006 grouped most closely with a strain reported recently from Asia. Both strains belonged to the HRSV subgroup B. For HMPV, fewer sequences were available, but the chimpanzees' strains were closely related to strains circulating in North America and Asia from 1997 to 2000 (Figure 5.1 B) and clustered within subgroup B2.

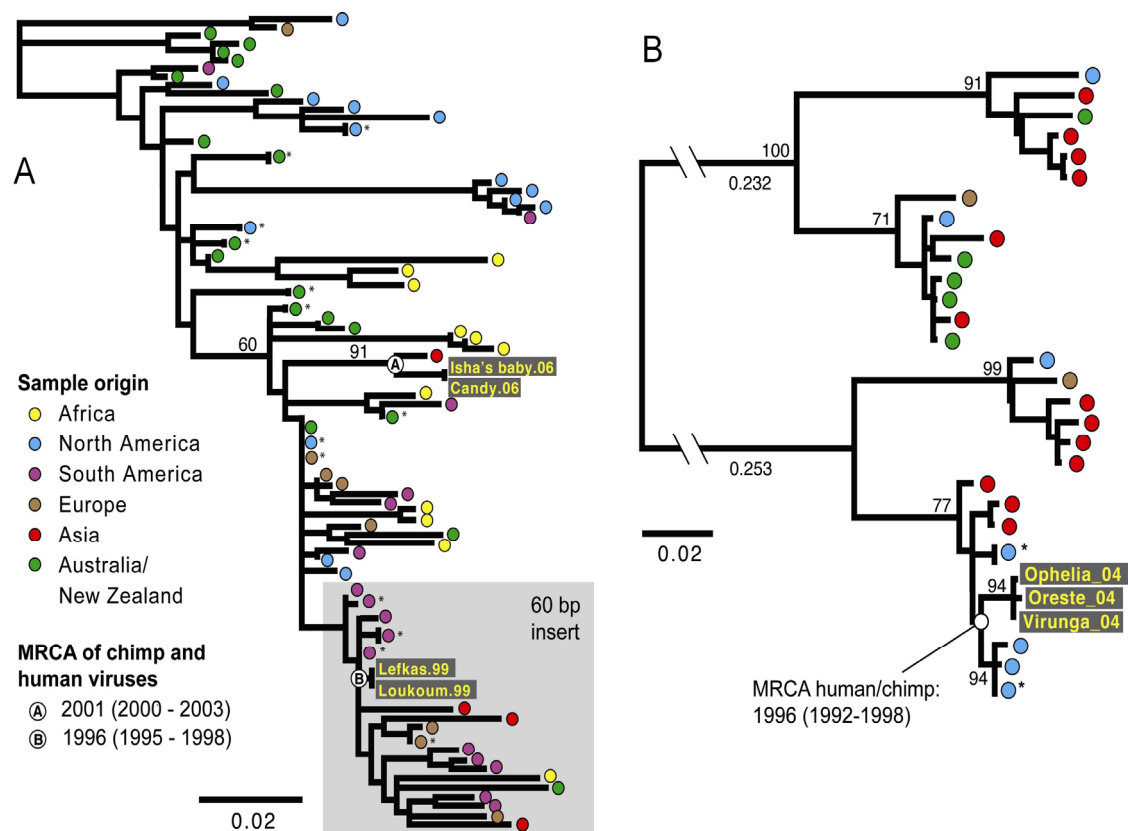


Figure 5.1 Phylogenetic position of HRSV and HMPV amplified from chimpanzees relative to human viruses sampled worldwide. Shown are the phylogenetic trees of HRSV (A) and HMPV (B). Trees were generated under the Maximum Likelihood criterion. Percent bootstrap support for relevant internal nodes is shown above branches. Names of infected chimpanzees are boxed. Stars next to taxa symbols indicate multiple identical sequences from the same locality. Dates associated with the most recent common ancestors (MRCA) of chimpanzee and human viruses were estimated using a Bayesian molecular clock technique; Dates next to ancestral nodes are the estimated year and the 95% posterior density interval. Grey box in A) signifies sequences that share a 60 base pair (bp) insert. Branches in most basal position in B) are not drawn to scale, actual branch lengths are shown below branches. Rooting of the tree was accomplished for HRSV by using the two oldest sequences (1960 and 1962) as outgroups and for HMPV by the midpoint method.

Dates associated with the most recent common ancestors (MRCA) of chimpanzee and human viruses were estimated using a Bayesian molecular clock technique: viruses amplified from chimpanzees and humans shared a common ancestor within 3–6 years for HRSV and 8 years for HMPV (figures 5.1.A and B).

5.1.3 Virus isolation

Lung tissue from the HMPV-positive individuals (“Ophelia”, “Orest” and “Virunga”) and the RSV-positive individuals (“Candy” and “Isha’s Baby”) were used for inoculation of LLC-MK2 or Hep2 cells. No CPE was observed after multiple passages and parallel quantitative PCR analysis of the supernatant did not show an increase of viral copy numbers.

5.1.4 Characterisation of *P. multocida*

Six isolates from three individuals were analysed using biochemical and molecular methods. On a cellular level, small coccoid rods (gram negative) were observed. Colonies were grey-white and mucoid. No morphological differences were observed between the isolates.

5.1.4.1 Biochemistry

All strains were oxidase and catalase positive. The results concerning ornithine decarboxylation, formation of indole, splitting of urea and the fermentation reactions of different carbohydrates are shown in table 5.2. The isolates 114/122/996 differed from the isolates 121/127/420 in the ability to ferment xylose. Fermentation reactions were also considered for the typing of the subspecies; here, variations in sorbitol, dulcitol and arabinose have been reported to be of taxonomic relevance (Mutters et al., 1985). Results of the reactions were read off after 24 and 48 hours. Ambiguous results were performed repeatedly.

Table 5.2 Biochemical profiles of *P. multocida* isolates from chimpanzees

	Oxidase	Ornithine	Indol	Urease	Trehalose	Maltose	Saccharose	Xylose	Arabinose	Mannit	Sorbitol	Dulcitol
Isolates 114/122/996	+	+	+	-	+/-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-
Isolates 121/127/420	+	+	+	-	+/-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-

+: positive

-: negative

+/-: ambiguous result

5.1.4.2 **Antibiotic profile**

Antimicrobial susceptibility testing of the isolates against 16 antimicrobials was performed by agar diffusion test. The panel of antibiotics included β -lactam antimicrobials (amoxicillin, ampicillin, penicillin, cefalexin, cefazolin, cefovecin), aminoglycosides (amikacin, gentamycin), fluorochinolone (enrofloxacin, marbofloxacin), tetracycline (doxycycline, tetracycline), sulfadimidine (sulfamethoxazole with trimethoprim), lincosamide (clindamycin), polymyxine (polymyxin B) and a broad spectrum antibiotic (chloramphenicol). Isolates were intermediate susceptible to tetracycline, resistant to clindamycin and sensitive to all other antibiotics tested.

5.1.4.3 **Genotyping**

PFGE revealed the presence of two different clones: using SmaI, two patterns were distinguished (see figure 5.2), differentiating between the isolates 114/122/996 (referred to as clone 1 in the following text) and 121/127/420 (referred to as clone 2). Four of the isolates originated from the same individual (“Virunga”: isolate 114, 121, 122 and 127), two of which turned out to be identical (114=122 and 121=127). From “Ophelia” (isolate 420) and Sagu (isolate 996) one clone each had been isolated; “Virunga” had been infected with both clones. Data on restriction with ApaI are not shown, since the isolates belonging to clone 2 repeatedly could not be digested with that enzyme.

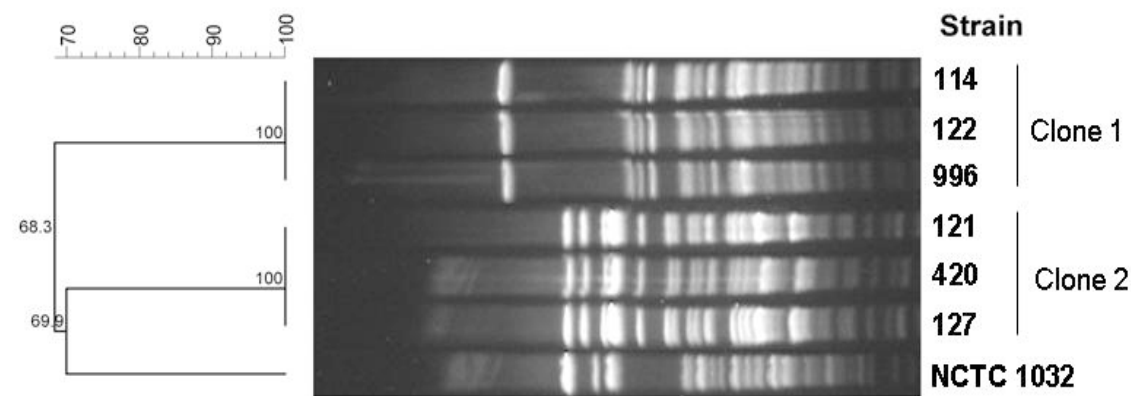


Figure 5.2 Dendrogramm (% similarity) showing DNA restriction pattern after digestion with SmaI for all isolates. NCTC 1032 served as a positive control. Analysis was conducted with BioNumerics using UPGMA. Dice coefficient: 1 % tolerance and 0.5 % optimisation.

5.1.4.4 **Identification of *P. multocida* and capsule typing**

Using PCR methods, isolates were investigated for the *kmt* gene and the presence of three capsule biosynthesis genes. All analysed isolates were of capsular type A and harboured the species specific gene sequence *kmt* (see figure 5.3 A).

5.1.4.5 Virulence associated genes

Isolates were tested for the presence of 14 virulence associated genes by multiplex (see figure 5.3 B) and single PCRs (not shown). All isolates tested positive for the superoxid-dismutases encoding genes *sodA* and *sodC*. Strains were also positive for *ptfA*, coding for a type 4 fimbrial subunit as well as the outer membrane protein encoding genes *oma87* and *ompH* and the gene locus *exbBD-tonB*. Concerning the genes coding for hemoglobin binding proteins, all strains were positive for *hgbB* but only the isolates 121/127/420 (clone 2) were positive for *hgbA*. While *nanB* as a further colonisation-related gene was detected in all strains, the neuraminidase gene *nanH* was only present in the isolates 121/127/420 (clone 2). The transferring binding protein encoding gene *tbpA* was not present in the isolates tested here. The filamentous hemagglutinin encoding *pfhAB* was not present in clone 2 but present in clone 1. All strains were *toxA* negative. An overview of the VAG screening is given in table 5.3.

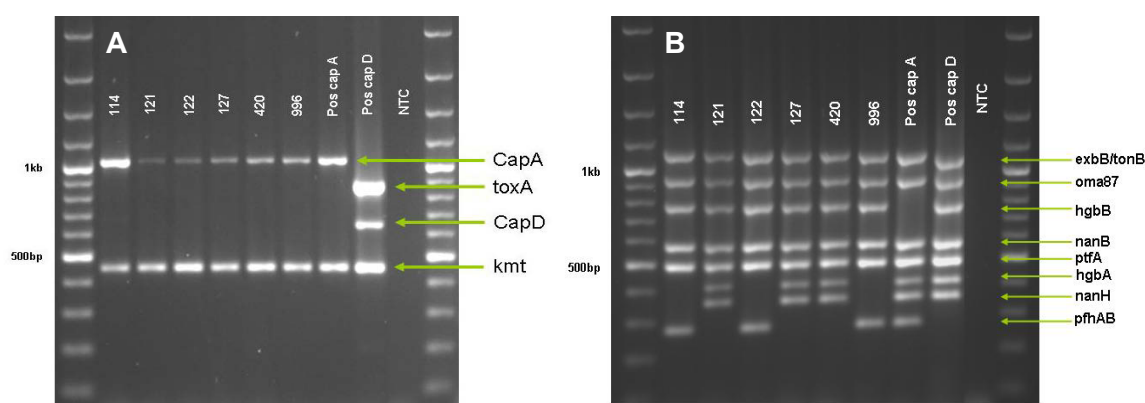


Figure 5.3 Electrophoretic separation of the Multiplex 1 (A) and Multiplex 2 (B) PCR products (1.5 % agarose gel). Positive controls were NCTC 1032 (for capA); ATCC 12948 (for capD).

Table 5.3 VAG profiles of *P. multocida* isolates from chimpanzees

Virulence associated factor	Gene(s)	Amplicon size (bp)	Isolates 114/122/996	Isolates 121/127/420
Capsular				
Capsular type A	<i>capA</i>	1044	+	+
Capsular type D	<i>capD</i>	657	-	-
Dermonekrotoxin	<i>toxA</i>	848	-	-
Iron aquisition factors				
Transferrin binding protein	<i>tbpA</i>	729	-	-
ExbB-ExbD-TonB-Locus	<i>exbB/tonB</i>	1144	+	+
Hemoglobin binding proteins	<i>hgbA</i>	420	-	+
	<i>hgbB</i>	789	+	+

Table 5.3 continued

Virulence associated factor	Gene(s)	Amplicon size (bp)	Isolates 114/122/996	Isolates 121/127/420
Enzymes				
Neuraminidase	<i>nanB</i>	585	+	+
	<i>nanH</i>	361	-	+
Superoxid-dismutases	<i>sodC</i>	235	+	+
	<i>sodA</i>	359	+	+
Outer membrane proteins				
Oma87 Protein	<i>oma87</i>	949	+	+
OmpH	<i>ompH1</i>	1057	+	+
Adhesion related genes				
Filamentous hemagglutinin	<i>pflAB</i>	276	+	-
Type 4 fimbriae	<i>ptfA/fim4</i>	489	+	+

5.1.4.6 MLST analysis

In order to determine the clonal relatedness of the chimpanzee *P. multocida* strains, MLST analysis was performed. For each locus, different sequences were assigned as distinct alleles. This resulted in a 7-digit allelic profile for each isolate (see table 5.4). We found four new allele types in *est*, *gdh*, *mdh* and *pgi* loci in both isolates belonging to clone 1 and also four new allele types in *est*, *pgi*, *pmi* and *zwf* loci in clone 2. Only one allele, *adk*, was identical among all isolates. Based on this allelic profile, two new sequence types (STs) were assigned⁸: ST 68 and ST 69.

Table 5.4 MLST scheme of the chimpanzee isolates as defined by Subsaaharan (2010)

Isolate	Allel number for gene fragment ^a							ST
	adk	est	gdh	mdh	pgi	pmi	zwf	
114/122/996	21	33	20	17	42	26	4	68
121/127/420	21	40	11	14	41	34	31	69

^a allel number written in bold assign for new alleles

⁸ New allele numbers and sequence types were assigned through the curator and entered in the MLST database (<http://pubmlst.org/pmultocida/>)

5.1.4.7 Phylogenetic analysis

For molecular taxonomy, a phylogenetic tree of the *sodA* gene had been created which is shown in figure 5.4. The topology of the *sodA* tree shows that taxa representing different *P. multocida* subspecies are separated, however, statistical support was only given for the branching of *P. multocida* ssp. *septica* and *P. multocida* ssp. *multocida*/*P. multocida* ssp. *gallida*. The chimpanzee isolates group closest with strains of the subspecies *P. multocida* ssp. *multocida* or, in the case of isolates 114/122/996, sequences were even identical with strains that had been classified as subspecies *multocida* (strain CNP 927 and CNP 954 (Gautier et al., 2005)).

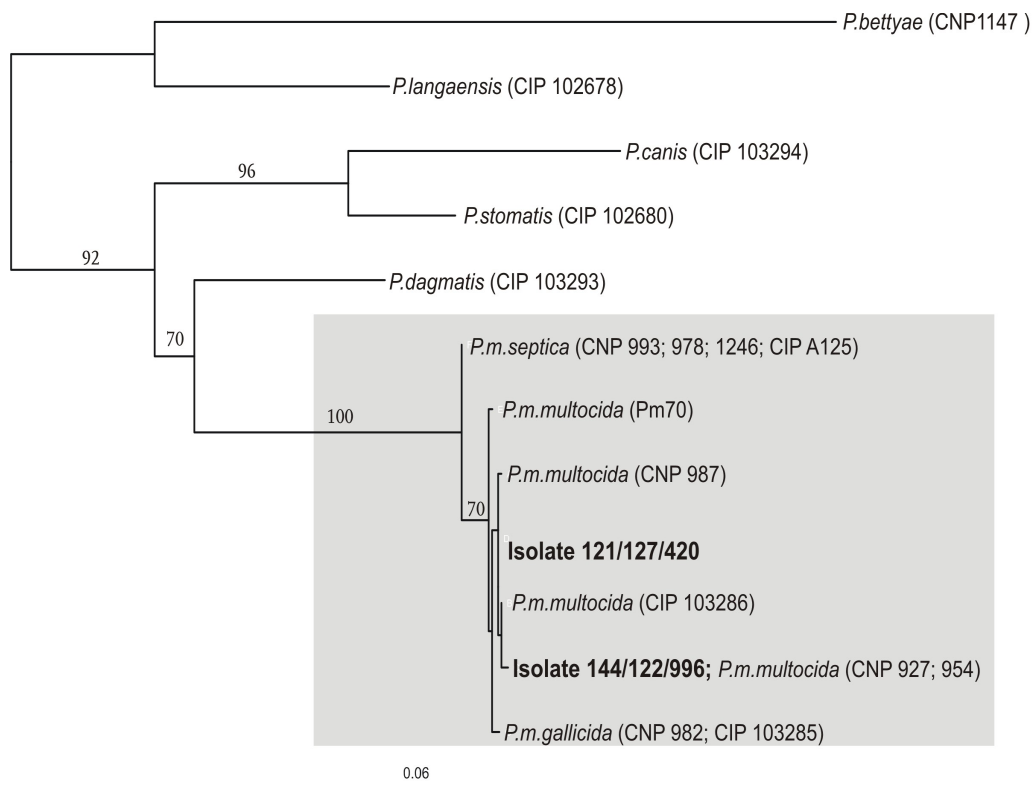


Figure 5.4 Phylogenetic analysis of the *sodA* gene. The tree was built using the maximum-likelihood method from an analysis of *sodA* sequences (452bp) from the chimpanzee's isolates and sequences obtained from GenBank. Isolates belonging to the species *P. multocida* are boxed grey; the chimpanzees isolates are written in bold. Taxon labels indicate species and strain number, including strains with identical *sodA* sequences (species and subspecies assignments are according to Gautier (2005)). *P. langaensis* and *P. bettyae* were used as outgroup. Bootstrap values were calculated with 500 replicates and are given in percent.

To further analyse the genetic relationships between the chimpanzees and other isolates, concatenated gene sequences from both STs were compared to the available *P. multocida* STs from the MLST database. A ML tree was constructed using the concatenated sequences of 73 STs (see figure 5.5) and taxa were colour-coded according to the host they had been isolated from. Due to a lack of a suitable outgroup, the data is presented as an unrooted radial tree. Although not supported by a bootstrap value > 70%, the resulting tree topology depicted two groups; this division was in

general agreement with the population structure recognised by previous studies using MLST (Subsahaaran et al., 2010), ribotyping and MLEE (Blackall et al., 1998): one group consists of isolates originating exclusively from birds and cats⁹ and includes the subspecies *multocida* and *septica* as well as the type strain of the subspecies *septica*. The other group (shown as a subtree; see figure 5.5.A) includes strains from various host (mainly birds, cattle, and pigs) and include the typing strains of the subspecies *multocida* and *gallicida*. The STs found in the chimpanzees group firmly together with strains of the latter group.

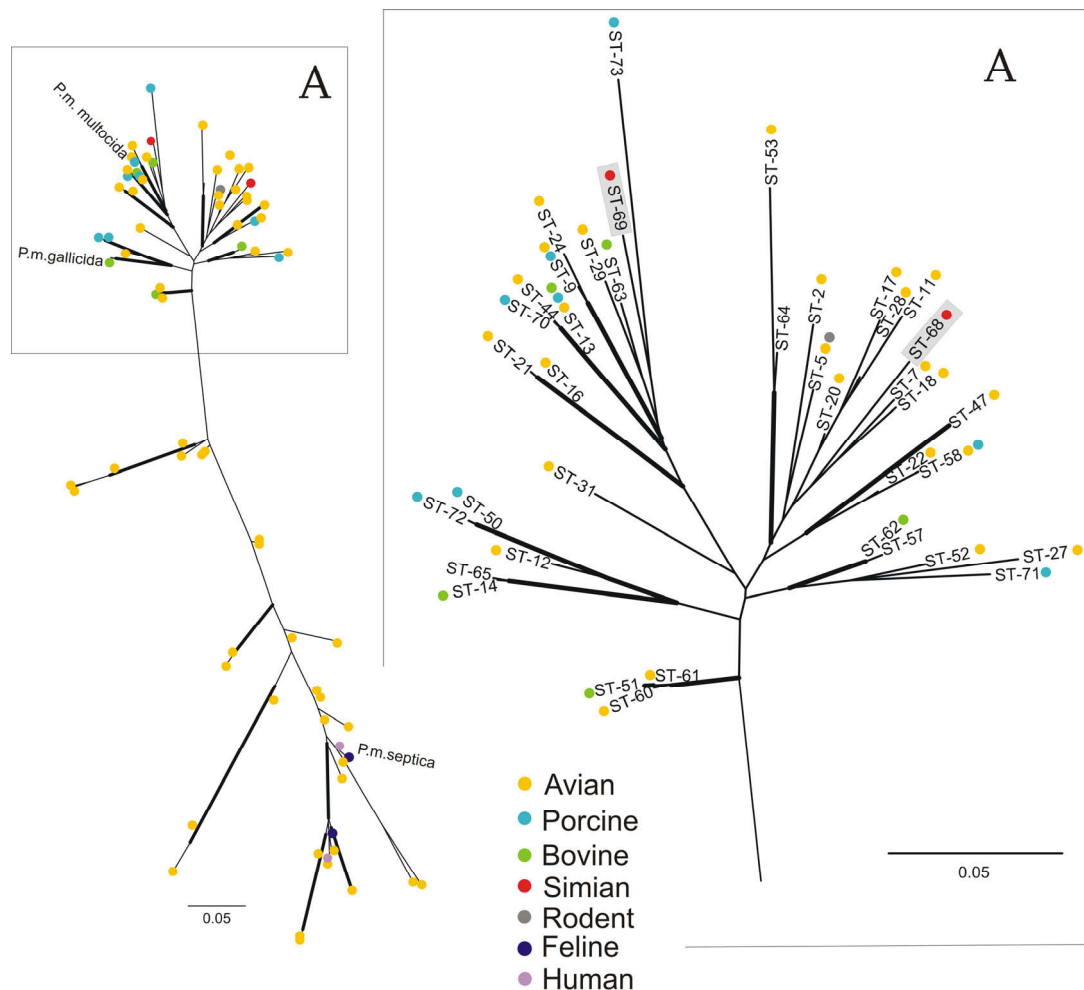


Figure 5.5 Radial Maximum Likelihood trees constructed with concatenated MLST allele sequences. Shown left is the complete MLST tree constructed with 73 STs and the position of the type strains for the *P. multocida* subspecies. The position of the chimpanzee isolates (boxed grey) is displayed in the subtree (A). Taxa are labelled with coloured dots indicating the isolation sources and ST numbers. Bold branches indicate for bootstrap values > 70 %.

⁹ Although the typing strain for *P. multocida* ssp. *septica* had been isolated from a human this might be misleading. Humans are not considered to carry this pathogen naturally and infections are mostly inflicted by scratches or bites from cats or dogs.

5.2 Analysis of further potential transmitters

5.2.1 Human samples

Samples from humans with acute signs of respiratory disease were analysed. Therefore, cDNA from 71 throat swabs were screened for the respiratory viruses which had been detected in the chimpanzees as described above (chapter 5.1.1). All analysed samples tested HRSV- and HMPV negative.

5.2.2 Colobus samples

Samples from ten *P. badius* and ten *C. polykomus* were analysed. cDNA from throat swabs was screened for the presence of HRSV and HMPV and tested negative. Furthermore, DNA was screened for the *P. multocida* specific *kmt* gene. All analysed samples were negative in PCR for this genomic region.

5.3 Noninvasive diagnostic: evaluation of the incidence of respiratory viruses

5.3.1 Screening results

Faecal samples that had been collected during four distinct outbreaks; two with known aetiology (March 2004 and February 2006) and two with unknown aetiology (October 2004 and August 2005) were screened for the presence of HMPV and HRSV RNA.

For the respiratory outbreak in March 2004, with known involvement of HMPV, faecal samples were tested for HMPV by real time PCR. Sixty-five faecal samples collected from 29 chimpanzees were analyzed and 72 % of the individuals tested positive. For the two outbreaks in October 2004 and August 2005, from which no necropsy samples are available, 29 and 60 faecal samples from 15 and 24 individuals, respectively, were screened for HMPV and HRSV. From the outbreak in October 2004, only one individual tested weakly positive for HMPV, and in the August 2005 outbreak 92 % of the individuals were positive for HRSV. From the outbreak in 2006 with known involvement of HRSV, 42 faecal samples from 24 individuals were analysed and 25 % of individuals tested positive for HRSV. All faecal samples collected during non-outbreak times were negative for HMPV and HRSV. The results from the faecal sample screening are summarized in table 5.5.

From real time PCR assays, the amount of viral cDNA ranged from 9×10^1 to 1.1×10^5 copies/g faeces for the HMPV assay and from 1.1×10^2 to 6.7×10^5 copies/g faeces for the HRSV assay. PCR products were additionally analysed by gel electrophoresis. Negative samples were re-tested using a 1:10 dilution, but no inhibitory effect was observed using this approach. Samples were considered

negative when neither a Ct-value nor a band on the gel was present. On the individual level (in case multiple samples were available), copy numbers varied over the time course of the outbreak and were usually lower or negative in the beginning and the end of the outbreak. Rarely, individuals tested positive, then negative and then positive again. Details on the viral loads related to individual samples are shown for the HMPV outbreak in March 2004 and both HRSV outbreaks in 2005 and 2006 (see table 5.6, 5.7 and 5.8).

Table 5.5 Characteristics of respiratory epidemics observed in the South Group of Tai chimpanzees and molecular results of faeces samples including healthy control group.

	March 2004	October 2004	August 2005	February 2006	Control^b
Observed symptoms	respiratory	respiratory	respiratory	respiratory	no symptoms
Number of observed animals	n=28	n=22	n=35	n=34	n=35
Morbidity	100%	64%	100%	92%	0
Viruses identified from tissue samples	HMPV	no tissue samples available	no tissue samples available	HRSV	no tissue samples available
Pathogens identified from faecal samples	HMPV	HMPV	HRSV	HRSV	None
Positive tested faecal samples^a	37/65	3/29	43/60	8/42	0/54 ^b
Positive tested individuals	21/29 (72%)	1/15 (7%)	22/24 (92%)	6/24 (25%)	0/21 ^b

a Based on all available faecal samples which had been collected during the respiratory disease outbreaks. Individuals were sampled 1-7 times except for the control group where only one sample from each individual was tested.

b Control samples were selected from a period when the whole group appeared healthy and showed no respiratory symptoms: in June/July 2005 one sample from each of 21 individuals was tested for the presence of HMPV and HRSV. To determine if these viruses were persistent in affected individuals additional samples which had been collected in the time between consecutive outbreaks of HMPV or HRSV were tested: 13 samples from 5 individuals which had been observed with symptoms in both the HMPV outbreak in March and October 2004 were tested for HMPV. In addition, samples from 6 individuals that tested HRSV positive in both the RSV outbreak in August 2005 and February 2006 were tested for HRSV (n=20).

Individuals

Individuals	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Athena													neg													
Caramel							neg			neg																
Celine				2,6																						
Coco							neg																			
Gogol						neg																				
Ibrahim				neg																						
Isha													neg													
Jacobo						neg																				
Java													neg													
Julia			neg																							
Kaos										3,5	2,6															
Kuba		2,3	2,2										neg													
Louise				2,6		neg	neg	neg																		
Lula										2,1		neg				neg										
Olivia		neg					neg																			
Sagu		neg			neg															neg						
Shogun													2,7													
Sumatra			neg		neg																neg					
Taboo			neg					neg																		
Wapi								neg																		
Woodstock						neg																				
Zora												neg									neg					
Zyon													neg													
Kinshasa		neg											neg								neg					

Days after first symptoms observed

Viral load log₁₀(copies/gram) < 4,7 < 3,4 neg negative

In order to determine which strains of each virus infected the chimpanzees, we generated sequence information. For HMPV, a 867 bp fragment of the P gene and for HRSV a 309 bp fragment of the G gene were compared to sequences we had obtained from lung tissue (Gen Bank accession numbers: EU240452 to EU240455) of chimpanzees that had died during these outbreaks. The virus sequences obtained from faecal samples shared >99.5% nucleotide identity with those obtained from tissue samples. Sequences from the HRSV outbreak in 2006 and the outbreak in 2005 of unknown aetiology were identical. Unfortunately, it was not feasible to generate sequences for phylogenetic analyses from the weakly positive samples from the one positive individual from the HMPV outbreak in October 2004, where the analysed samples contained less than 10 copies/ μ l cDNA (determined by Taqman PCR). Here, only sequences from the PCR products from the real time PCR were generated, which confirmed the presence of HMPV. Thus we were not able to compare faeces-derived, phylogenetically relevant sequences from the known HMPV in the March 2004 outbreak and the consecutive outbreak in the same year.

5.3.3 Prevalence of RSV and HMPV infections among the South Group of Tai chimpanzees

The virus prevalence for the respective outbreaks is shown in figure 5.6 together with the percentages of individuals observed with symptoms. In March 2004, 21 of 29 (72 %) individuals tested positive for HMPV whereas only one individual tested positive seven months later in October 2004. For HRSV 92 % of individuals tested positive during the outbreak in 2005, and 25 % of individuals tested positive during the second outbreak in 2006. Virus prevalence was always higher in the first HMPV (March 2004) and respectively HRSV (August 2005) outbreak than in the consecutive ones. In contrast, only slight differences were observed for the number of symptomatic individuals. For both the HMPV and the HRSV epidemics, there is a significant difference in the number of infected individuals between the first and consecutive outbreak (exact Mc Nemar Test, both $p < 0.001$).

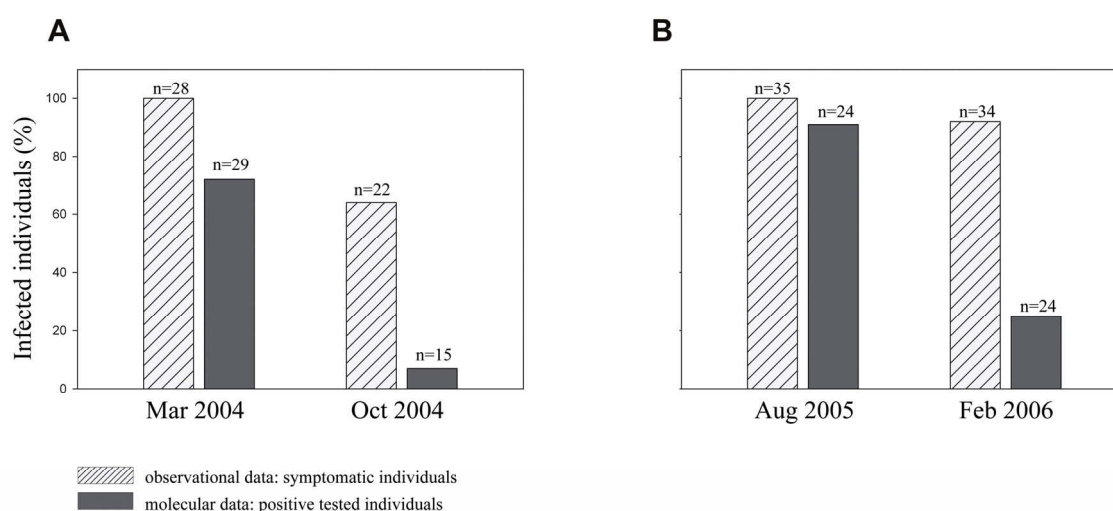


Figure 5.6 Percentages of infected individuals in A) the HMPV outbreaks in 2004 and B) the HRSV outbreaks in 2005 and 2006. Observed morbidity (striped) was high in all outbreaks, while the percentages of positive tested individuals (dark grey) decreased in the consecutive outbreaks, both for HMPV and HRSV.

5.3.4 Comparison of molecular and observational data over the time course of the outbreaks

Except for the HMPV outbreak in October 2004, all outbreaks were documented in detail, making it possible to compare laboratory based and observational data over the course of the outbreaks. Therefore, percentages of symptomatic individuals, PCR positive samples and respective mean viral load were plotted against the duration of the outbreaks (Figure 5.7). Both, the diagnostic and the observational data sets reflect the course of the disease, with fewer symptomatic cases, positive-tested samples and lower viral load early on; with a progression toward a higher viral load and more

symptomatic and positive-tested individuals, leading to a peak where almost all individuals were highly infected prior to a decline in disease symptoms and viral load.

For both, HMPV and HRSV, the first epidemic lasted longer than the consecutive epidemics (HMPV: 31 days (March 2004) vs. 9 days (October 2004); HRSV: 22 days (August 2005) vs. 15 days (February 2006)).

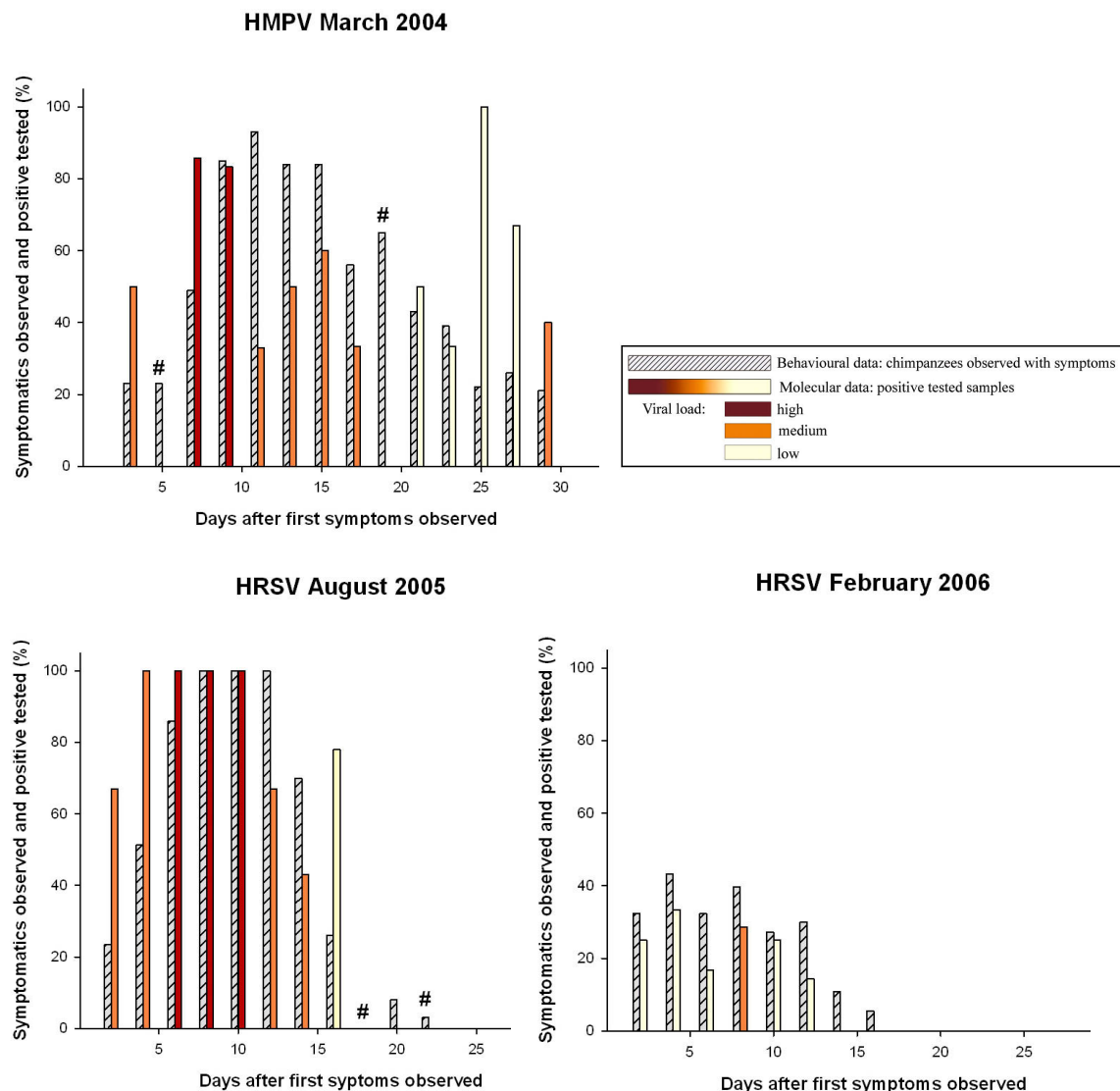


Figure 5.7 Time trends of the HMPV outbreak in March 2004 and the HRSV outbreak in 2005 and 2006. Data is based on the percentage of individuals seen with signs of respiratory symptoms (striped) and samples tested positive for HMPV or HRSV by molecular analysis (shaded coloured). Data from every two days were pooled to avoid small sample sizes. The viral load is colour-coded differentiating between low (yellow), medium (orange) and high (red) copy numbers (categories were defined as described in chapter 4.3.3) Number symbols (#) indicate that no faecal samples had been collected during these days.

6 Discussion

6.1 Detection and characterisation of respiratory pathogens from tissue samples

6.1.1 Paramyxoviruses: HMPV and HRSV

Tissue samples from seven deceased chimpanzees were analysed for the presence for respiratory viruses. Using PCR, all available samples tested positive for one of two paramyxoviruses: human respiratory syncytial virus (HRSV) was diagnosed in two individuals that died in the 1999 North Group outbreak and in one adult female (East Group) and one infant (South Group) who died in the 2006 outbreak, which occurred simultaneously in both groups. The second virus identified was human metapneumovirus (HMPV), detected in three animals that died in the 2004 South Group outbreak. Additionally, an effort has been made to cultivate these viruses, but no viral growth could be observed. This could be due to the rather poor sample quality, as the time span between death and necropsy of the animal was at least 10 hours.

HRSV and HMPV are common causes of respiratory disease in humans and are the leading causes of lower respiratory disease in children and, in developing countries, a major source of infant mortality (Weber et al., 1998; Boivin et al., 2003). In adults, HRSV and HMPV usually cause mild upper-respiratory-tract infections but can lead to pneumonia and bronchiolitis. Both viruses are shed in respiratory secretions but also have been detected in faeces or sweat from infants (von Linstow et al., 2006). Transmission of HRSV occurs through droplets of respiratory secretions or through direct contact with contaminated fomites: HRSV in fresh secretions survives 20 min on hands and up to 7 hr on plain surfaces (Hall & Douglas, 1981). HRSV and HMPV also are known to cause respiratory symptoms in captive chimpanzees (Clarke et al., 1994; Skiadopoulos et al., 2004). Although paramyxoviruses can cause severe respiratory symptoms in their own right, they also predispose captive chimpanzees to secondary bacterial infection (Jones et al., 1984). As has been shown before, *S. pneumoniae* (all outbreaks) and *P. multocida* (outbreak March 2004) were also found in the lung tissue of the chimpanzees (Chi et al., 2007). Thus, though the outbreaks among Tai chimpanzees may have been initially triggered by HRSV and HMPV, secondary infection with *S. pneumoniae* or *P. multocida* were likely to be the proximate cause of death.

6.1.2 Origin of detected paramyxoviruses

Viral sequences generated from chimpanzees were compared to sequences from human patients that were available in GenBank. Both HMPV and two strains of HRSV clustered firmly within known human clades (Figure 5.1 A and B). HRSV strains are known to circulate globally and tend to form temporal, rather than regional, clusters (Cane & Pringle, 1995). This is also evident from the

HRSV tree (Figure 5.1 A), where closely related strains were often distributed worldwide. Intriguingly, the 1999 chimpanzee HRSV contained a specific insert of 60 base pairs that were found in human respiratory outbreaks in Buenos Aires in 1999 (Trento et al., 2003). The HRSV strain found in the chimpanzees in 2006 grouped most closely with a strain reported recently from Asia. For HMPV, fewer sequences were available in the data banks, but the chimpanzee's strains were closely related to strains circulating in North America and Asia from 1997 to 2000 (Figure 5.1 B).

Unfortunately, HRSV and HMPV sequences from humans of West or Central Africa were not available for the outbreak years. Hence, in order to investigate the origin of the chimpanzee outbreaks, throat swab samples from humans with close contact to the Taï chimpanzees were examined for the presence of HRSV and HMPV. Humans with close contact include a) the research assistants of the TCP and b) villagers from the region who enter the forest for poaching or who have contact to assistants or poachers. In a previous work by Schenk (2007), throat swab samples from the assistants were collected during outbreak times and analysed for the presence of respiratory viruses, but HMPV and HRSV were detectable in none of the samples. In the present work, samples from villagers with clinical signs of respiratory disease were screened for respiratory viruses. Time of sample collection was 3-11 months after the last outbreak among the chimpanzees, but subtypes of both HRSV and HMPV can circulate for more than one season (Peret et al., 1998; Venter et al., 2001; Sloots et al., 2006).

However, although we could not detect HRSV and/or HMPV in human samples with close contact to the chimpanzees, the analysis here (conducted in BEAST) indicates that in all three cases viruses amplified from chimpanzees and published virus sequences from humans shared a common ancestor within 3–6 years (HRSV) and 8 years (HMPV). As humans are the only known reservoir host for both viruses, these results strongly suggest that humans introduced the two viruses directly and repeatedly into wild chimpanzee populations in the recent past.

The chimpanzee groups do not range outside the park, and there are currently no villages or plantations inside the park. Thus, either research personnel or poachers are the most plausible sources of infection. However, potential transmission foci, such as poaching camps, have been detected in the study-group territories on only a few occasions over the last 24 years, and poachers only occasionally enter the study-group core areas where most chimpanzee activity is concentrated. In contrast, an average of about one research personnel spends 8 hr a day within 15 m of chimpanzee parties typically containing 5–10 individuals. Therefore, it is highly likely that personnel have been responsible for virus transmission.

Another possibility would be that transmission of the paramyxoviruses occurred through bridge hosts. However, contact with respiratory pathogens deposited by humans on the forest floor is

much less likely for monkeys, which are largely arboreal, than it is for chimpanzees, which are regularly terrestrial.

6.1.3 Respiratory bacteria: characterisation of detected *P. multocida* strains

Previous work on the involved bacteria revealed that beside two new strains of *S. pneumoniae*, *P. multocida* played a role in the outbreak in March 2004 (see Chi et al., 2007). In the present work *P. multocida* isolated from chimpanzee samples was characterised with molecular and biochemical methods.

P. multocida has a wide disease and host spectrum, ranging from haemorrhagic septicaemia in cattle and fowl cholera in birds, respectively, where it is considered a primary pathogen, through secondary invaders of pneumonic lesions (Carter, 1984). Research on *P. multocida* has been mostly limited to strains from livestock, poultry or companion animals, where it exists as a commensal in the upper respiratory tracts. Furthermore, there is few data on human strains, however, *P. multocida* infections are considered as a zoonosis and cases are mainly associated with animal bites or scratches. In NHP, respiratory infections due to *P. multocida* have been described for various species held in captivity (Good & May, 1971; McClure et al., 1986; Kalter 1989). For example, analysing respiratory disease among a dynamic laboratory colony including > 8000 animals and 10 different species of NHPs *P. multocida* was among the major bacterial pathogens isolated (Good & May, 1971). Among newly imported macaques that died with pneumonia, *P. multocida* or *S. pneumoniae* were the most common bacterial isolates from the respiratory system (Lewis, 1975) and in the South American owl monkey *P. multocida* was found as the principle pathogen (Good and May, 1971). *P. multocida* has also been found to be involved in air sacculitis among several captive NHP species, including great apes (Gross, 1978; McClure et al., 1986; Kalter, 1989). Whether pasteurellosis in NHPs arises from commensal bacteria or from bacteria transmitted from other animals has been barely investigated. There is only one study where *P. multocida* was found to be part of the pharyngeal flora in healthy wild-born baboons (Brondson & DiGiacomo, 1993). So far, the relevance of *P. multocida* for wild living chimpanzees is unclear.

This is the first detailed description of *P. multocida* isolated from wild chimpanzees. Isolates found in the lungs of deceased chimpanzees living in Tai National Park were compared to an isolate that originated from the pus from a chimpanzee that underwent surgery due to air sacculitis. Based on the fermentation reactions of different carbohydrates, all isolates matched the properties of previous described strains of the taxon *P. multocida* (Mutters 1989; Blackall et al., 1994; Fegan et al., 1995; Ekundayo et al., 2008). Two different clones were identified using pulsed field gel electrophoresis. Both clone 1 and clone 2 were isolated from the lung samples collected during the respiratory outbreak in 2004. A clone 1 type bacterium was also recovered from a pus sample from

“Sagu” who suffered from air sacculitis. PCR analysis showed that all isolates were of capsular type A. The capsular type in *P. multocida* is usually host and disease associated and is assumed to play a role in host and disease specificity. Capsular type A strains are the predominant type associated with fowl cholera and respiratory disease/pneumonia in ruminants (Chanter & Rutter, 1989; Choi et al., 2001; Ewers et al., 2006; Ross, 2006), the latter corresponds perfectly to the clinical picture we observed in the deceased chimpanzees.

P. multocida constitutes a heterogeneous species and virulence features are divergent. However, efforts have been made to correlate several VAG pattern to distinct hosts and various diseases (Ewers et al., 2004, 2006; Bethe et al., 2009). Hence, to learn more about the characteristics of the strains found in the chimpanzees, the respective VAG patterns were examined. Differences in between the isolates were in agreement with the results obtained from pheno- and genotyping. Most of the regularly distributed VAGs could be also detected in the chimpanzees' strains: for example, genes coding for outer membrane proteins (*ompH* and *oma87*), type 4 fimbriae (*pjfA*), superoxide dismutases (*sodA*, *sodC*), and iron acquisition related factors (*exbB/tonB*) were present in all of the isolates. Concerning the VAGs associated with high pathogenic potential (*toxA*, *pflAB* and *thpA*), only clone 1 showed to be *pflAB*-positive.

For taxonomic assignment at the subspecies level, both biochemical and phylogenetic analysis were taken into account. Sequence analysis of the *sodA* gene has been proposed as an accurate tool to type *Pasteurella* species and subspecies (Gautier et al., 2005). Therefore, *sodA* sequences from the chimpanzee isolates were generated and compared to sequences from Genbank. The chimpanzee's *sodA* sequences group firmly within strains belonging to the subspecies *P. multocida* ssp. *multocida* and *P. multocida* ssp. *gallicida* (Figure 5.4). However, based on the analysis performed here, a further identification to the subspecies level was not possible. This might be due to the fact that only few *sodA* sequences are available but also because the *sodA* variability within these subspecies is too low. Results from the fermentation reactions were also ambiguous: for example, e.g. a key characteristic for the subspecies *P. multocida* ssp. *multocida* includes dulcitol-negative, sorbitol-positive isolates (Mutters et al., 1985), which was complied by all of our isolates. In contrast, both clones were positive for the fermentation of arabinose, a feature normally observed in the subspecies *P. multocida* ssp. *gallicida* (Mutters et al., 1985; Fegan et al., 1995; Blackall et al., 1997). However, conflicting results from both molecular and phenotypic data have been described in other investigations (Gerardo & Goldstein, 1999; Petersen et al., 2001; Davies et al., 2004), suggesting that the precise typing of the subspecies is complex and has yet to be satisfactorily resolved.

When MLST analysis was performed, four new alleles were identified in each clone. Based on these allelic profiles two new STs could be assigned (ST 68 and ST 69). MLST is a highly specific, sensitive and stable tool and is one of the “gold standards” used for typing of bacteria. The MLST scheme used here has only recently been developed (Subaaharan et al., 2010) and at the time of

writing consisted of 177 isolates representing 73 STs which build six clonal complexes (with a clonal complex being defined as STs that shared 6 or more loci). Isolates are mostly of avian (72.5 %), but also of porcine (13.2 %), bovine (2.8 %), feline (1.7 %), rodent (1.1 %) and human origin (1.1 %). Isolates were collected in 14 countries, mainly in Australia and followed by Germany and Denmark. To further analyse the genetic relationships, concatenated gene sequences from the chimpanzees STs were compared to STs from the MLST database (Figure 5.5). Both STs group together with strains originating from various hosts, clustering closely with the typing strains of the subspecies *P. multocida* ssp. *multocida* and *gallicida*. However, it should be noted that this database is still in development. So far it consists mostly of isolates obtained from domesticated animals and from a limited number of geographical locations; furthermore, i.e. strains of the subspecies *multocida*/*gallicida* originated from humans have yet not been added. Based on the present data, it can be stated that although the chimpanzees strains show phylogenetic differences they are closely involved in the epizootiology of *P. multocida*.

This is the first description of *P. multocida* involved in diseases of wild living chimpanzees. Up to now, there is no detailed molecular data on African or NHP-associated strains, hence it was interesting that the strains analysed here show such a high similarity to known strains of *P. multocida*. However, additional data from African countries and other primates would be useful to clarify the positioning of the chimpanzees *P. multocida*.

6.1.3.1 The role of *P. multocida* in acute and chronic respiratory disease

Pasteurellosis in captive NHPs often occurs when local and systemic defence mechanisms are impaired. There are a variety of predisposing factors resulting in increased levels of stress: transportation, crowding or by the damaging effects of respiratory viral infections (Bennet, 1989). In addition, NHPs have developed *P. multocida* infections secondary to surgical procedures, chair restraint, or chronic catheterization (Brondson & DiGiacomo, 1993). As already mentioned above, the respiratory outbreak in March 2004 was caused by a multifactorial infection, where HMPV as well as *S. pneumoniae* and *P. multocida* were found in the lung tissue. It is thus difficult to determine the actual role played by *P. multocida* in the causation of disease, but it can be assumed that the underlying viral infection has determined the secondary infection by the bacteria which might have then caused the lethal outcome. One strain of the *P. multocida* involved in the respiratory disease (isolate 114/122/996 or respectively ST 68) was recovered in the purulent discharge of the air sacs from a chimpanzee sampled five years after the outbreak. First signs of its airsacculitis were already observed in 2004, but it was not until 2009 that the size of the swellings of the airsacs became life-threatening and required surgical intervention. Apart from *P. multocida*, *Enterobacter* sp. and *Prevotella* sp. were also isolated from the air sacs (data not shown), showing again that *P. multocida* was probably not the single cause. This is in agreement with the literature, where airsacculitis has been often associated with mixed infections of enteric organism (Hill et al., 2001). Furthermore, this

individual was also infected by HMPV during the respiratory outbreak in 2004, as determined by screening faecal samples collected during that time (see figure 5.6). It might be possible that the respiratory disease in 2004 was the initial cause for the development of the airsacculitis. As an example, this has been shown in a study on airsacculitis in orang-utans, where a significant proportion of affected animals had a history of recent upper respiratory tract infection (Strobert and Swenson, 1979).

Hence, the chimpanzee strains were involved in acute and/or chronic respiratory disease. Since both infections were caused by a mix of viral and/or bacterial pathogens, it might be assumed that *P. multocida* found here acted as an opportunistic pathogen. The fact that the chimpanzee's strains were lacking the major VAGs associated with primary disease is in favour of this assumption. However, further isolates from healthy and diseased chimpanzees are needed to evaluate their potential carrier status and their possible role in disease development.

6.1.3.2 *P. multocida* isolated from chimpanzees – natural carrier status versus transmission from other animal species?

Another question is, whether the chimpanzees are naturally carriers of *P. multocida* or if this pathogen has been transmitted to the chimpanzees from other species. As stated above (chapter 2.2 and 2.3), evidence exists that interspecies transmission may play a substantial role, and transmission cycles have been described between both humans, chimpanzees and other monkeys (Wolfe et al., 2004; Goldberg et al., 2007; Leendertz et al., 2008). On the one hand, chimpanzees share a considerable array of the same pathogens with humans due to our close genetic relationship. Both zoonotic (Gao et al., 1999; Wolfe et al., 2004; Keele et al., 2006; Leendertz et al., 2008) and anthroponotic disease transmission have been described (Kalter, 1989; Wallis & Lee, 1999; Kaur et al., 2008; Köndgen et al., 2008). On the other hand, virus transmission from other primate species (i.e. colobus monkeys) to chimpanzees has been described in the context of predation (Leendertz et al., 2004b; Leendertz et al., 2008). Concerning the respiratory outbreak in 2004, there is strong evidence that the viruses involved were transmitted from humans (see chapter 6.1.2). In contrast, the found *S. pneumoniae* was assumed to be harboured naturally by the chimpanzees, as their MLST profile differed from that of strains isolated from humans working with the chimpanzees (Chi et al., 2007). *P. multocida* is considered a strict animal pathogen and in humans, infections are mostly inflicted by animal contact (bite and scratch injuries). However, among animal exposed humans (i.e. animal handlers, farm workers) 2-5% seem to harbour *P. multocida* in the throat or oropharynx (Smith, 1959; Jones & Smull, 1973; Boivin & Leterme, 1974; Avril et al., 1990). Hence, although the knowledge about *P. multocida* in healthy people is scarce, animal contact can lead to a human carrier state. Furthermore, evidence exists that strain transmission between cattle, pigs, and poultry occurs (Davies et al., 2004). This is also shown in the MLST tree, where the same STs have been isolated from different host (see figure 5.5). Therefore, it might be possible

that the chimpanzees got infected through contact with other animals harbouring *P. multocida*. In most animals, *P. multocida* is primarily transmitted by the respiratory route, including direct contact to infectious secretions, inhalation of aerosols or intake of contaminated water or food (Backstrand & Botzler, 1986; Botzler, 1991; Thomson et al., 1992). The Taï chimpanzees share their habitat with many different mammals, including ruminants, rodents and also carnivores most of them known as carriers of *P. multocida* (Schipper 1947; DiGiacamo et al., 1983; Burdge et al., 1985; Jaworski et al., 1998; Talan et al., 1999; Dunbar et al., 2000; Pedersen et al., 2003; Dabo et al., 2007). As food sources like fruit trees are shared jointly it is possible that chimpanzees get in contact with infectious secretion from infected animals and that oral ingestion of *P. multocida* resulted in oropharyngeal colonisation. Alternatively, *P. multocida* could have been transmitted from colobus monkeys, which are known to be prey species of the Taï chimpanzees (Boesch & Boesch-Achermann, 2000). Therefore, throat swabs from 20 apparently healthy colobus monkeys were analysed for the presence of *P. multocida*, but all tested negative. Further samples and species need to be analysed to answer to the question whether chimpanzees are natural carriers of *P. multocida* undergoing an endogenous infection, or if they got infected through horizontal transmission from other animals.

6.2 Monitoring respiratory disease based on noninvasive diagnostic methods

6.2.1 Evaluation of the applicability of PCR based analysis of faecal samples

As described in chapter 6.1.1, chimpanzees which died due to respiratory disease were infected with HMPV or HRSV. However, from these investigations it was not possible to obtain detailed information on the epidemiology of the infection with these respiratory viruses due to the fact that diagnostics were only based on tissue samples collected from deceased individuals. More detailed data on pathogen prevalence could not be obtained from survivors of these outbreaks or from symptomatic individuals from other, non-lethal outbreaks.

To address this issue, methods were established for the detection of both HRSV and HMPV RNA from faecal samples. Using this non-invasive approach, it was possible to calculate the minimum prevalence of HMPV and HRSV among the South Group of Taï chimpanzees during respiratory disease outbreaks and to identify the viral causative agents of two respiratory outbreaks with unknown aetiology: in October 2004 HMPV was detected in faecal samples from one individual while in 2005, 92 % of individuals tested positive for HRSV.

Observational data collected during the outbreaks in March 2004, August 2005, and February 2006 were compared to the results of the molecular diagnostic. The PCR results correlate strongly with

the observational data, and reveal that there is a relatively broad time frame where the viruses can be detected with non-invasive methods (Figure 5.7). Viral RNA could be found in faeces collected 3-4 days after the first symptoms were seen and was detectable until day 15 (HRSV outbreak 2005), day 11 (HRSV outbreak 2006) and day 26 (HMPV outbreak March 2004), respectively. The quantification of the viral load should be considered an approximation, since faecal samples are heterogenous and may also contain inhibitors. Since no internal control was used, this might present a limiting factor and would explain why in some cases, an individual was tested first positive, then negative and then positive again (see table 5.6 and 5.7). However, looking at the mean viral load over time, the viral load is generally in line with the course of the outbreaks, therefore we see a lower viral load in the beginning and end and a high viral load during the peak of the outbreaks (Figure 5.7). These data are helpful if phylogenetic analyses are planned to be performed, because conventional PCR assays (which are used for amplification and sequencing of genomes) are often less sensitive wherefore the identification of samples from the peak times (with a high viral load) is useful. This in turn implies that continuous group monitoring and sample collection should be done.

Both HMPV and HRSV are known to replicate in the respiratory epithelium and tropism of the gastric or gut mucosa has not been described so far. Hence, an explanation for the finding of Paramyxovirus RNA in faeces might be that the chimpanzees have swallowed respiratory secretions. It has been shown that paramyxovirus-like particles can be found in stool samples by transmission electron microscopy (Kaur et al. 2008), which could explain why viral RNA is still detectable and not degraded after being transported through the entire gastrointestinal tract. However, it cannot be excluded that these viruses also replicate in the chimpanzee's gastrointestinal tract. In the avian system infectious avian MPV is shed in the faeces of non-vaccinated hens (Hess et al. 2004). Whether excretion via faeces in the chimpanzees presents a possible route of transmission remains to be investigated. However, epidemiologically, this will be a minor factor since chimpanzees of a given group live in close social contact and transmission via smear infection or aerosols is more likely.

6.3 Molecular epidemiology of paramyxoviruses based on faecal samples

As shown above, HRSV obtained from deceased chimpanzees in 2006 was closely related to published human strains, suggesting that humans had introduced the virus to the chimpanzee population (Köndgen et al., 2008). Phylogenetic analysis of the virus sequences from faecal samples collected during the outbreak in August 2005 revealed identical sequences to those obtained from tissue/faecal samples from the outbreaks of February 2006.

There are two major groups of HRSV strains, A and B, which are distinguished mainly by variations within the G protein and can be further subdivided into genotypes. Circulation patterns are complex, with several genotypes co-circulating as well as a variety of distinct sequences within each genotype (Cane 2001). Certain genotypes become dominant and then decline before being replaced by a different dominant genotype. Typically the predominant strain is replaced each year (Peret et al., 2000), but it has also been demonstrated that the same genotype can remain dominant for more than one season (Venter et al., 2001). Even looking at the nucleotide level, HRSV isolates with identical G gene sequences could be seen over a 3-year period in one human community in the United States (Peret et al., 1998) or even for longer periods of 6-7 seasons in Germany (Reiche & Schweiger, 2009). This suggests that successful variants may be able to persist and remain dominant for more than one season. In our study we also found HRSV isolates with identical G gene sequences in two distinct epidemics (2005 and 2006). This suggests that HRSV had already been introduced in 2005 and that multiple transmission events occurred. Another possibility is that the virus circulated within the different chimpanzee communities of the area and was spread by chimpanzee-to-chimpanzee contact after the initial introduction of the virus into the population in 2005. However, contacts between neighbouring groups are rare (Boesch and Boesch-Achermann, 2000; Boesch et al., 2008) and when chimpanzees are sick, they will not travel far or seek conflicts with neighbours. Within habituated chimpanzee groups, signs of respiratory disease have rarely been observed between outbreaks and if so, only in one or few individuals. These observations are not in favour of the assumption that the virus circulated in the community for longer time periods and lead occasionally to disease outbreaks.

It might also be possible that chimpanzees may not have been reinfected, but rather had very prolonged viral persistence/shedding, as persistent HRSV or HMPV infections without the presence of symptoms have been documented for immuno-compromised humans (Debiaggi et al., 2006; Sikkel et al., 2008). Therefore, we tested faecal samples collected between the two HRSV and HMPV outbreaks, but all were negative, making it unlikely that the virus had persisted in the chimpanzees. But all in all, we cannot exclude the possibility of persistence as the viral load may be too low to be detected in faeces with the detection systems used in this study.

In humans, re-infections of HRSV with both the homologous and heterologous group are common and occur throughout life (Mufson et al., 1987; Hall et al., 1990; Sullender et al., 1998). In older children and adults, re-infections are usually associated with milder disease, indicating that HRSV infections induce an incomplete immunity (Henderson et al., 1979b). It has been assumed, that this is due to the variability between HRSV strains (Hall et al., 1990; Peret et al., 2000). In our study, the chimpanzees became re-infected with the same subtype (based on the sequence data). Re-infection with the same virus strain has also been observed in humans: for example, within two month in

adults (Hall et al., 1991) and within 7-9 months in infants (Scott et al., 2006). These data raise questions about the strength of homologous protection by the immune response.

Comparing the total number of HRSV positive individuals in 2005 and 2006, there is a significant decrease in the number of positive samples in 2006, although observed morbidity was equally high in both outbreaks (Figure 5.6). This is similar for the two consecutive HMPV outbreaks. The second epidemics were milder and resulted in lower and thus undetectable virus shedding, suggesting that chimpanzees had acquired a certain level of immunity, although not strong enough to prevent the re-infection. This is in contrast to a study where captive-bred chimpanzees were analysed for seroprevalence and susceptibility to HMPV, which showed that previous infection by HMPV completely protected chimpanzees from re-infection, both for the homologous and for the heterologous group (Skiadopoulos et al., 2004).

The HMPV outbreak in 2004 had the highest mortality; in this outbreak, eight infants and juveniles died. As mentioned above, the second epidemics, both for HMPV and HRSV, showed a rather mild course of disease, probably due to acquired immunity. But the question arises: why was mortality in the first HRSV epidemic (2005) so low? Especially considering that the first HMPV outbreak showed such a high degree of mortality. Previous studies with captive-bred chimpanzees showed that the pathogenicity of HRSV and HMPV is similar, if not even stronger for HRSV (Belshe et al., 1977; Skiadopoulos et al., 2004). Indeed, we already observed a severe HRSV outbreak in another community (North group) of Tai chimpanzees in 1999, which killed many chimpanzees (Köndgen et al., 2008). In humans, clinically severe HRSV infections occur predominantly in the course of the first infection, thus perhaps the chimpanzees of the South Group were exposed to HRSV in earlier times. However, no hints for severe respiratory outbreaks have been obtained through analyses of long-term observational data of the chimpanzees (Boesch & Boesch-Achermann, 2000). Unfortunately, no faecal samples were collected before 2001, thus molecular identification of earlier infections is not possible. However, there could be many reasons for the different mortality rates between epidemics. In humans, particularly among very young children, both HRSV and HMPV infections are associated with significant morbidity and mortality. Thus another possibility for the higher mortality in 2004 might be a higher abundance of susceptible infants. However, the number of infants and juveniles in 2005 and 2006 was not too far out of line from that in 2004 (22 in 2004 versus 16 in 2005 versus 15 in 2006), but the mortality rate was much lower in 2005 and 2006 (see table 5.4), suggesting that the abundance of infants and juveniles had no strong effect on mortality. Although environmental factors might have played a role, in a recent study infant mortality rates of Tai chimpanzees were correlated to the average monthly values of either rainfall or an index of the availability of fruit and no significant relationship was found (Kuehl et al., 2008).

In addition, differences in the severity of the secondary bacterial infection might have caused the higher mortality in 2004. During this outbreak, not only *S. pneumoniae* but also *P. multocida* was found in the lung tissue of the chimpanzees (Chi et al., 2007) and might have influenced the lethal course of pneumonia. As has been mentioned above, it is likely that it is not the viral infection itself which triggers the severity of the outbreaks but bacterial secondary infections.

6.4 General discussion

It has long been recognized that respiratory disease is the most important cause of morbidity and mortality among wild great apes habituated to human presence for research or tourism (Goodall 1986; Homsy, 1999; Nishida et al., 2003; Hanamura et al., 2008). Possibly as a consequence of respiratory disease, about half of the long-term chimpanzee research populations have shown major declines (Woodford et al., 2002; Hill et al., 2001). However, the etiological agents of such disease have not been documented. Therefore, the aim of the present study was the identification of the causative pathogens leading to multiple deaths among Taï chimpanzees. Here it could be demonstrated, that the chimpanzees suffered from a multifactorial disease where both respiratory viruses and bacteria played roles. It is assumed that virus infection triggered the secondary bacterial infection which resulted in lethal pneumonia.

Two new strains of *S. pneumoniae* have been recently described using the same set of clinical samples (Chi et al., 2007). In the present work, we succeeded to cultivate and fully characterise two strains of *P. multocida* and provide the first finding of *P. multocida* in wild living chimpanzees. Whereas the bacteria found here seem to be harboured naturally by the chimpanzees, there is strong evidence that the detected paramyxoviruses were of human origin. In addition, based on the findings from the screening of non-invasive samples it might be speculated that these viruses were introduced repeatedly into the chimpanzee population.

The present work implies that the combination of a human-transmitted paramyxovirus together with *S. pneumoniae* (in one case in addition with *P. multocida*) caused multiple lethal outbreaks among the Taï chimpanzees. This pathogen combination seems not to be a regionally based occurrence but rather a widespread problem: analysis of lung tissue of a deceased chimpanzee from a zoo in Münster, Germany, revealed that the animal was infected with HRSV and *S. pneumoniae*. Furthermore, analysis of samples from the keepers of the animal gave strong evidence, that the HRSV strain found in the chimpanzee had been transmitted by its keeper (Szentiks et al., 2009). Similarly, lung tissue from five chimpanzees that died in the course of respiratory disease in a sanctuary in Cameroon had been screened for respiratory pathogens (Lancaster & Koendgen, in prep.). Again, a combination of a human associated paramyxovirus (four individuals were HMPV- and one individual was RSV-positive) together with *S. pneumoniae* was detected in the samples.

Faeces samples from (two) sick chimpanzees from the Mahale field site, Tanzania, were screened for respiratory viruses and tested positive for HMPV (Kaur et al., 2008).

Our results suggest that the close approach of humans to apes, which is central to both research and tourism programs, represents a serious threat to wild apes. This represents a dilemma because both activities have clear benefits for ape conservation. For instance, ape tourism constitutes an important source of income in some countries (Butinski & Kalina, 1998). Likewise, the presence of both research and tourism projects in Tai National Park has suppressed poaching, resulting in a strong positive correlation between proximity to chimpanzee habituation sites and the density of chimpanzees (see Köndgen et al., 2008). In this case, the ape conservation benefits of research and tourism seem to have outweighed the costs.

In order to reduce the negative effects of research and tourism, strict hygiene protocols should be implemented at all field sites where close contact between humans and great apes exists (Wallis & Lee, 1999; The Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project 2002 Employee Health Group, 2004; Lonsdorf et al., 2006). These protocols should include vaccination requirements for tourists, tourism personnel, park staff, and research personnel against all potentially dangerous diseases for which vaccines are available (e.g., measles, mumps, and rubella). Human populations living around the parks and reserves should also be vaccinated, thereby decreasing the chances of human-pathogen introduction into chimpanzee populations. Only non-symptomatic visitors and staff should have access to habituated apes. Faeces, vomit, and other human debris or wastes should be removed from areas where chimpanzees may come in contact with it or buried at a depth where other animals will not uncover it (Leendertz et al., 2006). Because carriers of human respiratory pathogens are often non-symptomatic, wearing of masks should be mandatory.

However, we still do not know how effective these hygiene measurements actually are. In Tai National Park, for example, the mentioned hygiene measures had already been implemented after the severe outbreak in 2004, but chimpanzees became re-infected by HRSV and HMPV. Since 2006 compliance of masks wearing has improved and additional hygiene rules like hand washing before entering the forest have been implemented in the project (Boesch, 2008). These measures are known to be effective in public health and animal husbandry sectors and given the high infection pressure through growing human populations around protected areas with high disease burdens, the implementation of such measures is ethically “required”. However, compliance to the required hygiene measures can not always be guaranteed: for example, testing of swab samples from assistants of the Tai chimpanzee project revealed, that one assistant tested positive for influenza virus without showing any symptoms. This substantiates the concern, that even clinically healthy people can carry and shed pathogens (Schenk, 2007). Further data and long term documentation are needed to evaluate reduction of transmission by implemented hygiene measures.

Another point to mention is the question of medical intervention in great ape populations, which is discussed controversially. However, considering the strong decline of the Taï chimpanzee population and the yet remaining risk of further outbreaks, interventions seem to be necessary under certain conditions. Therefore, the diagnostic of infections and the characterisation of the pathogens, as shown in this investigation for *P. multocida*, are of great relevance and might enable a targeted therapy. For example, data on antimicrobial susceptibility may help to provide adequate treatment and thus mitigate the impact of future disease outbreaks.

The true impact of anthroponotic transmission events is still unclear. Whereas numerous great ape projects regularly report outbreaks of respiratory disease, there remain others where almost no (lethal) outbreaks have been observed for a number of years or where the communities experience even an increase in group size since the time of habituation (Hill et al., 2001). This leads to some open questions: Why are some great ape communities more affected by respiratory disease than others? Which factors trigger infection by human pathogens and the outcome of lethal outbreaks? There might be several factors: 1) The immunologic status of the population. Here, the time of habituation is an important factor, although of conflicting influence. On the one hand longer contact to humans might have accustomed the animals to human pathogens and they are thus no longer immunologically naïve for human pathogens. On the other hand humans' presence might stress the animals, which is known to have a negative effect on the animals immune system. 2) A genetic predisposition which might make several species or subspecies more susceptible for human pathogens than others. 3) Underlying chronic infections might weaken the immune system (different parasite levels, different STLV- or SIV-prevalence). 4) Environmental factors: climate changes and human encroachment: these changes are often accompanied by a disturbance of the ecological balance of the habitat which might influence the spread and transmission of pathogens. And 5) a higher exposure to human viruses: the number of humans with access to populations of habituated great apes varies considerably between field sites. This factor strongly influences the probability of anthroponotic transmission events. Finally, it might be a combination of all or at least some of these factors which influences the course of diseases caused by human-transmitted pathogens.

6.5 Outlook

The transmission of diseases from humans to wild great apes has raised a broad discussion within the scientific and ecotourism communities. In order to find solutions to protect great apes from transmission risks, to gather different ideas, protocols and suggestions and to exchange experiences, the *Great Ape Health Workshop* (GAHW) took place in Entebbe, Uganda, in 2009. Various health problems at a variety of field sites had been discussed during this workshop with the final aim to establish baselines on great ape health management. This kind of interdisciplinary collaboration

between primatologist, veterinarians, biologists, tourism managers and government representatives is an important step forward for the improvement of conservation programs as it enforces the implementation of demographic, clinical, and diagnostic monitoring systems. This in turn will make further studies comparing various sites and species possible and thus would enable to test for the hypothesis mentioned above. Non-invasive diagnostic methods, such as those described in this work, allow comprehensive long-term studies and may help to assess the influence of human pathogens and serve to better understand diseases in wild great apes.

7 References

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8 Appendix

Table 8.1 Sequences of HRSV G gene used for phylogentic analysis

Origin	Year of isolation	Strain/isolate
New Zealand		
	1984	NZB_84_05
	1985	NZB_85_03
	1985	NZB_85_01
	1988	NZB_88_01
	1988	NZB_88_02
	1989	NZB_89_01
	1989	NZB_89_02
	1989	NZB_89_03
	1989	NZB_89_04
	1990	NZB_90_01
	1990	NZB_90_02
	1990	NZB_90_03
	1990	NZB_90_05
	1991	NZB_91_01
	1992	NZB_92_03
	1992	NZB_92_05
	1993	NZB_93_05
	1994	NZB_94_01
	1995	NZB_95_01
	1995	NZB_95_02
	2004	NZB_04_01
	2004	NZB_04_02
	1984	NZB_84_01
	1984	NZB_84_02
	1984	NZB_84_06
Europe		
Belgium	1991	BE/154/91
	1991	BE/23/91
	1995	BE/14273/95
	1996	BE/12015/96
	2001	BE/12595/01
	2002	BE/1162/02
	2002	BE/1613/02
	2001	BE/12670/01
	2001	BE/12370/01
	2001	BE/12670/01
UK	12/1995	70870/12/95
	11/1995	70207/11/95
	12/1995	70739/12/95
	12/1995	70319/12/95
	1/1996	70003/01/96
	1960	SW/8/60

Table 8.1 continued

Origin	Year of isolation	Strain/isolate
North America		
USA	1994/1995	NY01
	1994/1995	MO30
	1994/1995	AL19734-4
	1990-1995	CH93-18b
	1990-1995	CH93-18b
	1985	WV15291
	1994/1995	TX69208
	1994/1995	MO53
	1962	CH/18537/62
	1980	WV4843
	1983	WV10010
	1985	WV/B1/85
	1985	WV/15291/85
	1989	NM/1355/89
	1990	CH10b
	1992	CH9b
	1993	CH53b
Canada	1994/1995	CN1839
South America		
Argentina	1999	BA/3997/99
	1999	BA/1370/99
	1999	BA/802/99
	1999	BA4128/99B
	1999	BA3859/99B
	1999	BA3833/99B
	1999	BA/3931/99
	1999	BA/1326/99
	2002	BA/1214/02
	2002	BA/770/02
	2002	BA/1461/02
	2004	BA/1526/04
	2004	BA/493/04
	2003	BA/5021/03
	2003	BA/4909/03
	2002	BA/1445/02
	1999	BA/3859/99
Uruguay	1999	mon/1/99
	1999	mon/7/99
	1994	strain 41605
	1994	strain 40745
	1990	MON/15/90
Asia		
China	recent years	Beijing H1123
Japan	2003	NG153/03

Table 8.1 continued

Origin	Year of isolation	Strain/isolate
	2000	Sap/4/00-01
India	2003	DEL/609/03/B
Africa		
Kenia	2003	Ken/29/03
	2003	Ken/23/03
	2002	Ken/109/02
Mozambique	1999	Moz 11/99
	1999	Moz/205/99
	1999	Moz/198/99
South Africa	1998	SA98D1656
	1999	SA99V800
	1997	SA97D934
	1999	SA99V429
Ivory Coast	1999	Loukoum_99
	2006	Candy_06
	2006	Ishas Baby_06
	1999	Lefkas_99

Table 8.2 Sequences of HMPV P gene used for phylogentic analysis

Origin	Year of isolation	Strain/isolate
Europe		
The	2001	00-1
	unknown	NL/1/99
North		
Canada	1998	CAN98-78
	1998	CAN98-77
	2000	CAN00-15
	1998	CAN98-73
	1998	CAN98-74
	1998	CAN98-75
	1998	CAN98-76
	1998	CAN98-79
	2000	CAN00-13
	1997	CAN97-82
	1999	CAN99-81
	2000	CAN00-16
	1999	CAN99-81
Asia		
China	unknown	CS113
	unknown	CS088
	unknown	CS058
	unknown	CS099
	unknown	CS105
	unknown	BJ1816
	unknown	BJ1887

Table 8.2 continued

Origin	Year of isolation	Strain/isolate
	unknown	CS099
	unknown	CS105
	unknown	BJ1816
	unknown	BJ1887
Japan	2003-2004	JPS02-76
	2003-2004	JPS03-180
	2003-2004	JPS03-187
	2003-2004	JPS03-176
	2003-2004	JPS03-240
	2003-2004	JPS03-194
Australia		
	unknown	Q02-1071
	2002	Q02-1981
	2001	Q01-719
	2001	Q01-705
	2001	Q01-702
Africa		
Ivory Coast	2004	Ophelia_04
	2004	Oreste_04
	2004	Virunga_04

Table 8.3 Strains and Accessionnumbers of *P. multocida* *sodA* sequences

Species (strain)	Accession number
<i>P.m multocida</i> (CNP 987)	AY702540
<i>P.m multocida</i> (CIP 103286)	AY702502
<i>P.m multocida</i> (CNP 927)	AY702537
Isolate 122/996	HQ003894/HQ003895*
<i>P.m multocida</i> (CNP 954)	AY702538
Isolate 121/420	HQ003896/HQ003897*
<i>P.m multocida</i> (Pm 70)	NC_002663.1
<i>P.m. septica</i> (CNP 993)	AY702545
<i>P.m. septica</i> (CNP 978)	AY702539
<i>P.m. septica</i> (CNP 1246)	AY702546
<i>P.m. septica</i> (CIP A125)	AY702503
<i>P.m. gallicida</i> (CNP982)	AY702536
<i>P.m. gallicida</i> (CIP 103285)	AY702501
<i>P. bettyae</i> (CNP1147)	AY702523
<i>P. canis</i> (CIP 103294)	AY702496
<i>P. dagmatis</i> (CIP 103293)	AY702497
<i>P.langaensis</i> (CIP 102678)	AY702499
<i>P. stomatis</i> (CIP 102680)	AY702505

* Sequences of isolates 114 and 127 were not submitted to Genbank since PFGE had shown that they were identical to the isolates 122 and 121, respectively.

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Selbständigkeitserklärung

Ich bestätige, dass die vorliegende Dissertation in allen Teilen von mir selbstständig angefertigt wurde und die benutzten Hilfsmittel vollständig angegeben worden sind. Veröffentlichungen von Teilen der vorliegenden Dissertation sind angegeben. Weiter erkläre ich, dass ich nicht schon anderweitig einmal die Promtionsabsicht angemeldet oder ein Promotionsverfahren beantragt habe.

Berlin, den 05.10.2010

Sophie Köndgen