### Abstracts

**Title:** Mycobacterium-infections in reptiles, a cause of zoonosis?

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**Abstracts:**

Human infections with mycobacteria other than tuberculosis (MOTT) are usually not considered as being a zoonosis. Though, we report herewith a microbiologically proven case of an infection with MOTT in a HIV-negative young male suffering from a swelling of an inguinal lymph node. In search of the infection source only his exotic pets, two Tiger pythons (Python morulus), were detected of being infected with a mycobacterium, Mycobacteria fortuitum, in clinically conspicuous dermal lesions. Animal abuse together with mismanaged keeping procedures were the most probable infection route.

Thereupon 42 aquaria and aquaterraria were screened for MOTT infestation. In 14% of the aquaterraria M. fortuitum was detected by genetic typing, whereas M. intracellulare was infrequently found in aquaria only. M. fortuitum was isolated from all types of aquaria and aquaterraria inhabited by exotic pets including fish. Thus, M. fortuitum seems to be the mycobacterium associated with the keeping of exotic pets.

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