

***M. AVIUM HOMINISSUIS* - MAIN CAUSE OF MYCOBACTERIAL INFECTION OF PIGS IN CROATIA**

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During a five-year period (2000 to 2004) 74,342 pigs were tested by the intradermal tuberculin test in Croatia. Of them, 248 (0.33%) pigs were positive and 91 (0.12%) were found to be suspicious in 7 out of the 13 farms included in the study. Gross pathological changes characteristic of tuberculosis were observed in tuberculin-positive and/or suspicious swine. Mycobacterium was isolated from the lymph nodes of 183 out of 234 swine (78.2%). For better epidemiological understanding, isolates were typed by conventional methods, PCR and hybridisation. The results show that most of the isolates belonged to the *Mycobacterium avium* complex (175 isolates, 95.7%). Other isolates belonged to *M. fortuitum* (6 isolates, 3.3%), *M. chelonae* (1 isolate, 0.5%), and *M. peregrinum* (1 isolate, 0.5%). Isolated strains of the *M. avium* complex were identified as *M. a. avium* (37 isolates, 21.1%) and *M. a. hominissuis* (138 isolates, 78.9%).