



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**PATHOLOGICAL, BACTERIOLOGICAL AND PREVALENCE
STUDIES OF OVINE FOOTROT**

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STUDIES OF OVINE FOOTROT**

By

KARIM ALWAN MOHAMED AI-JASHAMY

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra
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in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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Chairman: Associate Professor Dr. Jasni Sabri, DAHP, DVM, PhD
Faculty: Veterinary Medicine

Ovine footrot, is a disease associated with infection by the bacterium *Dichelobacter nodosus*. It is a disease that limits the productivity of sheep-farming enterprises throughout the world. Both wool production and body weight are adversely affected during the clinical phase of the infection.

Ovine footrot has become an important contagious disease in Malaysia. The first confirmed case of footrot was reported in a government sheep farm in mid-1980s. The disease is now present in other farms throughout the country, and local vaccine is being used to reduce the disease.

Previous studies have identified *D. nodosus* in three sheep farms in Malaysia and only serogroup B was identified. The possible presence of other *D. nodosus* serogroups and serotypes is unknown. This study attempts to isolate

and identify the unknown serogroups and serotypes so as develop a better vaccine candidate using local isolates of *D. nodosus*.

Eight sheep farms were investigated in this study. Four sheep farms were found to be infected with *D. nodosus*. Two hundred and ninety-three *D. nodosus* isolates were obtained from 741 foot samples. Five serogroups were identified in Malaysia. This is the first study where serogroups A, C, F and I with their serotypes A1, A2, C1, F1 and F2 were identified in the infected sheep farms. Serogroup B was the predominant serogroup isolated (78.2%) while the isolation percentages for serogroups F, A, I and C were 7.9%, 7.5%, 3.8% and 2.7% respectively.

The information on the pathogenesis of the disease is still lacking despite previous studies on ovine footrot. Interdigital cutaneous changes associate with footrot in sheep is not well documented. The disease was induced experimentally in sheep by topical application of bacterial isolates on the interdigital skin of the hoof, and light and electron microscopy studies of the lesions were conducted.

Virulent footrot was observed by a gross progressive separation of the horny tissues from the soft tissues. On day 21 post inoculation (p.i.), a complete separation of the hoof from the underrunning structures and lameness were evident. The benign footrot was observed with mild interdigital dermatitis and all infected feet completely recovered on day 21 p.i..

Histopathological changes in virulent footrot were observed in the interdigital skin layers and hoof matrix. These ranged from acute dermatitis to hyperkeratosis, parakeratosis and acanthosis of the epidermis. Oedema and leukocytic infiltration with neutrophils, macrophages and scanty lymphocytes were also evident in the dermis. Furthermore, vasculitis and perivascular cuffing, lymphangitis and inflammation of the sweat glands were observed in the dermis. The histopathological changes of benign footrot were less severe than virulent form in the epidermis and there were no pathological changes in the dermis.

In scanning electron microscopy, a severe zone of lysis appearing as a surface depression around bacteria in the horny layer of the interdigital skin of the hoof was detected in virulent footrot, while this lesion was less severe in the benign form. Transmission electron microscopy revealed degeneration in the epidermis and dermis. Degeneration in the basal cell layer of the epidermis and the basement membrane in virulent form of footrot, which have not been reported previously was observed in this study.

Dichelobacter nodosus was observed in the lesions of the epidermis and dermis of virulent footrot. Its' isolation from characteristic foot lesions indicated that it was associated with footrot. Immunohistochemistry observations validate the relationship between the lesions seen in footrot and virulent *D. nodosus*. Immunogold staining technique facilitates to detection and localisation of *D. nodosus* for electron microscopy. Specific reactions were labelled in

components and the matrix of epidermis and dermis of the interdigital skin. *Dichelobacter nodosus* antigen labelled with 5 nm gold particles was observed in the intracellular and intercellular spaces of the epidermis. This is the first report where immunogold labelling technique have been used in the study of footrot lesions in sheep for electron microscopical observations.

The total monthly rainfall and mean daily temperature have a relation to the prevalence rate of the disease. These conditions provide suitable environment propagation of *D. nodosus*. The overall prevalence of footrot in the eight farms investigated was 3.3%. The highest prevalence was recorded in April (0.8 %), while the lowest in August (0.3%) in IHK farm by survey study. Observations described in this study were made to define the prevalence are related to seasonal conditions, but the effect of rainfall overrides all other factors for footrot to occur.

Adults were more susceptible than weaners. No cases were detected in preweaners. The prevalence by sex which was 4.4% in the male and 7.7% in the female was significant ($p=0.009$). No significant difference in prevalence rates between breeds was detected.

**Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra
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**KAJIAN PATOLOGI, BAKTERIOLOGI DAN PREVELANS BURUK
KAKI OVIN**

Oleh

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April 2003

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Buruk kaki adalah penyakit yang disebabkan oleh bakteria *Dichelobacter nodosus*. Penyakit ini mengurangkan produksi bebiri di seluruh dunia. Berat badan dan pengeluaran bulu bebiri terjejas akibat jangkitan bakteria ini.

Buruk kaki telah menjadi penyakit berjangkit yang penting di Malaysia. Kes pertama buruk kaki pada bebiri pernah dilaporkan berlaku di sebuah ladang ternakan bebiri kerajaan pada pertengahan tahun 1980. Sekarang penyakit ini sudahpun dilaporkan di ladang ternakan bebiri di negari lain di Malaysia dan vaksin tempatan digunakan untuk mengurangkan kejadian penyakit ini.

Kajian yang lepas telah mengesan *D. nodosus* di tiga ladang bebiri di Malaysia dan hanya serogroup B sahaja yang dapat dikesan. Samada terdapat serogroup dan serotip lain di sini tidak ditemui lagi. Kajian ini dijalankan untuk mengesan serogroup dan serotip yang tidak di ketahui sebelum ini untuk membolehkan penghasilan vaksin yang lebih baik dengan menggunakan isolat tempatan. Kajian

telah dilakukan di lapan ladang ternakan bebiri. Dua ratus dan sembilan puluh tiga isolat *D. nodosus* telah berjaya dipencilkan dari 741 sampel kaki. Lima serogroup telah dapat dikesan. Buat pertama kalinya serogroup A, C, F, dan I dengan serotip A1, A2, C1, F1 dan F2 telah dikesan di ladang bebiri yang telah dijangkiti. Serogroup B adalah serogroup yang paling banyak di isolat (78.2%) dan peratusan isolat untuk masing-masing serogroup F, A, I dan C adalah 7.9%, 7.5%, 3.8% dan 2.7%.

Pengetahuan tentang patogenesis penyakit ini masih lagi kabur walaupun banyak kajian telah dilakukan sebelum ini. Tidak banyak laporan tentang perubahan interdigital kutaneous yang berlaku semasa buruk kaki. Penyakit buruk kaki virulen telah dihasilkan dengan menyapu isolat bakteria pada kulit interdigital pada kuku keras dan lesi dikaji dengan menggunakan mikroskop cahaya dan elektron. Buruk kaki virulen dilihat sebagai berlakunya pemisahan yang progresif tisu keras daripada tisu lembut kaki. Pada hari ke 21 selepas disuntik, pemisahan lengkap kuku keras daripada struktur bawahan menyebabkan ketempangan berlaku. Dalam buruk kaki benigna, dermatitis interdigital yang tidak teruk berlaku dan semua kaki sembuh dengan sempurna pada hari ke 21 selepas suntikan bakteria. Perubahan histopatologi dalam buruk kaki virulen dapat dilihat pada lapisan kulit interdigital dan matrik kuku keras. Lesi yang berlaku adalah dari dermatitis akut ke hiperkeratosis, parakeratosis dan akantosis di epidermis. Edema dan penyusupan neutrofil, makrofaj and sedikit limfosit juga kelihatan di dermis. Selain daripada itu, terjadi vaskulitis dan “cuffing” perivaskular, limfangitis dan inflamasi kelenjar peluh di dermis.

Perubahan histopatologi buruk kaki benigna adalah kurang teruk daripada buruk kaki virulen di epidermis dan tiada perubahan patologi berlaku di dermis. Melalui mikroskopi elektron imbasan, satu zon lisis yang teruk yang mempunyai satu lekukan di sekeliling bakteria pada lapisan kuku keras interdigital kulit kelihatan dalam buruk kuku virulen. Lesi ini kurang teruk dalam buruk kuku benigna. Melalui mikroskopi elektron transmisi, degenerasi dilihat di epidermis dan dermis. Degenerasi sel basal epidermis dan selaput basemen buruk kaki virulen yang tidak pernah dilaporkan sebelum ini juga di ditemui dalam kajian ini.

Dichelobacter nodosus dapat dilihat di epidermis dan dermis buruk kaki virulen. Pemencilan bakteria ini daripada lesi buruk kaki menunjukkan bahawa lesi ini berkaitan dengan kehadiran bakteria ini.

Pemeriksaan secara imunohistokimia menyokong yang kejadian lesi buruk kaki berkaitan dengan kehadiran dan virulen *D. nodosus*. Pewarnaan “immunogold” telah digunakan untuk mengesan dan mencari lokasi *D. nodosus* menggunakan mikroskop cahaya dan elektron. Satu reaksi yang spesifik dilabel di komponen intrasel dan matriks epidermis dan dermis kulit interdigital.

Antigen *D. nodosus* yang dilabel dengan 5 nm zarah emas dilihat dalam ruang intersel dan intrasel epidermis. Reaksi pewarnaan imuno lesi buruk kaki benigna adalah kurang berbanding buruk kaki virulen di lapisan kulit interdigital. Teknik

perlabelan “immunogold” ini adalah pertama kali digunakan untuk mengkaji buruk kaki pada bebiri dengan menggunakan mikroskop cahaya dan elektron.

Jumlah taburan hujan bulanan dan min suhu harian ada kaitan dengan prevalen penyakit ini. Keadaan ini menyediakan persekitaran yang sesuai untuk pembiakan *D. nodosus*. Prevalen penyakit buruk kaki di lapan ladang yang dikaji keseluruhannya adalah 3.3%.

Prevalen yang paling tinggi telah direkod pada bulan April (0.8%) dan yang terendah pada bulan Ogos (0.3%) di ladang IHK secara “survey”. Kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa prevalen berkaitan dengan musim, tetapi hujan yang berlaku melebihi faktor yang lain dalam menyebabkan kejadian buruk kaki. Umur adalah sangat bererti pada bebiri dewasa berbanding bebiri yang sudah di cerai susu. Prevalen yang mengikut jantina adalah 4.4% pada bebiri jantan dan 7.7% pada bebiri betina adalah bererti ($p=0.009$). Prevalen mengikut baka didapati tidak bererti.

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I certify that an Examination Committee met On 26th April 2003 to conduct the final examination of Karim Alwan Mohamed Al-Jashamy on his Philosophy Degree of Science thesis entitled “Pathological, Bacteriological and Prevalence Studies of Ovine Footrot” in according with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) act 1980 and Universiti Putra Malaysia (Higher Degree) regulation 1981. The Committee recommended that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the examination committee are a follows:

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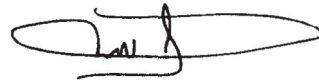
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I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citation, which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has been not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at Universit Putra Malaysia or other institutions.



Karim Alwan Mohamed Al-Jashamy
Date: 10 July, 2003

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT.....	ii
ABSTRAK.....	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	viii
APPROVAL.....	x
DECLARATION.....	xii
LIST OF TABLES.....	xvii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xviii
CHAPTERS	
I GENERAL INTRODUCTION.....	1
II REVIEW OF LITERATURE	5
2.1 General Introduction.....	5
2.2 Historical Background.....	6
2.3 Etiology of Ovine Footrot.....	7
2.4 Morphological and Bacteriological Characteristics of <i>Dichelobacter nodosus</i>	8
2.5 Ultrastructural Morphology of <i>D. nodosus</i>	10
2.6 Serogrouping and Serotyping of <i>D. nodosus</i>	11
2.7 Virulence of <i>D. nodosus</i>	14
2.8 Antigen of <i>D. nodosus</i>	15
2.9 Virulence Determination.....	16
2.10 Clinical manifestation of Footrot.....	19
2.10.1 Clinical Signs and Differential Diagnosis.....	19
2.10.2 Clinical Pathology of Footrot.....	21
2.11 Pathophysiology.....	22
2.12 Pathology	24
2.12.1 Clinical Scores.....	24
2.12.2 Histopathology.....	25
2.12.3 Ultrastructural Changes of the Skin.....	26
2.13 Epidemiology and Predisposing Factors.....	27
2.13.1 Host Factors.....	28
2.13.2 Environmental Factors.....	29
2.13.2.1 Biotic Factors.....	29
2.13.2.2 Abiotic Factors.....	29
2.13.3 Immunity to <i>Dichelobacter nodosus</i>	30
2.13.4 Vaccination.....	31
2.13.5 Transmission of infection.....	32
2.13.6 Incidence and Prevalence.....	32

III ISOLATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF <i>D. NODOSUS</i>	34
3.1 Introduction.....	34
3.2 Materials and Methods.....	36
3.2.1 Area of Study.....	36
3.2.2 Sampling Procedures.....	36
3.2.3 Direct Smear Examination.....	37
3.2.4 Preparation of Culture and Media.....	37
3.2.4.1 Hoof Agar (HA).....	37
3.2.4.2 Ovine Hoof Powder.....	38
3.2.4.3 Trypticase Arginine Serine (TAS) Media.....	38
3.2.4.4 Isolation and Cultivation of <i>D. nodosus</i> ...	39
3.2.5 Serology.....	39
3.2.5.1 Preparation of Antigens.....	39
3.2.5.2 Slide Agglutination Tests for Serogrouping	40
3.2.5.3 Microtitre Plate Agglutination Tests for	
serotyping.....	41
3.2.6 Virulence of <i>D. nodosus</i>	42
3.2.6.1 Elastase Test.....	42
3.2.6.2 Gelatin Gel test.....	43
3.2.6.2.1 Preparation of Substrate Gel...	43
3.2.6.2.2 Broth Antigen Preparation.....	43
3.2.6.2.3 Gelatin Gel	44
3.2.7 DNA Isolation and Polymerase Chain Reaction ...	45
3.2.7.1 Rapid DNA Extraction of <i>D. nodosus</i>	
from Pure Culture	45
3.2.7.2 Preservation of Foot Lesions Material.....	46
3.2.7.2.1 Rapid DNA Extraction of <i>D.</i>	
<i>nodosus</i> from Lesion Materials	47
3.2.7.2.2 Boiling DNA Extraction of <i>D.</i>	
<i>nodosus</i> from Lesion Material...	47
3.2.7.3 Boiling DNA Extraction of <i>D. nodosus</i>	
from Pure Cultures.....	48
3.2.8 Polymerase Chain Reaction.....	48
3.2.9 Ultrastructural Study of <i>D. nodosus</i>	49
3.2.9.1 Negative Staining of Bacteria.....	49
3.2.9.2 Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM)	
of <i>D. nodosus</i>	50
3.3 Results.....	51
3.3.1 Direct Smear Examination.....	51
3.3.2 Bacterial Isolation.....	52
3.3.3 Polymerase Chain Reaction.....	55
3.3.4 Serogrouping and Serotyping.....	57
3.3.5 Virulence Assessment.....	60
3.3.6 Ultrastructural Morphology of <i>D. nodosus</i>	64
3.4 Discussion.....	67
3.4.1 Direct Gram-Stain and Culture.....	67

3.4.2 Morphology of the Bacterial Colonies.....	69
3.4.3 Serogrouping and Serotyping of <i>D. nodosus</i>	69
3.4.4 Virulence studies.....	71
3.4.5 Polymerase Chain Reaction.....	72
3.4.6 Ultrastructural Morphology of <i>D. nodosus</i>	74
3.4.7 Conclusion.....	75
IV PATHOLOGY OF EXPERIMENTALLY INDUCED OVINE FOOTROT.....	77
4.1 Introduction.....	77
4.2 Materials and Methods.....	80
4.2.1 Sheep.....	80
4.2.2 Bacterial Strains.....	80
4.2.3 Experimental Design.....	81
4.2.4 Preliminary Experimental Reproduction of Ovine Footrot.....	81
4.2.5 Infection of Sheep.....	82
4.2.6 Bacteriology.....	83
4.2.7 Pathology.....	83
4.2.7.1 Lameness and Lesion Scoring.....	83
4.2.7.2 Light Microscopy.....	84
4.2.7.3 Electron Microscopy.....	84
4.2.7.4 Transmission Electron Microscopy...	85
4.3 Results.....	86
4.3.1 Bacteriology.....	86
4.3.2 Pathology.....	87
4.3.2.1 Clinical Scores	87
4.3.2.2 Histopathology.....	95
4.3.3 Ultrastructural Pathology.....	100
4.3.3.1 Scanning Electron Microscopy of Footrot Lesions.....	100
4.3.3.2 Transmission Electron Microscopy of Footrot Lesions.....	100
4.3.3.2.1 Epidermis.....	100
4.3.3.2.2 Dermis.....	102
4.4 Discussion.....	117
4.4.1 Clinical Scores.....	117
4.4.2 Histopathology.....	120
4.4.3 Ultrastructural Pathology.....	121
4.4.4 Conclusion.....	124

V IMMUNOHISTOPATHOLOGY OF EXPERIMENTALLY INDUCED OVINE FOOTROT.....	126
5.1 Introduction.....	126
5.2 Materials and Methods.....	127
5.2.1 Immunohistochemistry.....	127
5.2.1.1 Production of Antisera	128
5.2.1.2 Negative Staining: Transmission Electron Microscopy of Immunogold Labelled <i>D. nodosus</i>	128
5.2.1.3 Scanning Electron Microscopy of Immunogold Labelled <i>D. nodosus</i> from Pure Culture.....	129
5.2.1.4 Scanning Electron Microscopy of Immunogold Labelled <i>D. nodosus</i> from Infected Interdigital Skin Samples	130
5.2.1.5 Transmission Electron Microscopy of Immunogold Labelled Footrot Lesions...	131
5.3 Results.....	132
5.4 Discussion.....	137
5.4.1 Immunogold.....	137
5.4.2 Conclusion.....	139
VI PREVALENCE OF OVINE FOOTROT IN SHEEP FARMS IN MALAYSIA.....	149
6.1 Introduction.....	149
6.2 Materials and Methods.....	150
6.2.1 Survey of Ovine Footrot	151
6.2.1.1 Background of Farms.....	151
6.2.1.2 Animal Examination and Data Collection	151
6.2.1.3 Farms with no History of Footrot	152
6.2.1.3.1 MARDI Serdang.....	152
6.2.1.3.2 MARDI Kluang.....	152
6.2.1.4 Farm Endemic with Footrot.....	155
6.2.2 Prevalence Detection of Ovine Footrot by Cross-Sectional Study	155
6.2.2.1 Farms Endemic with Footrot.....	155
6.2.2.2 Farms Free of Footrot.....	156
6.2.3 Climate Data.....	156
6.2.4 Laboratory Investigation.....	156
6.2.5 Data Analysis.....	156
6.3 Results.....	157
6.3.1 Prevalence of Footrot by Survey	157
6.3.1.1 Farms Free from Footrot	157

6.3.1.2	Endemic Farm with Footrot	157
6.3.1.2.1	Prevalence of Ovine Footrot by Age.....	161
6.3.1.2.2	Prevalence of Ovine Footrot by Sex.....	161
6.3.1.2.3	Prevalence Ovine Footrot by Breed.....	162
6.3.2	Cross-Sectional Study of Footrot	162
6.3.3	The Distribution of Footrot by Scoring System...	164
6.4	Discussion.....	165
6.4.1	Prevalence of Ovine Footrot.....	165
6.4.2	The Prevalence of Footrot Related to Environmental Factors.....	166
6.4.3	The Prevalence by Age, Sex and Breed	167
6.4.4	Source of Infection.....	169
6.4.5	Conclusion.....	171
VII	GENERAL DISCUSSION.....	172
	REFERENCES.....	179
	APPENDICES.....	191

Appendix	Page	
2.1	Biochemical and Phenotypic Properties of <i>Dichelobacter nodosus</i>	191
2.2	The Scoring System.....	191
2.3	Serogrouping of <i>D. nodosus</i> determined used Cross-tube agglutination reaction.....	193
3.1	Gram Stain.....	194
3.2	Formal Phosphate Buffer Saline (FPBS)	194
3.3	Tris EDTA Na ₂ (TE).....	195
3.4	3 M Sodium Acetate.....	195
4.1	Modified–Haematoxylin-Eosin Stain.....	195
4.2	Buffered Glutaraldehyde (pH 7.0).....	195
4.3	0.1 Sodium Cacodylate Buffer (pH 7.0).....	196
4.4	1% Buffered Osmium Tetroxide:.....	196
4.5	Resin Mixture.....	196
4.6	Uranyl Acetate Stain:.....	196
	BIODATA.....	198

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
3.1 Number of foot samples, positive direct smear, positive growth culture on 4% HA, PCR results and number of isolates.....	53
3.2 Isolates design according to the source of isolation.....	54
3.3 PCR analysis of pure cultures and foot swabs of <i>D. nodosus</i>	56
3.4 <i>Dichelobacter nodosus</i> serogroups and number of isolates in different sheep farms.....	57
3.5 Serotypes of <i>D. nodosus</i> isolates in all infected farms.....	58
3.6 Microtitre agglutination reaction between <i>D. nodosus</i> isolates and specific rabbit antisera.....	59
3.7 Elastase and gelatin gel tests of 293 <i>D. nodosus</i>	61
3.8 Virulence of 293 isolates of <i>D. nodosus</i> serogroups by elastase and gelatin gel tests.....	63
4.1 Preliminary experimental to induce the footrot in crossbred sheep.....	82
4.2 Gram-staining and direct culture of <i>D. nodosus</i> from all feet of sheep in all groups.....	86
4.3 Number of inoculated feet, number of infected feet and score lesion at each inspection following infection.....	88
5.1 Positive and negative control assessment of immunohistochemistry.....	129
6.1 Number of inspected animals, number of samples, breed, age and sex of sheep at MARDI Serdang farm	152
6.2 Number of flocks, number of inspected animals, number of samples, breed, age and sex of sheep at MARDI Kluang.....	154
6.3 Number of inspected animals, number of samples and number of clinical and culture cases in MARDI Serdang and Kluang	

farms.....	157
6.4 The prevalence of ovine footrot in four flocks in IHK farm from June to 1999 to may 2000.....	159
6.5 Ovine footrot cases in relation to the total monthly rainfall and mean daily temperature at IHK farm during the study period.....	160
6.6 Prevalence of ovine footrot by age of sheep at IHK farm.....	161
6.7 Prevalence of ovine footrot by sex of sheep at IHK farm	161
6.8 Prevalence of ovine footrot by breed at IHK farm.....	162
6.9 Prevalence of ovine footrot in five sheep farms.....	163
6.10 Distribution of footrot lesions by the scoring system in four farms positive for ovine footrot.....	164

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
3.1 A Gram-stained smear from a footrot lesion. Arrow shows large Gram-negative rod bacterium with swollen ends resembling <i>D. nodosus</i>	51
3.2 Agarose gel electrophoresis of <i>D. nodosus</i> genomic DNA amplification production using the Ac and C primer combination of 780 base pairs. Samples were prepared from lesion materials that showed negative culture on HA using rapid DNA extraction, lanes 6-8 and 10, <i>D. nodosus</i> . C, reference strain, A1001, (M) marker 100 bp. lanes 1-5 and 9 were no band, resembling negative footrot cases	56
3.3 Clear zone of elastin particles in TSA agar medium was produced by positive elastase <i>D. nodosus</i> virulent strain IHK 5 (v), no clear zone with the benign strain IHK 9 (b)..	60
3.4 Stable and unstable proteases in a complete gelatin gel test of virulent strain IHK 5 (V), intermediate strain IHK 8 (I), benign IHK 9 (B) of <i>D. nodosus</i> and control benign strain-G1674 (C). Benign strain 10 (F) (fail isolate to give complete stable and unstable protease in gelatin gel at 8 or 16 minutes heated sample).....	62
3.5 A transmission electron photomicrograph showing the <i>D. nodosus</i> virulent strain IHK 5 grown onto 4% HA. Note the number of fimbriae attached to the cell surface (arrow) and polar region, methylamine tungstate X 28,600.....	65
3.6 A transmission electron photomicrograph showing the <i>D. nodosus</i> intermediate strain IHK 8 grown onto 4% HA. Note the number of fimbriae attached to the cell surface (arrow), methylamine tungstate X 26,670.....	65
3.7 A transmission electron photomicrograph showing <i>D. nodosus</i> benign strain IHK 9 grown onto 4% HA solid media. Note no fimbriae attached bacterial cell surface (arrow) methylamine tungstate X 26,670.....	66
3.8 Transmission electron photomicrographs showing the longitudinal thin section of virulent <i>D. nodosus</i> strain IHK 5 grown on a 4% HA. Note the plasma membrane (pm), intracytoplasmic membrane (im), peptidoglycan layer (pl), outer membrane (om), additional layer (a), nucleoid region (n) and ribosome (r). Lead citrate and uranyl	

	acetate X 143,240.....	66
4.1	Foot of sheep infected with virulent strain of the <i>D. nodosus</i> indicating a footrot score of 1 at day 7 p.i. characterised by a slight to moderate moistness and hyperaemia of interdigital skin with some erosion (arrow).....	90
4.2	Foot of sheep infected with virulent strain of <i>D. nodosus</i> indicating a footrot score of 2 at day 14 p.i. characterised by a erosion and ulceration of interdigital skin covered with moist necrotic material with alopecia (arrow).....	90
4.3	Foot of sheep infected with virulent strain of <i>D. nodosus</i> indicating a footrot score of 3a at day 14 p.i characterised by erosion and ulceration of interdigital skin. The inflammation and underrunning cross the skin-horn junction at about 1cm (arrow).....	91
4.4	Foot of sheep infected with virulent strain of the <i>D. nodosus</i> indicating a footrot score of 3b at day 21 p.i characterised by erosion and ulceration of interdigital skin. The inflammation and underrunning cross skin-horn junction at about 3cm (arrow).....	91
4.5	Foot of sheep infected with virulent strain of the <i>D. nodosus</i> indicating a footrot score 3c at day 21 p.i characterised by ulceration of interdigital skin. The inflammation and underrunning cross the skin-horn junction at about more than half distance between the skin-horn junction and the outside edge of the sole of the claw (arrow).....	92
4.6	Foot of sheep infected with virulent strain of the <i>D. nodosus</i> indicating a footrot score of 4 at day 25 p.i., the inflammation and ulceration of interdigital skin. The complete underrunning of the hoof extended to the abaxial edges of the sole of the claws (arrow).....	92
4.7	Foot of sheep infected with virulent strain of the <i>D. nodosus</i> indicating a footrot score of 5 at day 25 p.i., characterised by inflammation and ulceration of interdigital skin. The inflammation and complete underrunning of the hoof extended to the abaxial edges of the sole of the claws (arrow).....	93

4.8	Foot of sheep infected with virulent strain of the <i>D. nodosus</i> indicating a footrot score of 5 at day 28 p.i showing a complete separation of the hoof from one digit.....	93
4.9	Foot of sheep with footrot lesion score of 5 showed bleeding and granulation tissue.....	94
4.10	Sheep infected with virulent strain of <i>D. nodosus</i> showing the affected animal hanging the infected right front leg.....	94
4.11	a Skin of sheep infected with virulent strain. Acute dermatitis characterised by congested blood vessels (thin arrow), focal necrotic dermis (thick arrow) and slight hyperkeratosis consistent with a score of 1. H&E x 10.....	96
4.11	b Skin of sheep infected with virulent strain. Acute dermatitis characterised by mild hyperkeratosis with necrotic debris (thin arrow), parakeratosis, hair follicular degeneration and alopecia, consistent with a score of 1 (thick arrow), H&E x 4.....	96
4.12	Skin of sheep infected with virulent strain. Advance case of dermatitis, hyperkeratosis, parakeratosis (thin arrow), acanthosis and scanty leukocytic infiltration, massive necrosis and microabscess in the epidermal papillary, consistent with a score of 2 (thick arrow), H&E x 10.....	97
4.13	Skin of sheep infected with virulent strain. Edema, neutrophils, macrophages and lymphocytes infiltration and folliculitis, H&E x 20.....	97
4.14	Skin of sheep infected with virulent strain. Vasculitis and perivascular cuffing, H&E x 40.....	98
4.15	Skin of sheep infected with virulent strain. Lymphangitis and leukocytic infiltration of sweat glands, H&E x 20.....	98
4.16	Skin of sheep infected with virulent strain. Light photomicroscopy of a sheep at day 25 p. i. consistence with a score of 4 showing infiltration of mast cells, H&E x 40.....	99
4.17	Skin of sheep infected with benign strain. Light photomicroscopy showing new vascularization and	