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Isolation and Characterization of H3N8 Equine influenza virus associated with 2008 EI outbreak in Egypt

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Abstract

In the present study nasal swab samples were collected from stallions and mares from El-Zahraa Stud for Arabian Horses showing severe respiratory manifestation. Type A influenza virus was detected in samples using influenza type A antigen detection kit (Flu Detect™ test strip, Synbiotics USA). Positive samples were inoculated in the allantoic sac of SPF eggs and the isolated virus was characterized using HA test followed by HI test after propagation for 5 passages. Molecular characterization of the virus was carried out using 2 RT-PCR assays based on amplification of 244 and 373 bp fragments of M1 and HA genes of equine influenza; respectively. The study reports the isolation of H3N8 Equine influenza virus in the 2008 outbreak in Egypt. The H3N8 viruses have been recently isolated and characterized in many countries worldwide. The isolated virus is designated as (A/Equine/Egypt/VRLCU/2008 (H3N8)).