

Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid  
en Milieu  
*Ministerie van Volksgezondheid,  
Welzijn en Sport*

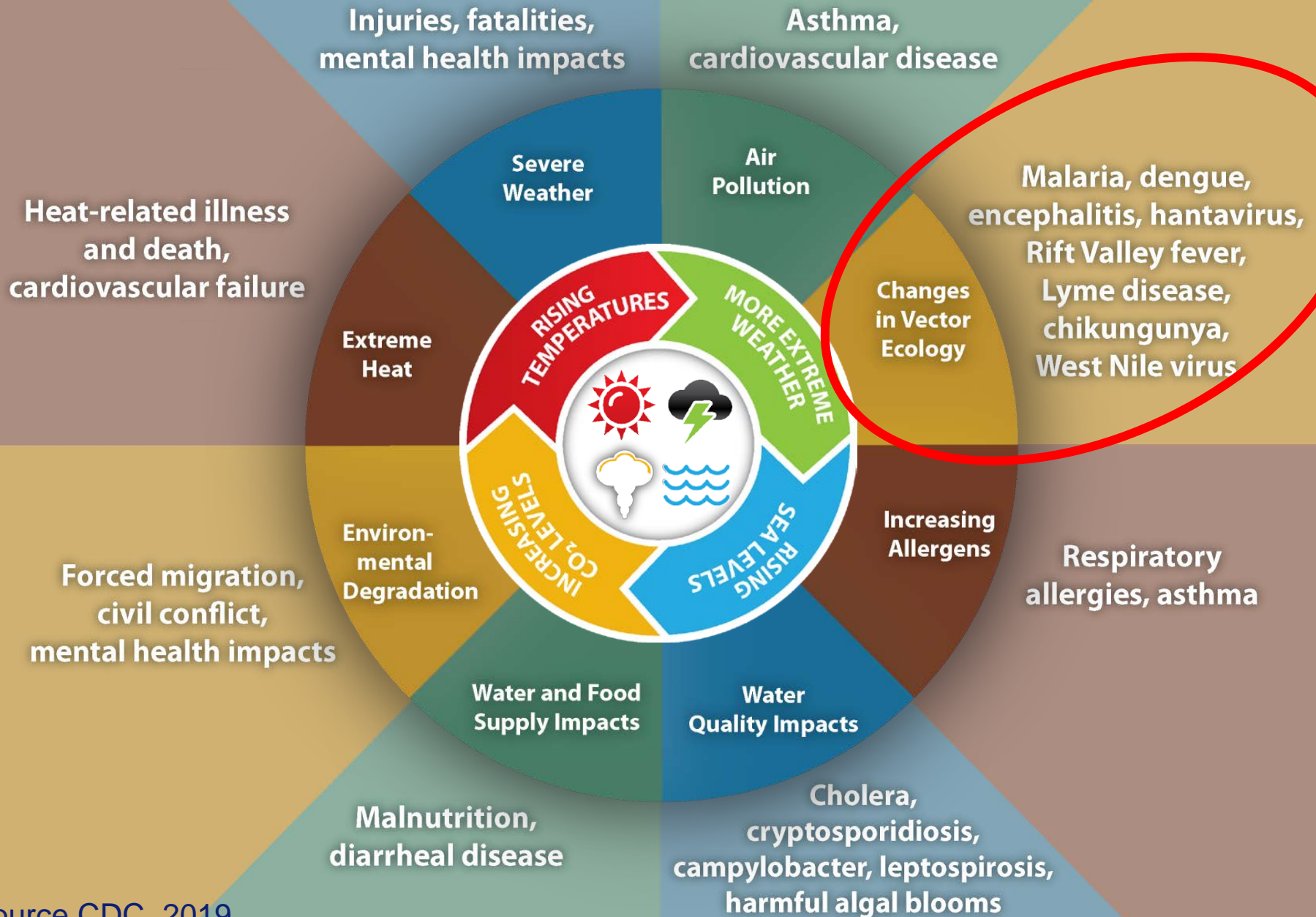
# Emerging arboviruses in Europe; the essentials

Chantal Reusken

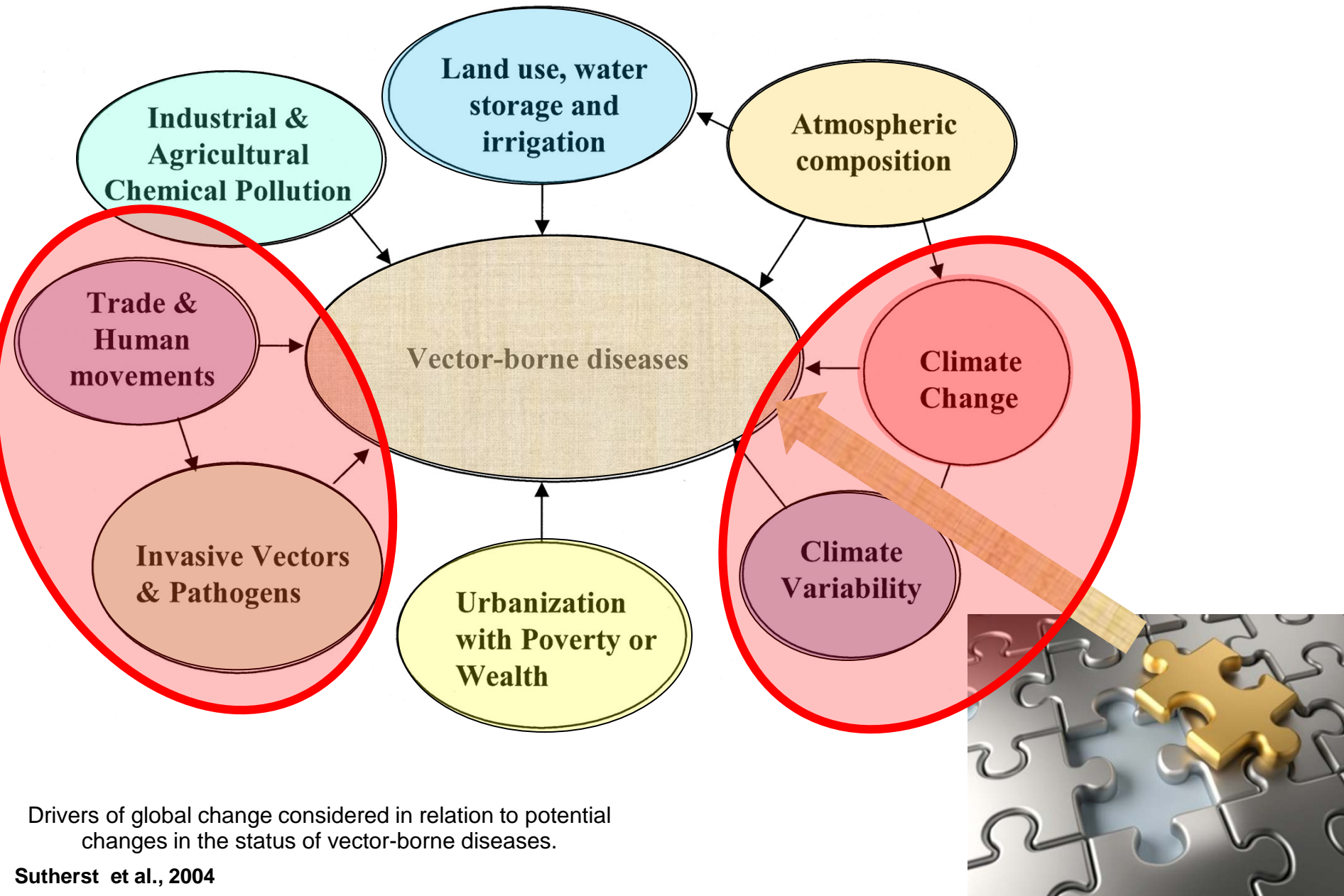
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# Impact of Climate Change on Human Health



# Human disease is result of complex interactions between human, pathogen, vector-related risk factors with spation-temporal variation: **CONTEXT**



Drivers of global change considered in relation to potential changes in the status of vector-borne diseases.



# Arboviruses are zoonoses



Europe

Enzootic/epizootic cycle

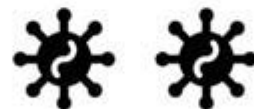
WNV, JEV, TBEV,  
CCHFV, TOSV, USUV

Urban epidemic cycle

DENV, YFV,  
CHIKV, ZIKV



Virus



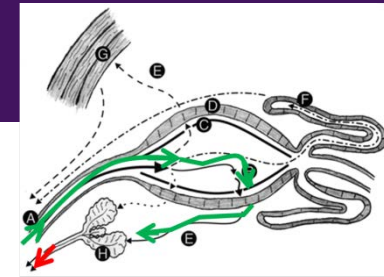
Incidental infection



One health surveillance pyramids



# Not all mosquito species will transmit virus "X"



susceptibility + transmissibility = infected -> infective

**Table A: Important mosquito-borne pathogens that cause disease in humans**

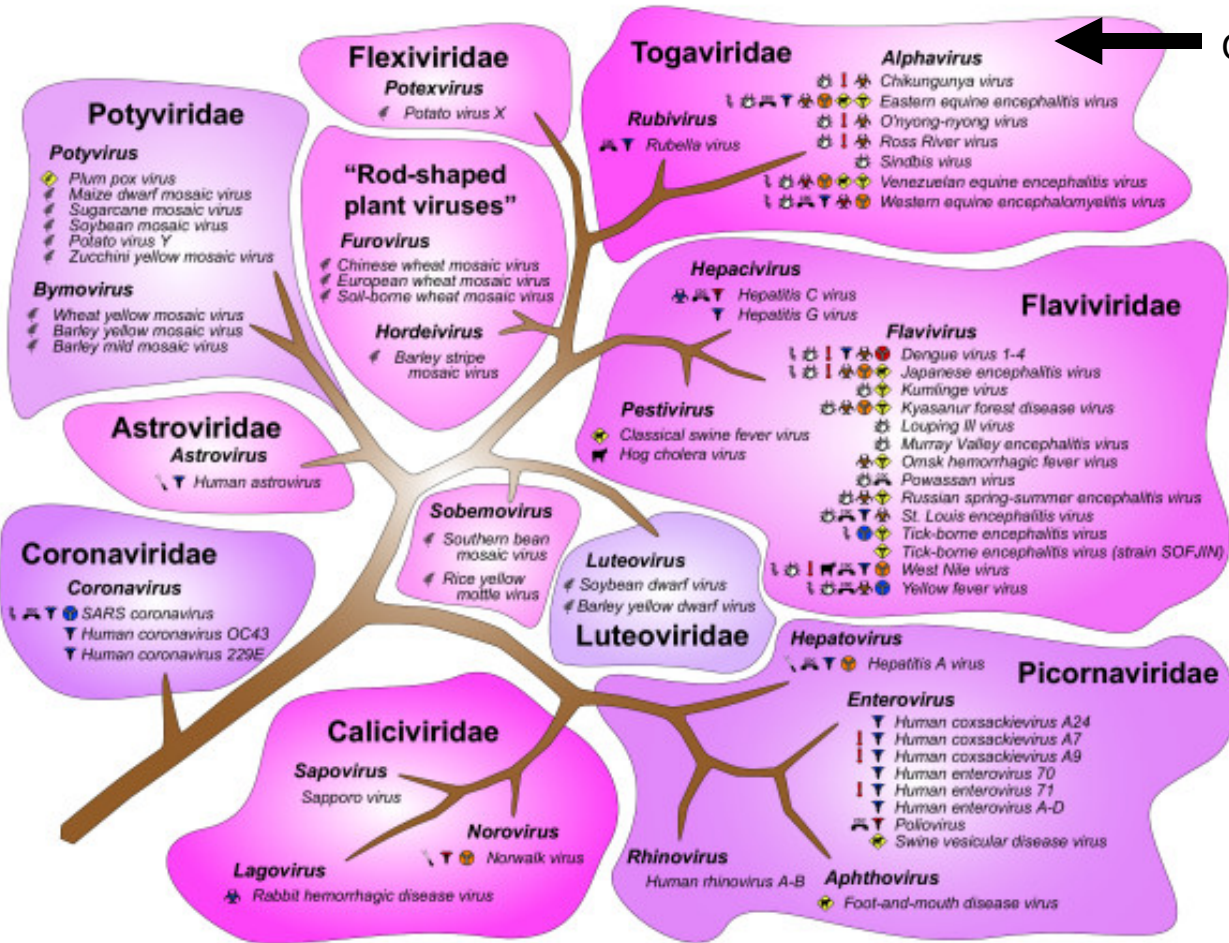
Pathogen	Disease	Case fatality rate (%)	Important vectors to human
<b>Togaviridae arboviruses</b>			
Chikungunya	Febrile to severe illness	Very low	<i>Ae. aegypti</i> , <i>Ae. albopictus</i>
Eastern equine encephalitis	Encephalitis	50–75	<i>Coquillettidia perturbans</i> , <i>Ae. vexans</i>
Ross River	Febrile	0	<i>Culex annulirostris</i>
Sindbis	Febrile	0	<i>Ae. cinereus</i> , <i>Cx. pipiens</i>
Venezuelan equine encephalitis	Encephalitis	0.1–20	<i>Cx. pipiens</i>
Western equine encephalitis	Encephalitis	5–10	<i>Cx. tarsalis</i>
<b>Flaviviridae arboviruses</b>			
Dengue 1-4	Febrile to haemorrhagic	3–12	<i>Ae. aegypti</i> , <i>Ae. albopictus</i>
West Nile	Febrile to encephalitis	3–15	<i>Culex spp.</i> ( <i>Cx. pipiens</i> , <i>Cx. modestus</i> )
Japanese encephalitis	Encephalitis	30–40	<i>Cx. tritaeniorhynchus</i>
Murray Valley encephalitis	Encephalitis	20–70	<i>Cx. annulirostris</i>
St. Louis encephalitis	Encephalitis	4–20	<i>Cx. pipiens</i> , <i>Cx. nigripalpus</i>
Yellow fever	Haemorrhagic	5–20	<i>Ae. aegypti</i> , <i>Ae. africanus</i> , <i>Haemagogus spp.</i>
<b>Bunyaviridae arboviruses</b>			
La Crosse encephalitis	Encephalitis	<1	<i>Ae. triseriatus</i>
Rift Valley fever	Febrile	<1	<i>Aedes spp.</i> , <i>Cx. pipiens</i>
<b>Plasmodium protozoa</b>			
Malaria	Febrile to renal failure	1–7 (< 5 years)	<i>Anopheles spp.</i>

Source: Beaty & Marquardt 1996; Schaffner 2003

# Taxonomy



positive stranded RNA viruses



Genus

Endemic birds:

Sindbis virus

Imported:

- chikungunya virus
- Ross river virus

Family

Genus

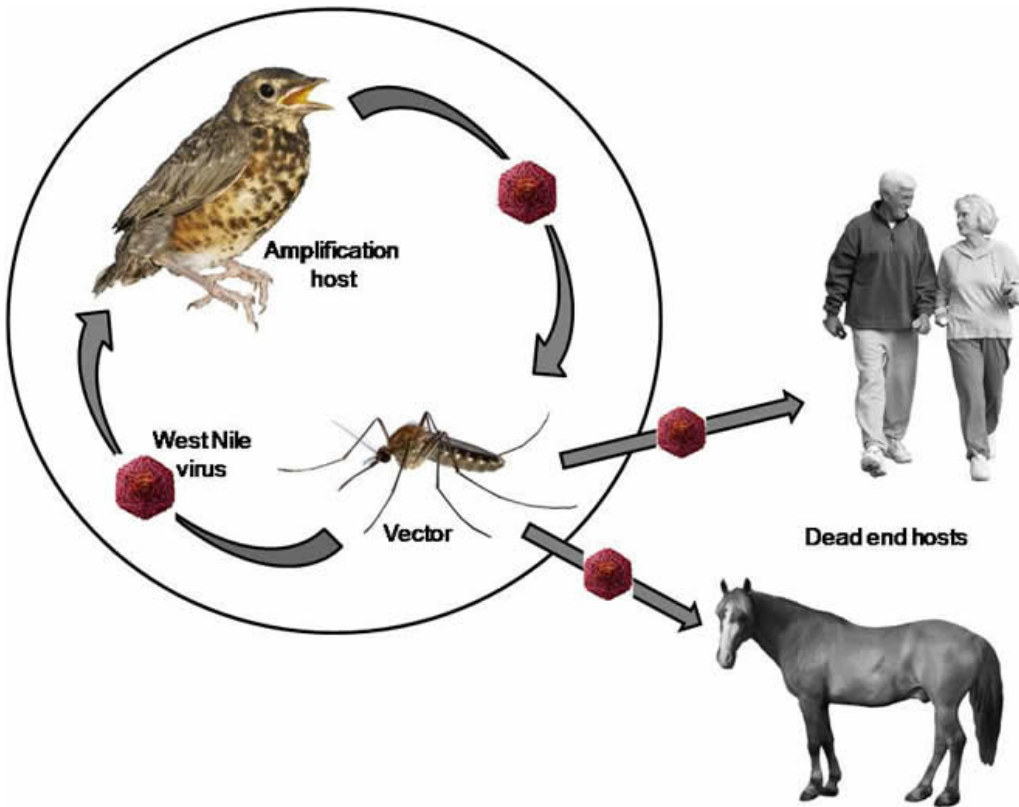
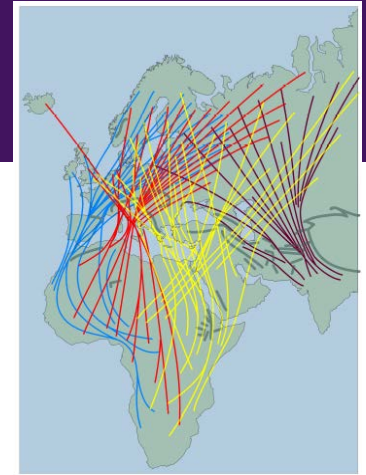
Endemic with human infections NL:

- tick-borne encephalitis virus (TBEV)
- Usutu virus (USUV)

Imported through returning travellers:

- dengue virus (DENV)
- Zika virus (ZIKV)
- West Nile virus (WNV)
- yellow fever virus (YFV)
- Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV)

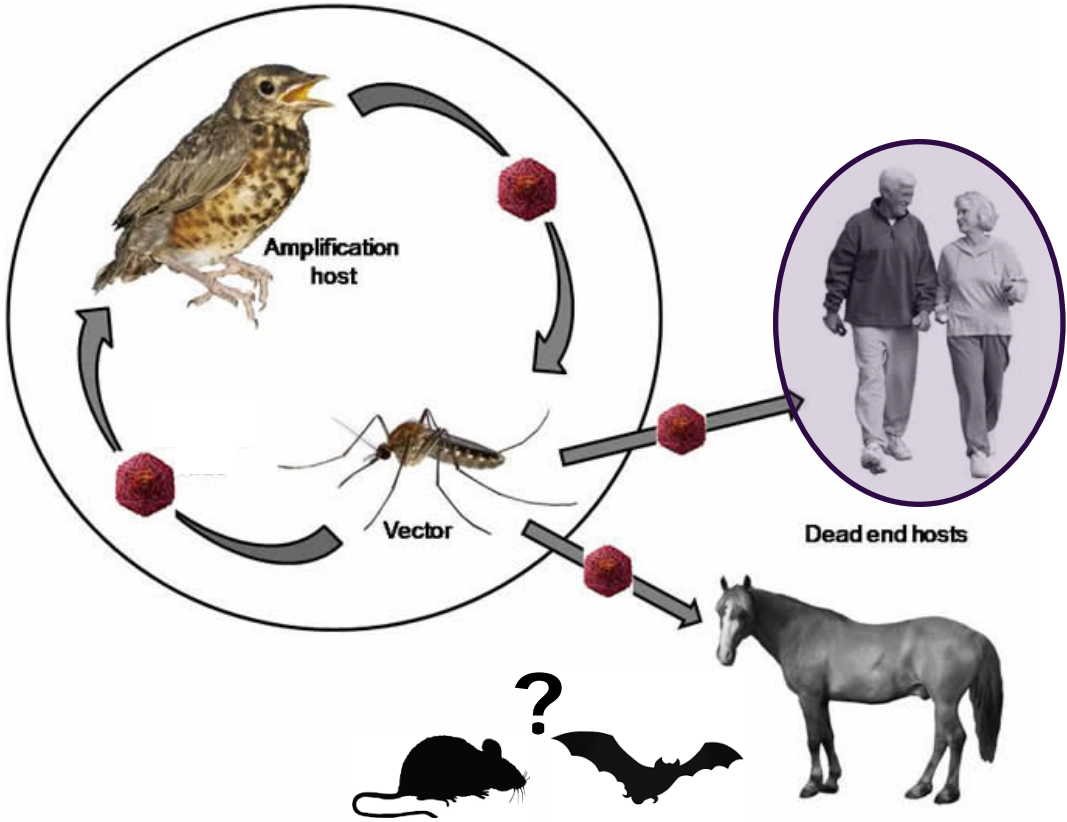
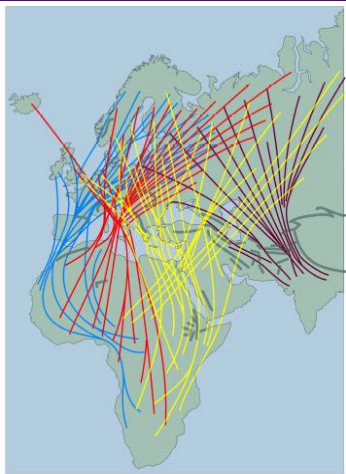
# West Nile virus life cycle



- Alternative transmission routes:
- ❖ blood transfusion
  - ❖ organ transplantation
  - ❖ intra-uterine transmission
  - ❖ breast feeding
  - ❖ needle stick accidents (lab)
  - ❖ dissection infected animals (lab)



# Usutu virus life cycle



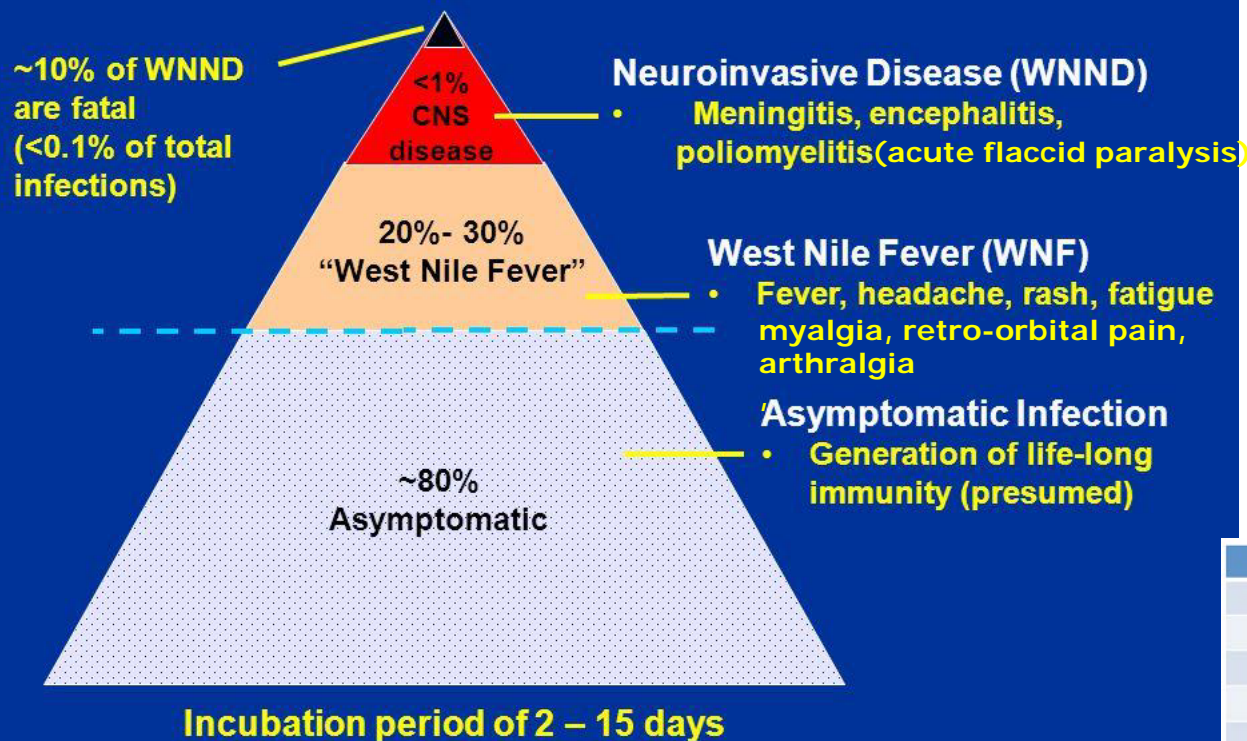
- Alternative transmission routes:
- ❖ blood transfusion (suggested)
  
  - ❖ more research needed:
    - ❖ Organ donation?
    - ❖ Breast-feeding?
    - ❖ Intra-uterine?
    - ❖ Dissection animals?



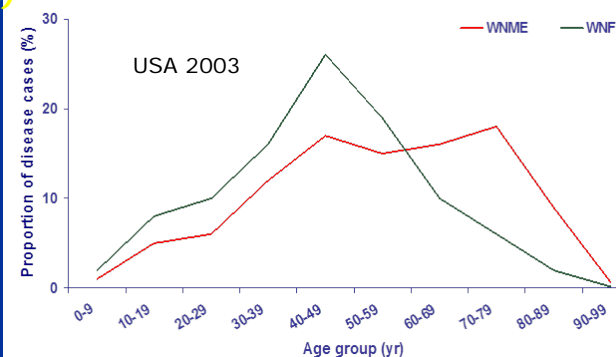
# West Nile virus clinical categories



## Three General Clinical Categories of WNV Disease

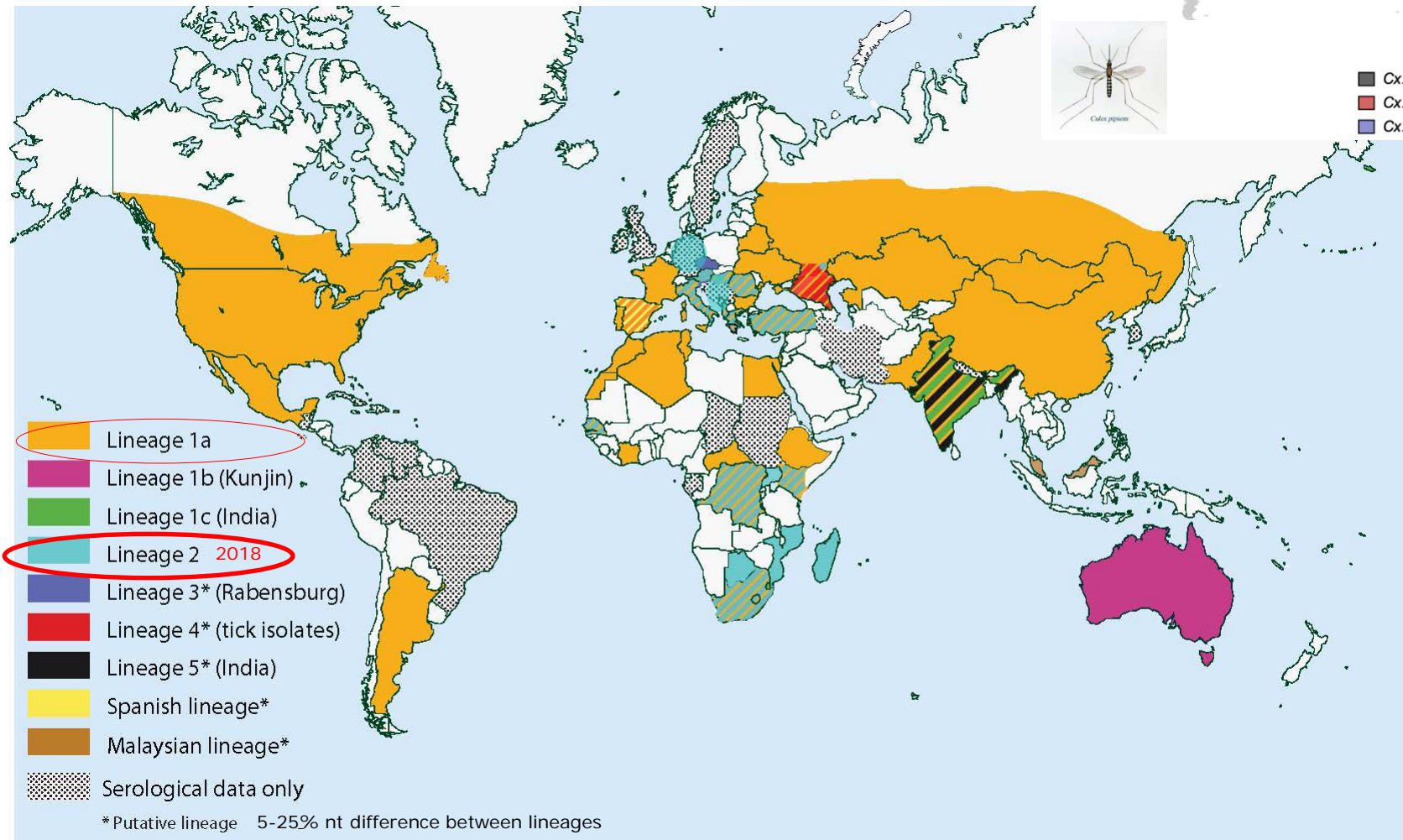
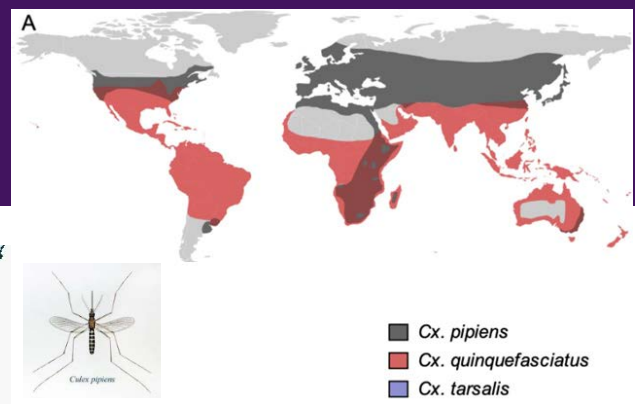


1 CNS disease case  
 =  
 ~225 total infections all age categories  
 =  
 ~60 total infections > 65 yrs of age

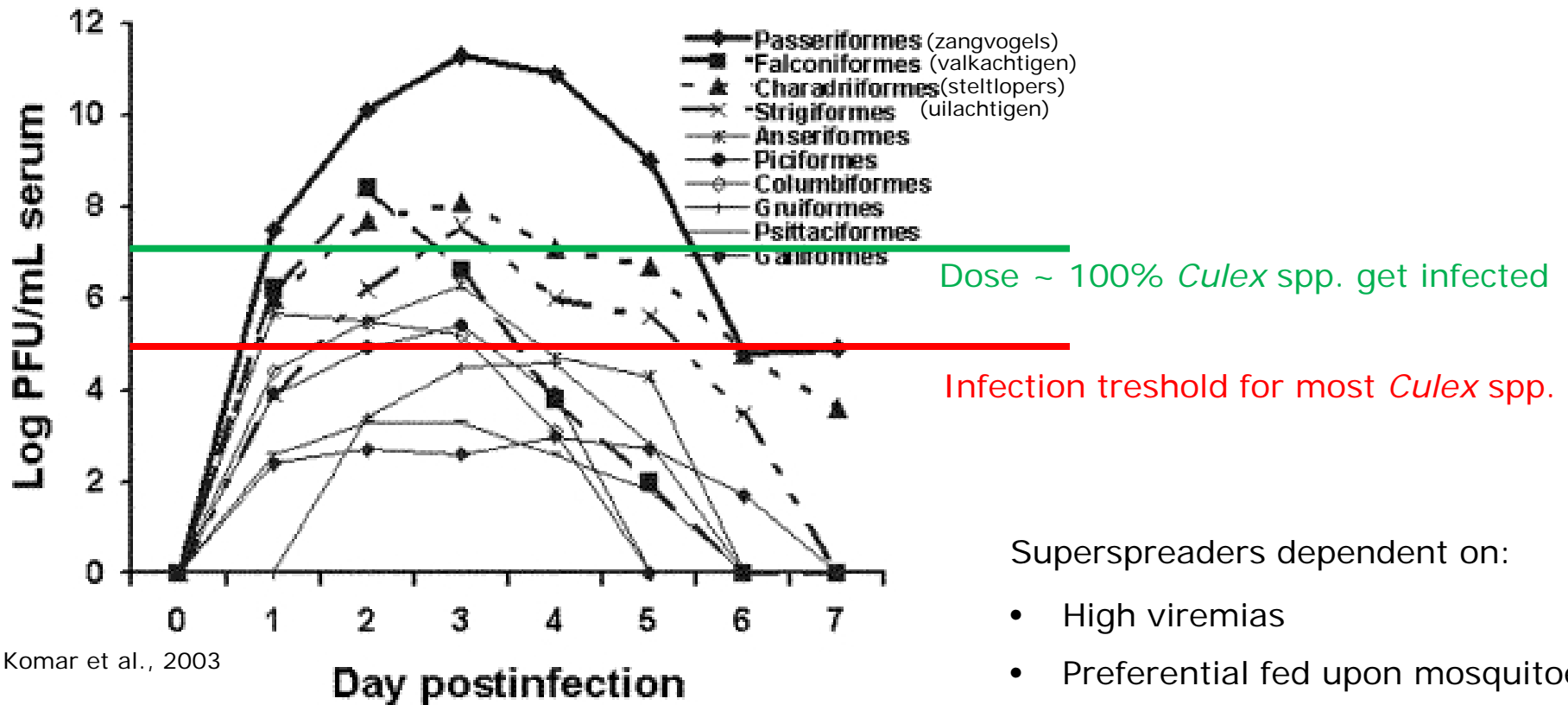


Age (years)	Males	Females
16-24	719	1231
25-44	356	330
45-64	248	387
≥65	50	61
All ages	220	244

# WNV epidemiology virus

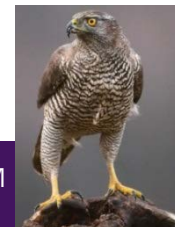


# WNV epidemiology reservoir



Superspreaders dependent on:

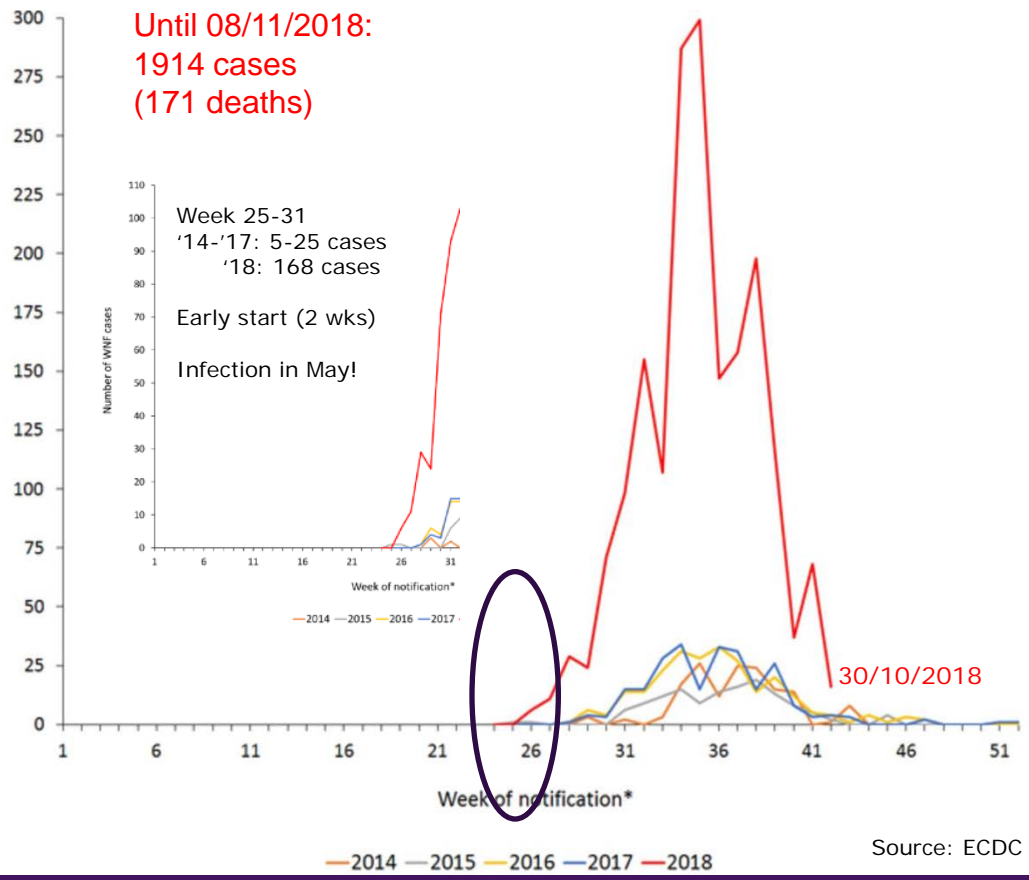
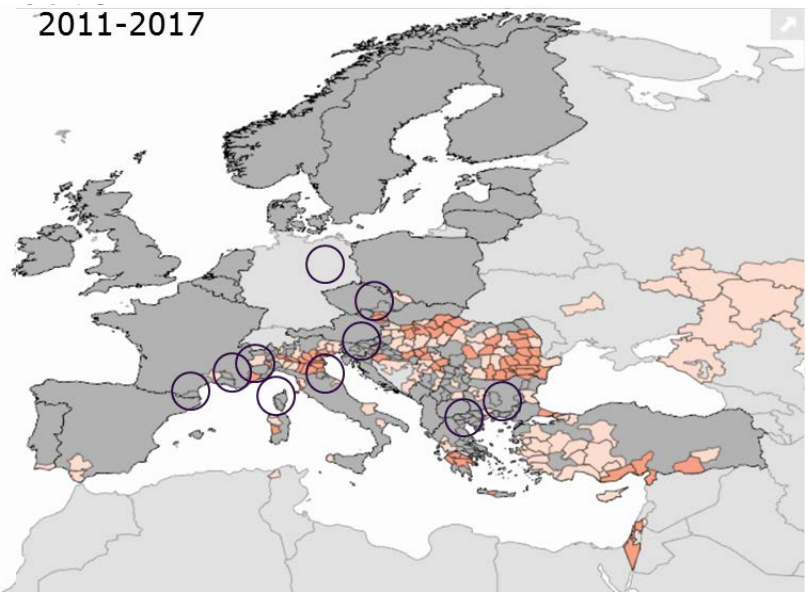
- High viremias
- Preferential fed upon mosquitoes
- (Minimal) clinical impact infection



# West Nile virus in 2018



## West Nile virus notification human cases EU/EEA and pre-accession countries 2014-2018



Source: ECDC



# West Nile virus drivers

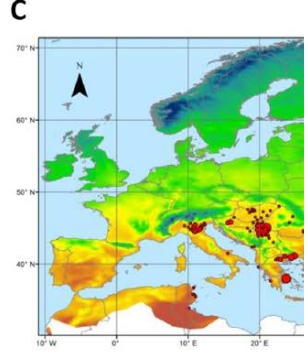
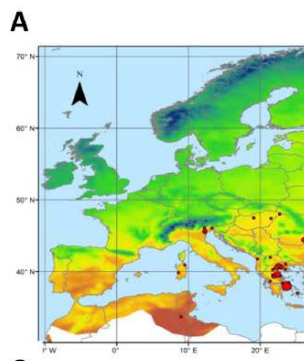


2018:  
 mild winter  
 wet, warm spring  
 dry, hot summer

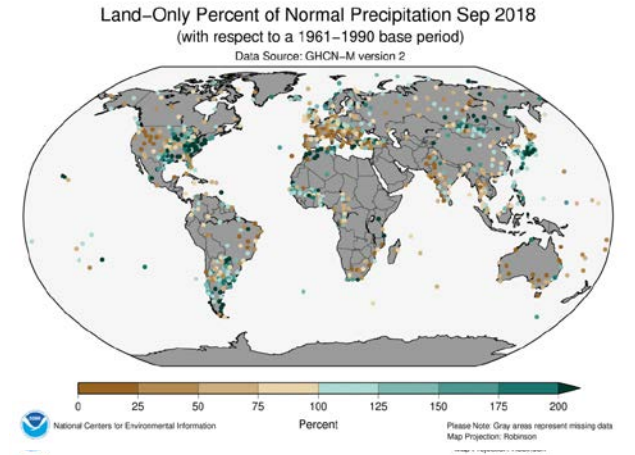
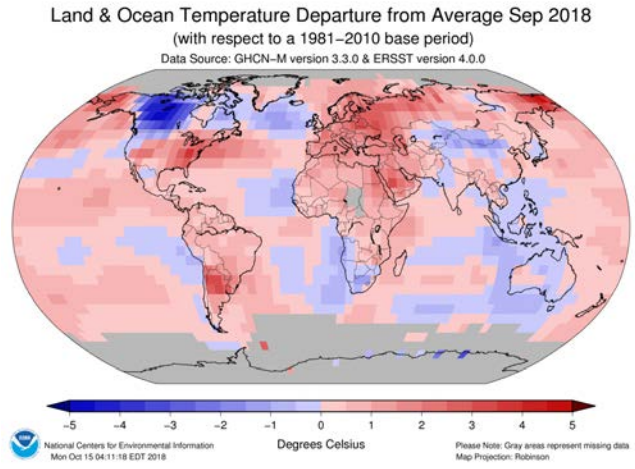
Key determinants for WNV incidence:

- a.o. Climate anomalies:
- high precipitation in late winter/spring
- high summer temperatures
- summer drought

- ⇒ ↑ mosquito biting rates
- ⇒ ↑ mosquito development rates
- ⇒ ↑ virus replication rates (↓ EIP)
- ⇒ ↑ human exposure



Mean diurnal sur

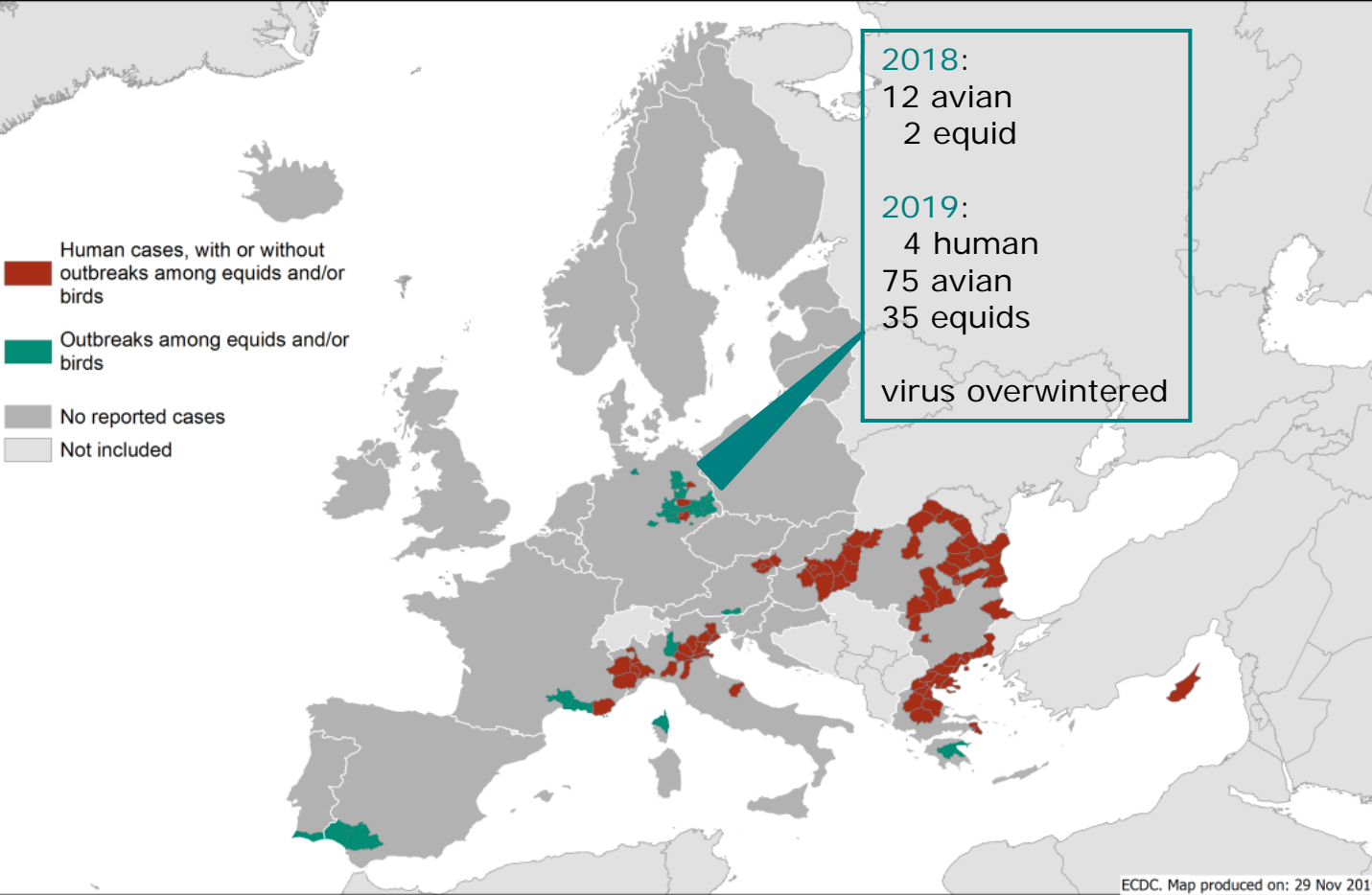


Marcantonio et al., 2015  
 Paz et al., 2013  
 Tran et al., 2014  
 Fros et al., 2015  
 Vogels et al., 2016

# WNV Europe 2019



Distribution of West Nile virus infections among humans and outbreaks among equids and/or birds in the EU  
Transmission season 2019; latest data update 28 Nov 2019



# USUV geographic distribution



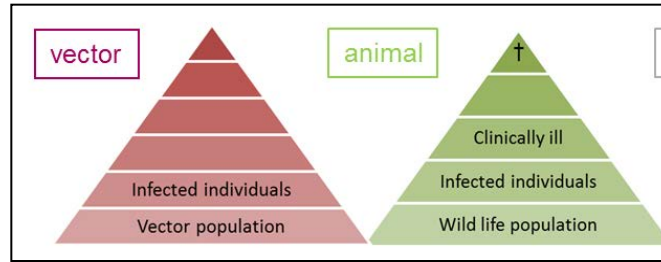
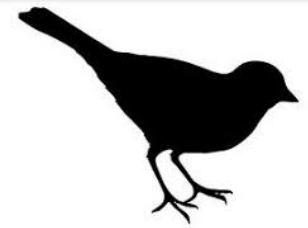
- In 1996 first time emergence outside Africa in Tuscany, Italy. Die-off Eurasian blackbirds (*Turdus merula*). Retrospectively determined
- 2001-2012 USUV found in Austria, Spain, Hungary, Suisse, Belgium, Czech republic, Germany
  - Die-off blackbirds and great grey owls (*Strix nebulosa*)

■ Virus in mosquitoes and/or birds  
■ antibodies in birds and/or horses  
■ Clinical human cases  
★ RNA + antibodies in blood donors

2005-2014 USUV antibodies in living birds Poland, Greece, UK

2016: large multi-country outbreak

# Bird orders and mosquito species infected in the field



- Aedes minutus*
- Ae. albopictus*
- Ae. caspius*
- Ae. detritus*
- Ae. japonicus*
- Anopheles maculipennis*
- Coquilettidia azuritis*
- Culiseta annulata*
- Culex quinquefasciatus*
- Cx. perfuscus*
- Cx. univitattus*
- Cx. neavi*
- Cx. pipiens*
- Mansonia africana*



- Accipitriformes*
- Anseriformes*
- Caprimulgiformes*
- Charadriiformes*
- Ciconiiformes*
- Columbiformes*
- Coracciformes*
- Falconiformes*
- Galliformes*
- Passeriformes*
- Phoenicopteriformes*
- Piciformes*
- Psittaciformes*
- Sphenisciformes*
- Strigiformes*







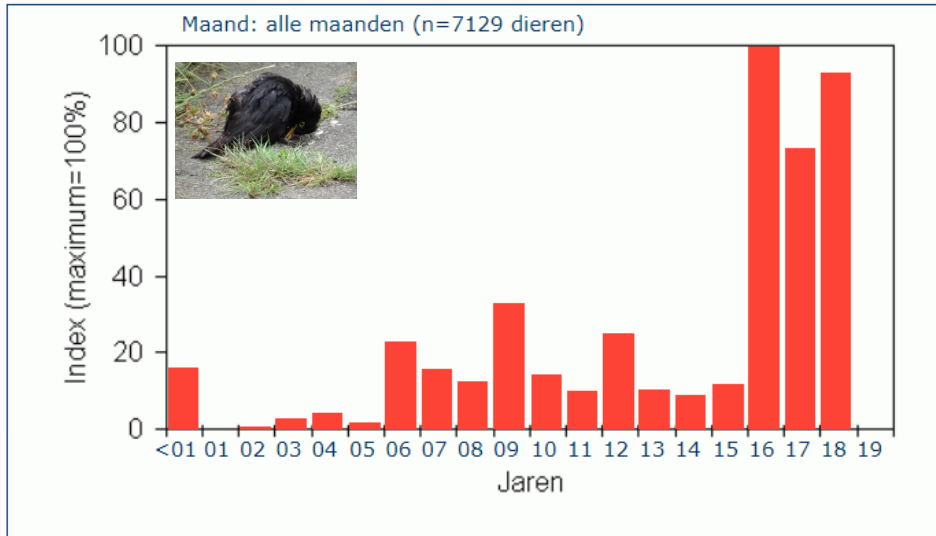
*Homo sapiens*

**USUV pos species in NL**

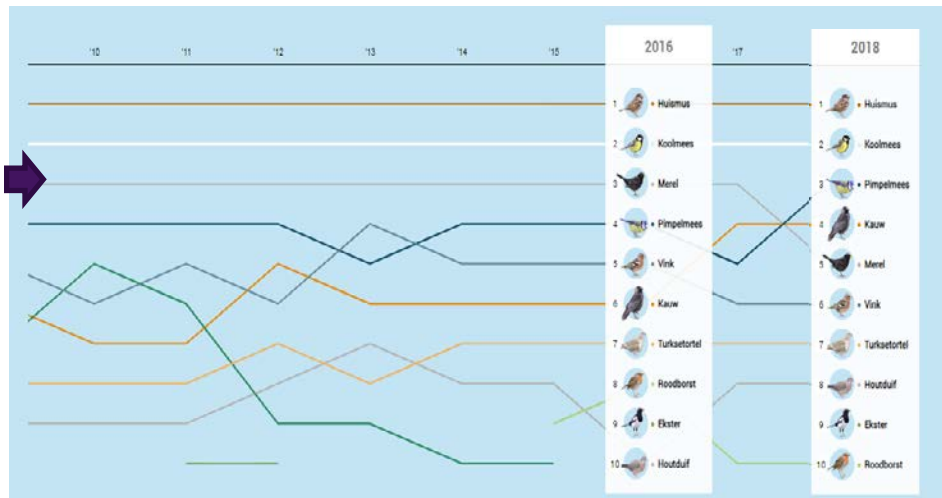
- Braamsluiper
- Chileense flamingo
- grasmus
- houtduif
- huismus
- ijsvogel
- kea
- knobbelzwaan
- kramsvogel
- Laplanduil
- merel
- pimpelmees
- roodhalsgans
- ruigpootuil
- smient
- sneeuwuil
- Vlaamse gaai
- zanglijster
- zwarte zee-eend
- zwartkop



*Culiseta annulata*  
*Culex pipiens*



Passive surveillance:  
reported dead blackbirds per year ,  
the Netherlands 2015-2018

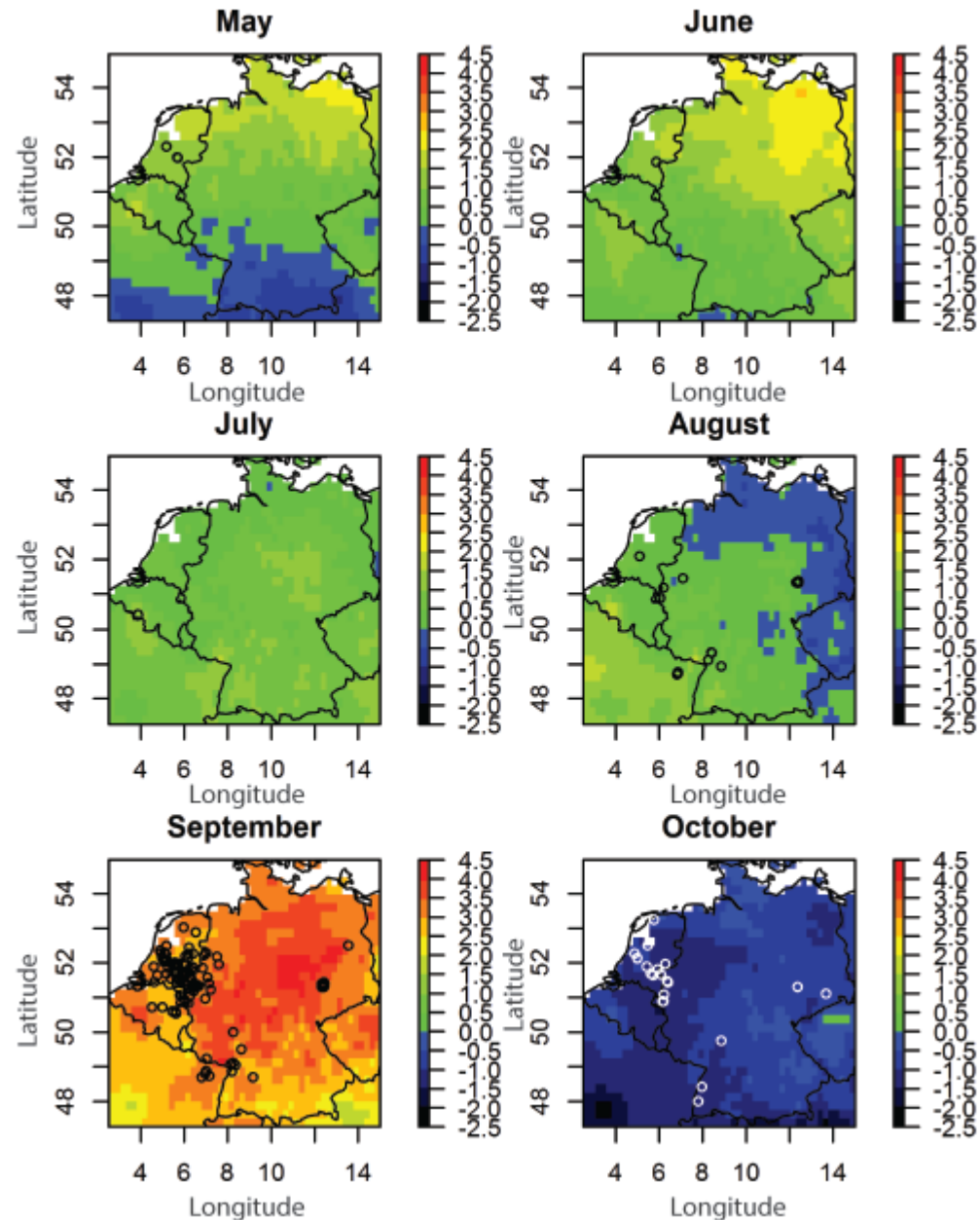
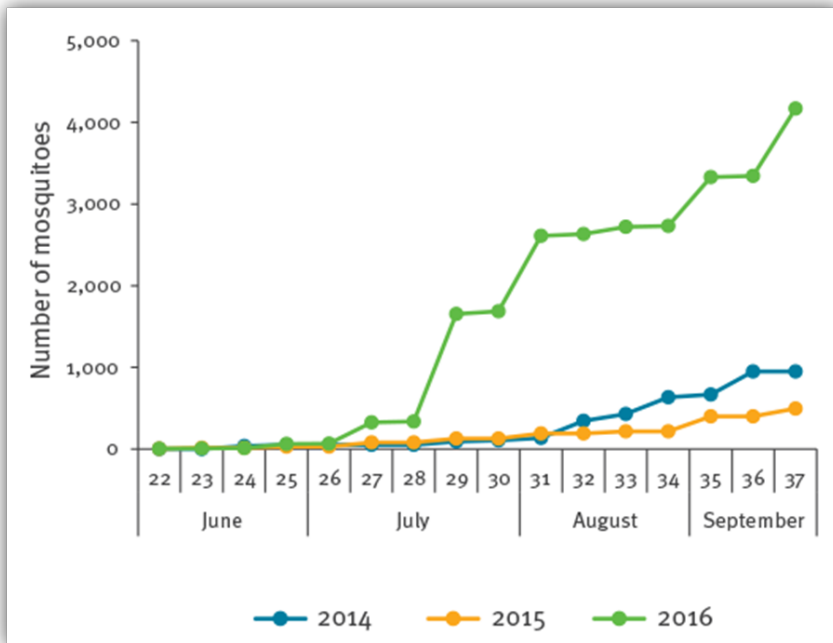


SOVON: -15%

(On average 650k-1100k breeding pairs in NL)

<https://www.tuinvogeltelling.nl/opmerkelijk>

# 2016 multi-country, multiple lineage outbreak



Cumulative number of mosquitoes found per year, at the sites of four used tyre companies, the Netherlands, week 22 to week 37 (end of May to mid-September)

**FIGURE 1.** Number (panel A) and cumulative percentage (panel B) of outbreak-related USUV-positive live and dead birds, western Europe<sup>a</sup>, 2016

**FIGURE 3.** Monthly temperature anomalies and distribution of outbreak-related USUV-positive birds, western Europe<sup>a</sup>, 2016

## Cumulative 2016-2018; WGS 115 black birds

### Molecular, WGS 115 blackbirds

-Two lineages:

2016: 73% Africa 3

2017: 71% Africa 3

2018: 93% Africa 3

-No clear geographical clustering of the different USUV lineages

-“Shot-gun blast” introduction

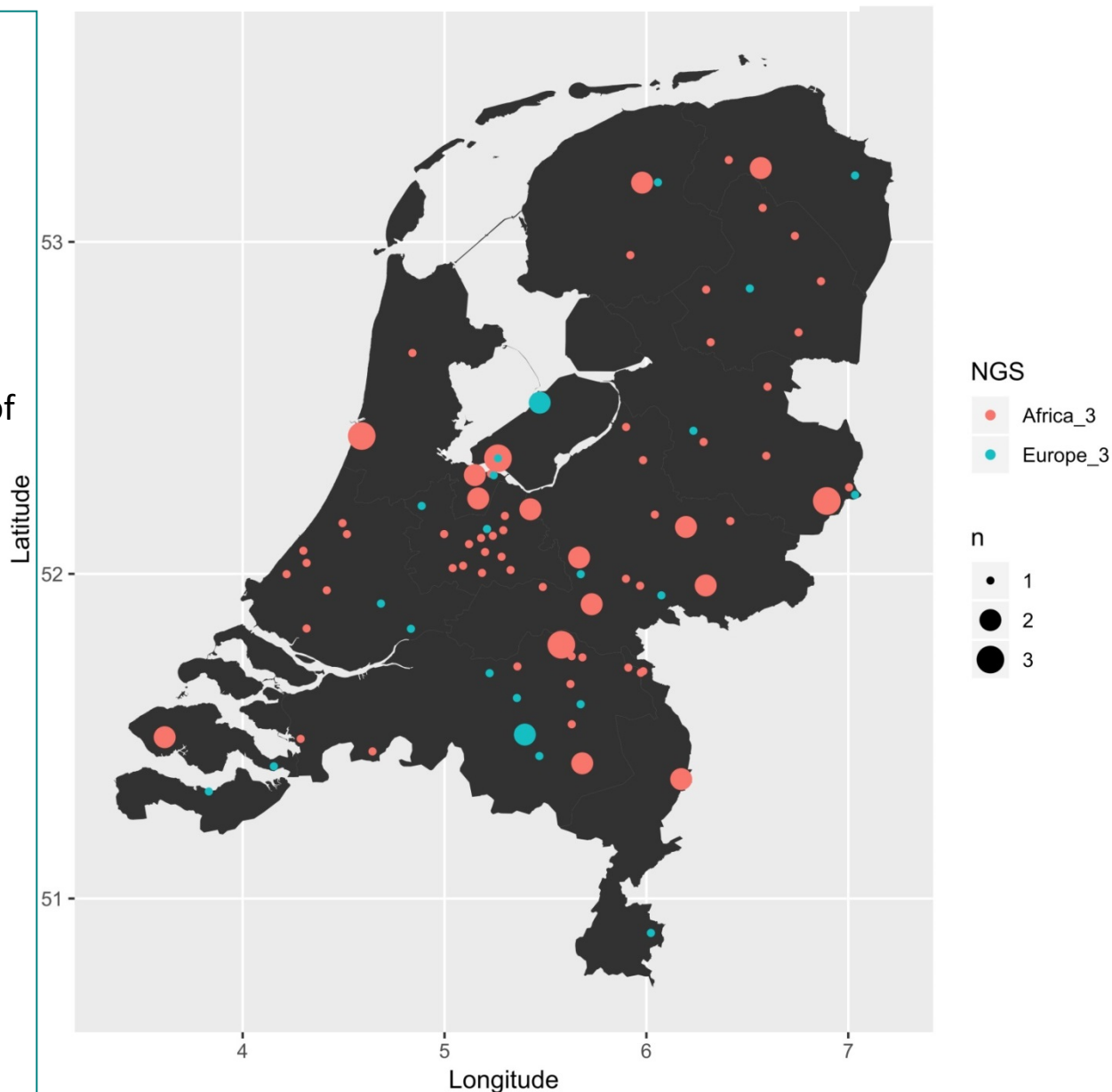
-MRCA : 2008-2011 Africa 3  
2003-2007 Europe 3

-Continuous exchange with virus strains circulating elsewhere (Europe, Africa)

### Serology, 534 blackbirds

- 12-15% seroprevalence

- Antibodies > 1 year

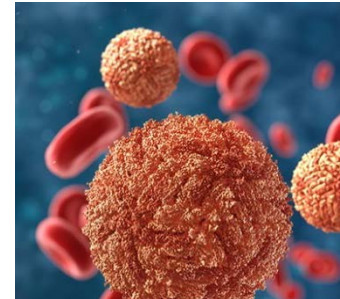
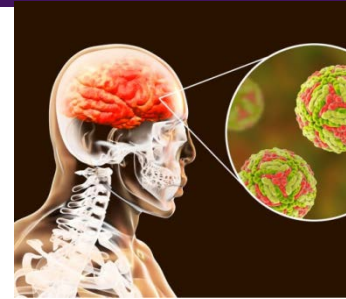




# Usutu virus, a zoonosis !



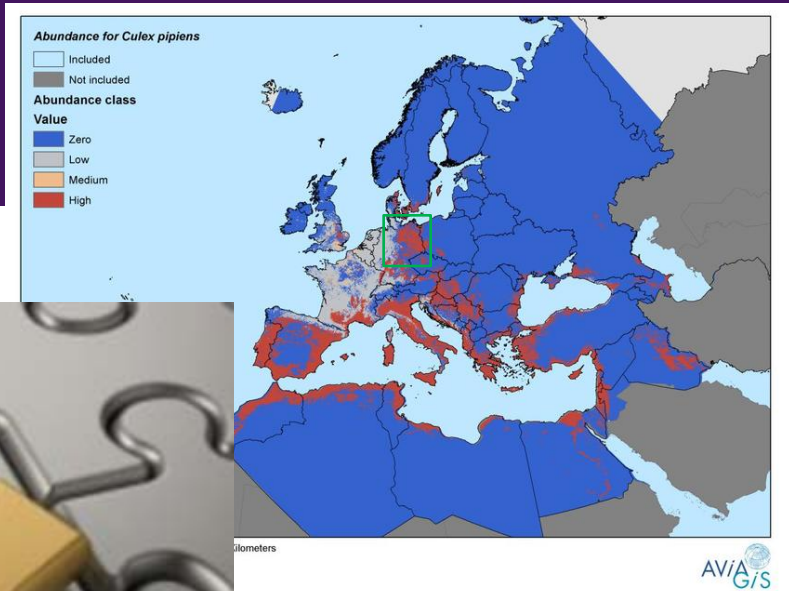
- ⇒ Up to date 30 confirmed CLINICAL human case in public domain
  - ⇒ 18 cases of neuroinvasive disease (Italy, Croatia, France)
  - ⇒ meningoencephalitis, encephalitis, polyneuritis, or facial paralysis
  - ⇒ Fever, rash, althralgia, myalgia
  
- ⇒ RT-PCR screening
  - ⇒ Positive blood donations (Italy, Germany, Austria, Netherlands)
  - ⇒ Mixed cohort healthy/sick: 1.1% (0% WNV)
  
- ⇒ Sero-studies
  - ⇒ In areas with co-circulation USUV, WNV: seroprevalence USUV > WNV
  - ⇒ Healthy blood donors: 0.02% GER; 0.23- 1.11% ITA, 2% NL
  
  - ⇒ Forestry workers, ITA: 18.1%
  - ⇒ Persons + rash/mosquito bites, AUS: 25%
  - ⇒ Healthy high risk mosquito bites, SER: 7.5%
  - ⇒ Mixed cohort healthy/sick: 6.5%; 0.78% ITA



**=> Consensus: conceivable underestimation burden of USUV-related disease**

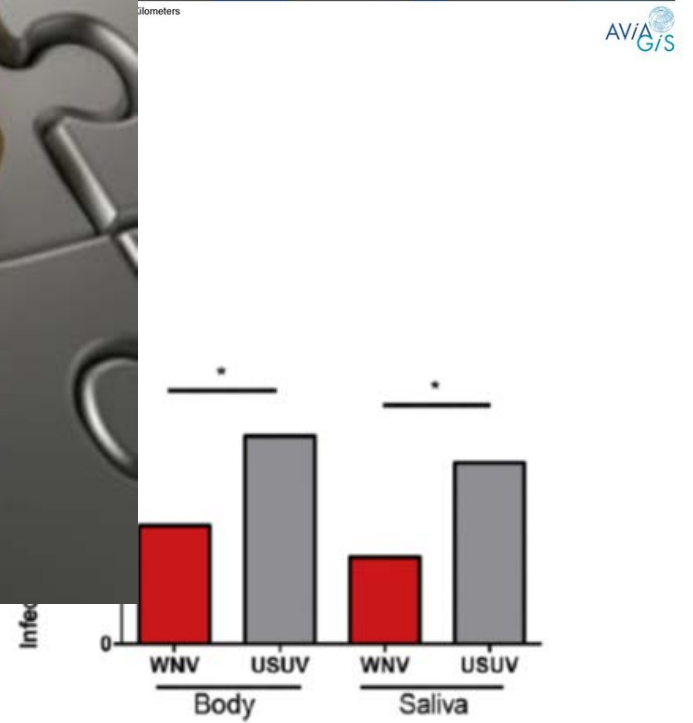
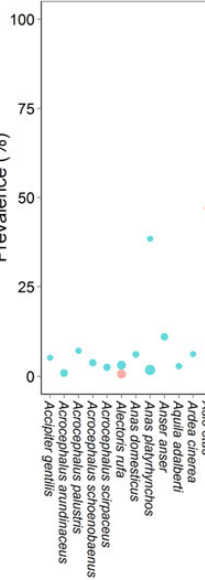
=> In vitro studies confirm deleterious effect USUV on human neural cells

# West Nile virus in NL?



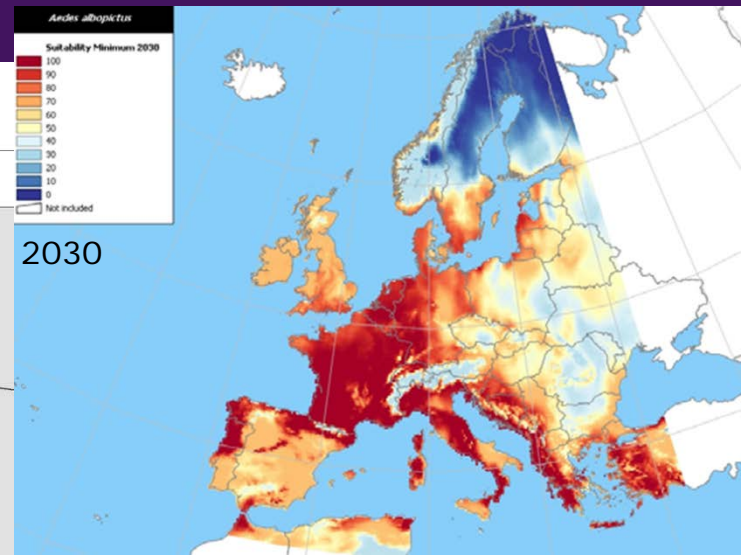
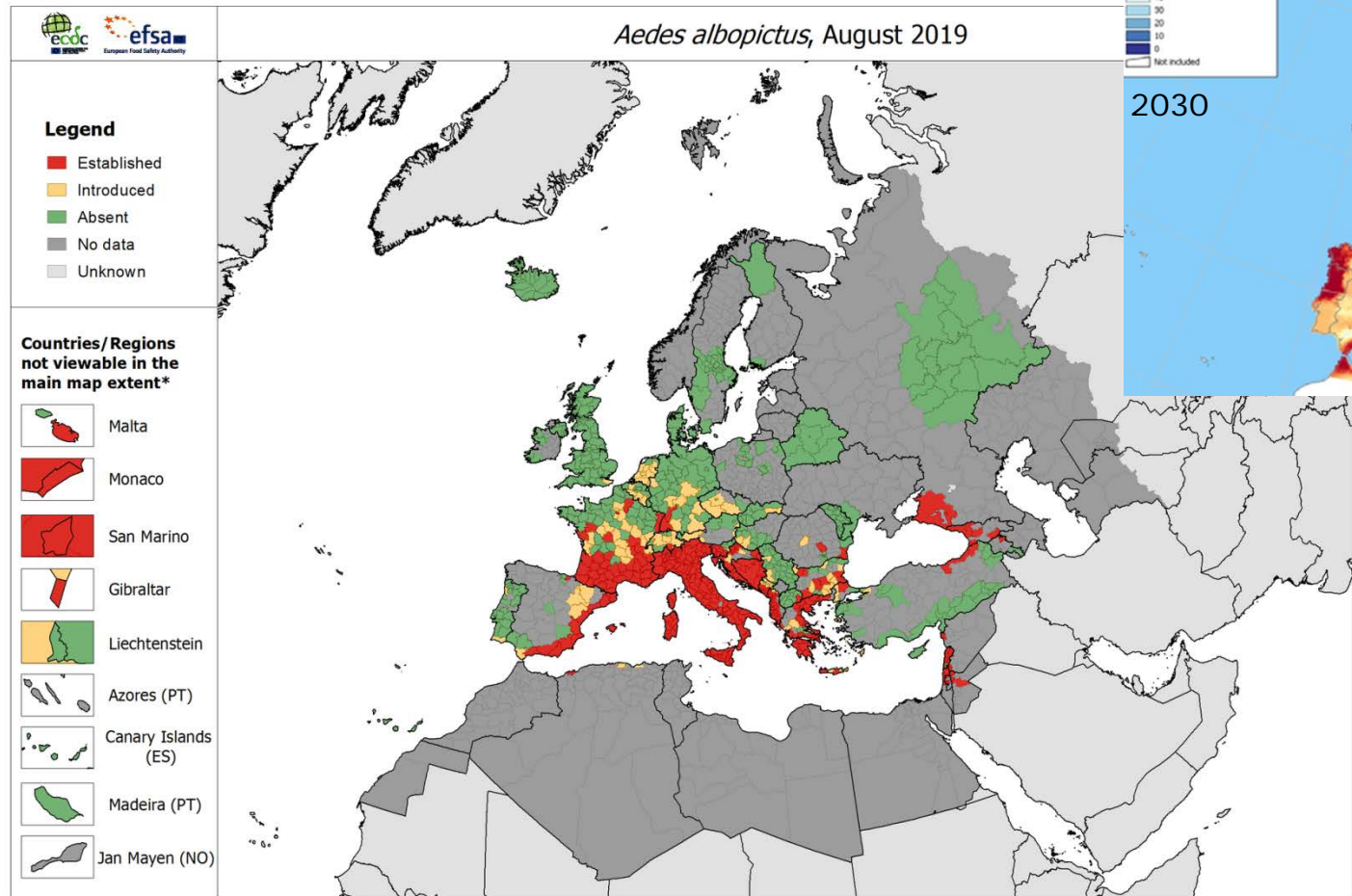
WNV vs USUV:

- Identical
- Overlap
- Overlap
- Present



# Transient *Aedes albopictus* - driven arbovirus circulation: DENV, ZIKV, CHIKV

## Current known distribution *Ae. albopictus*



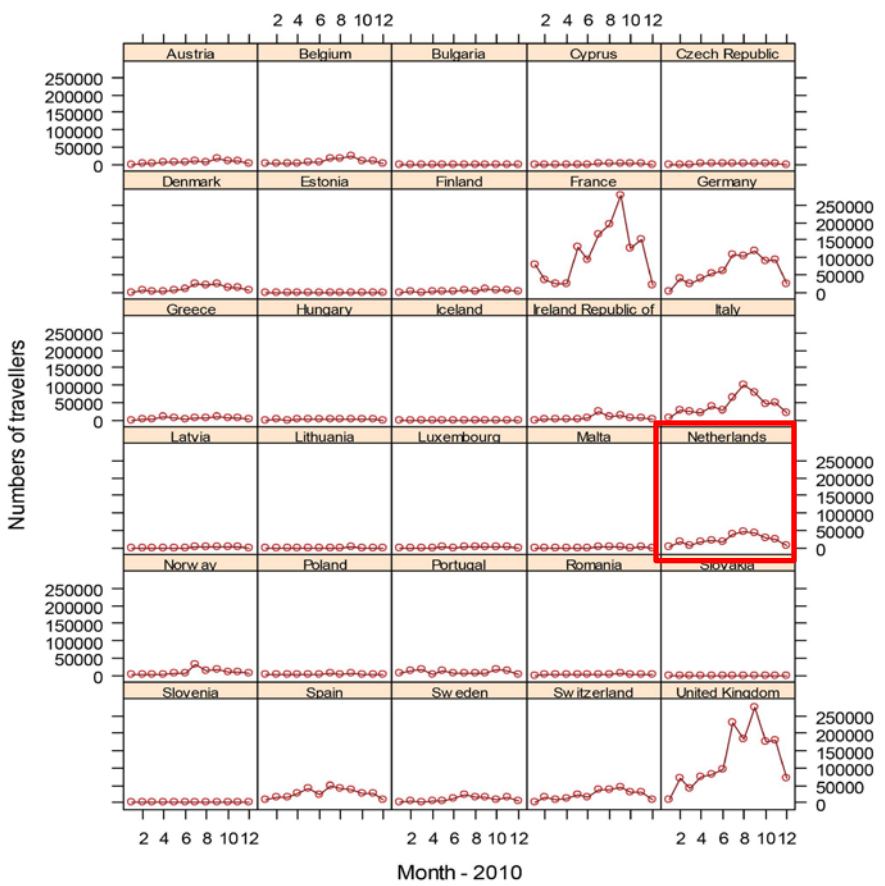
ECDC and EFSA, map produced on 28 Aug 2019. Data presented in this map are collected by the VectorNet project. Maps are validated by external experts prior to publication. Please note that the depicted data do not reflect the official views of the countries. \* Countries/Regions are displayed at different scales to facilitate their visualisation. Administrative boundaries © EuroGeographics, UNFAO, TurkStat.



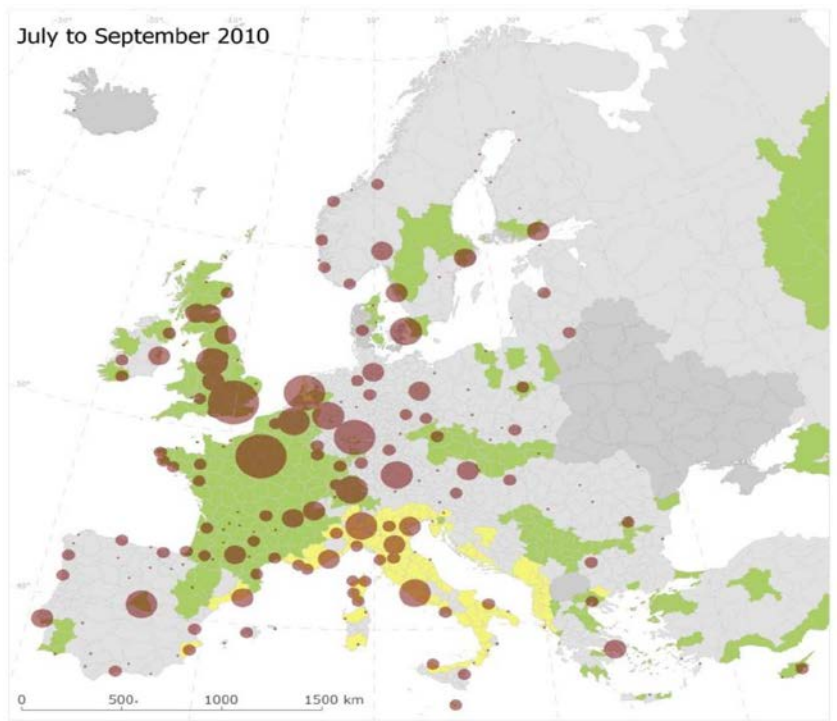
# Transient *Aedes albopictus* - driven arbovirus circulation: DENV, ZIKV, CHIKV

Number of international air travellers from dengue affected areas to the EU:

by country and month, 2010



against presence *Ae. albopictus*, mosquito high-season







European overview autochthonous transmission  
*Aedes* spp. -borne exotic arboviruses

**France**

<b>2010</b>	CHIKV	(n=2)
	DENV-1	(n=2)
<b>2013</b>	DENV-2	(n=1)
<b>2014</b>	CHIKV	(n=12)
	DENV-1	(n=1)
	DENV-2	(n=2)
	DENV-2	(n=1)
<b>2015</b>	DENV-1	(n=8)
<b>2017</b>	CHIKV	(n=17)
<b>2018</b>	DENV-1	(n=2)
	DENV-2	(n=5)
	DENV-1	(n=1)
<b>2019</b>	ZIKV	(n=3)
	DENV-1	(n=7)
	DENV-?	(n=2)
	DENV-?	(n=1)

**Spain**

<b>2015</b>	DENV-2	
<b>2018</b>	DENV-1	(n=5)
	DENV-1	(n=1)
<b>2019</b>	DENV-1	(n=1)
	DENV-3	(n=1)
	DENV-1	

**Croatia**

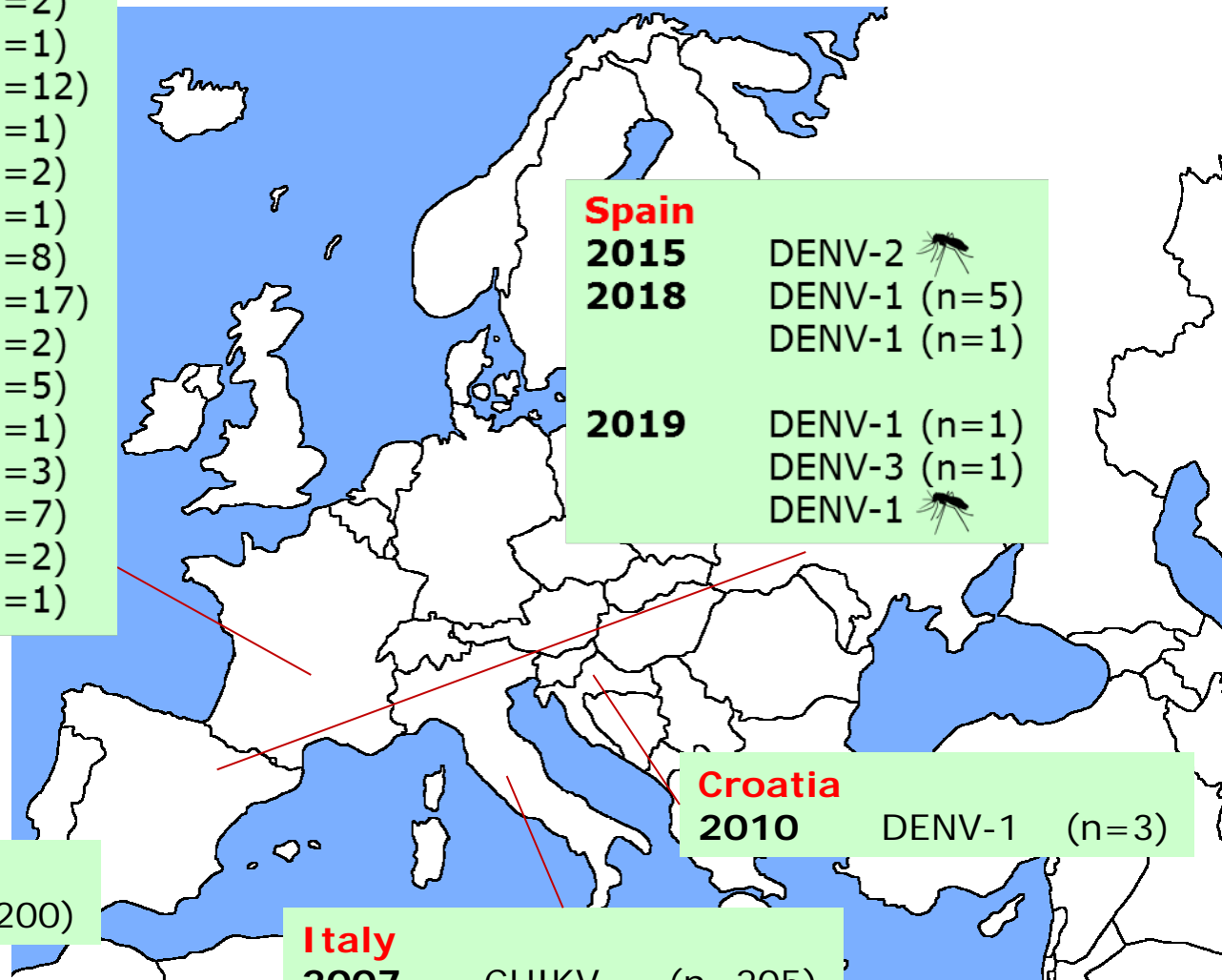
<b>2010</b>	DENV-1	(n=3)
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**Italy**

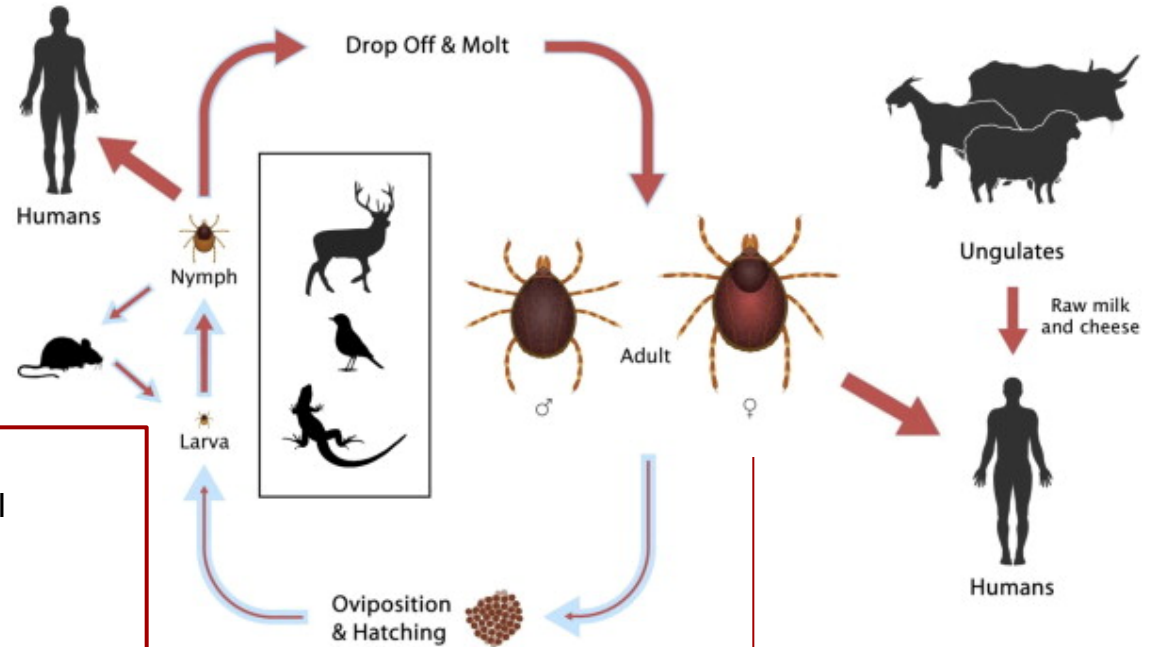
<b>2007</b>	CHIKV	(n=205)
<b>2017</b>	CHIKV	(n=282)

**Portugal (Madeira)**

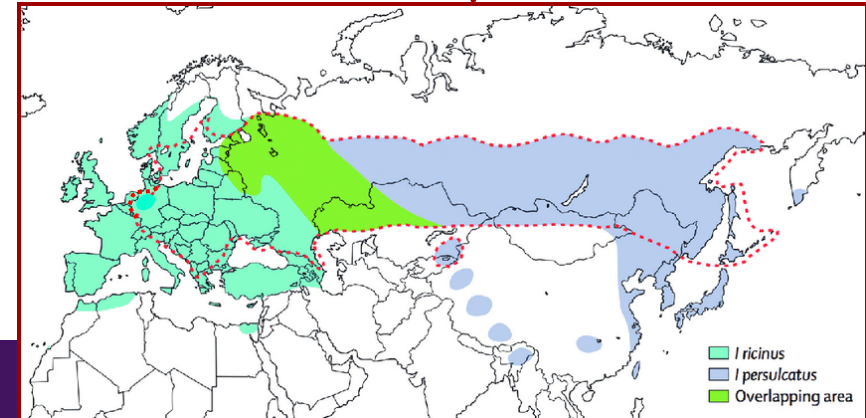
<b>2012-13</b>	DENV-1	(n > 2200)
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# Tick-borne encephalitis virus



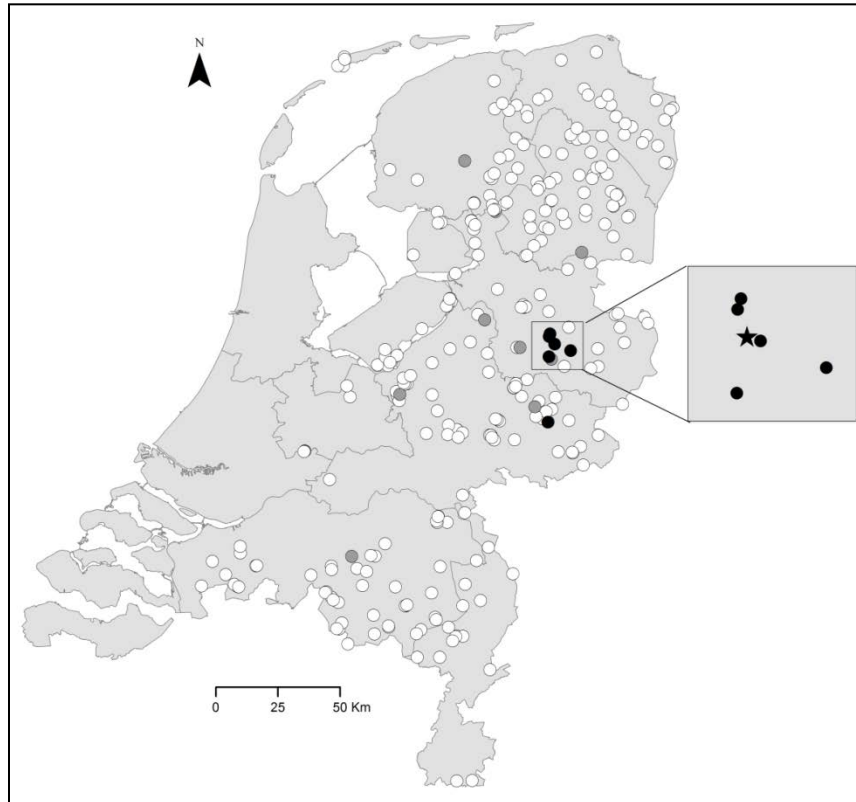
- 70-98% asymptomatic infections
- 2-30% symptomatic infections: neurological
  - ~ 75 % biphasic course
  - ~ 20% monophasic course
  - ~ 2 % abortive TBE (febrile illness with headache)
- chronic progressive TBE (Siberian TBEV, 1.7%)
- Mortality 0.5 – 2% (TBEV-EU)
- ~ 30-60 % develop post-encephalitic syndrome



■ *I ricinus*  
■ *I persulcatus*  
■ Overlapping area

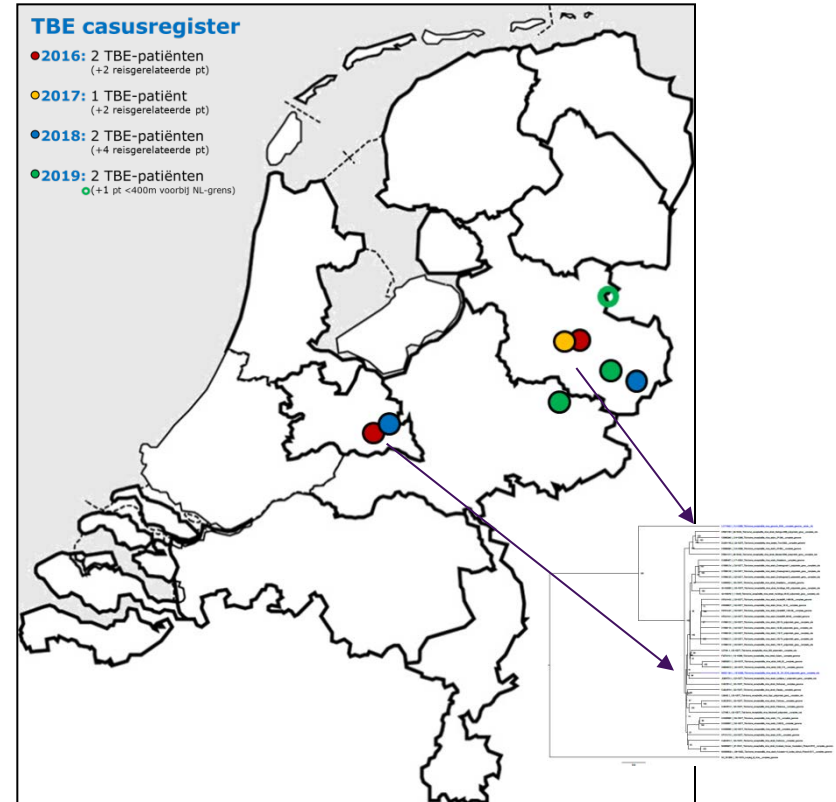


N=297 roe deer



- 6 TBEV positive deer sera (Vienna Units/ml > 125)
- 7 TBEV borderline positive deer sera (Vienna Units/ml 64-124)
- ≥284 TBEV negative deer sera (Vienna Units/ml < 64)
- ★ Ticks tested TBEV-positive by RT-PCR

Human clinical infections, n=7



Seroprevalence 0.5% IgG in 3/563 high-risk group (95%-CI 0,1%–1,4%).



# Thank you!



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