Shingleback nidovirus diagnostic testing service

Background

For nearly 20 years, reports of upper respiratory tract infections in shingleback lizards (Tiliqua rugosa rugosa) have been occurring in Western Australia. Clinical signs include:

- Nasal discharge
- Ocular discharge
- Pale mucous membranes
- Severe weight loss

Shingleback lizards showing mucopurulent ocular discharge and mucous membrane pallor.

Images courtesy of Kanyana Wildlife Centre (C Jackson)

Research at Murdoch University, in conjunction with Kanyana Wildlife Centre has identified a novel viral agent (Shingleback nidovirus) statistically associated with cases of respiratory disease.

Diagnostic service

We have developed a quantitative real-time PCR for detection of the novel virus from oral and nasal swabs of infected animals. This service is available for all suspected infected reptiles (lizard or snake) or reptiles in quarantine.

Cost: $37.00 ex GST  (Note this is a research based service, costs cover reagents only.)

For further details prior to sending samples please contact:

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