African swine fever
EUVET mission to Spain
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Preliminary report

Team:
Labib Bakkali Kassimi (Team leader), France, Sandra Blome (FLI Germany), Nick DeRegge (Sciensano Belgium)
Carmina Gallardo (EURL-ASF, CISA/INIA-CSIC), Raquel Nieto (EURL-ASF, CISA/INIA-CSIC)

Objective: Providing on-the-spot assistance

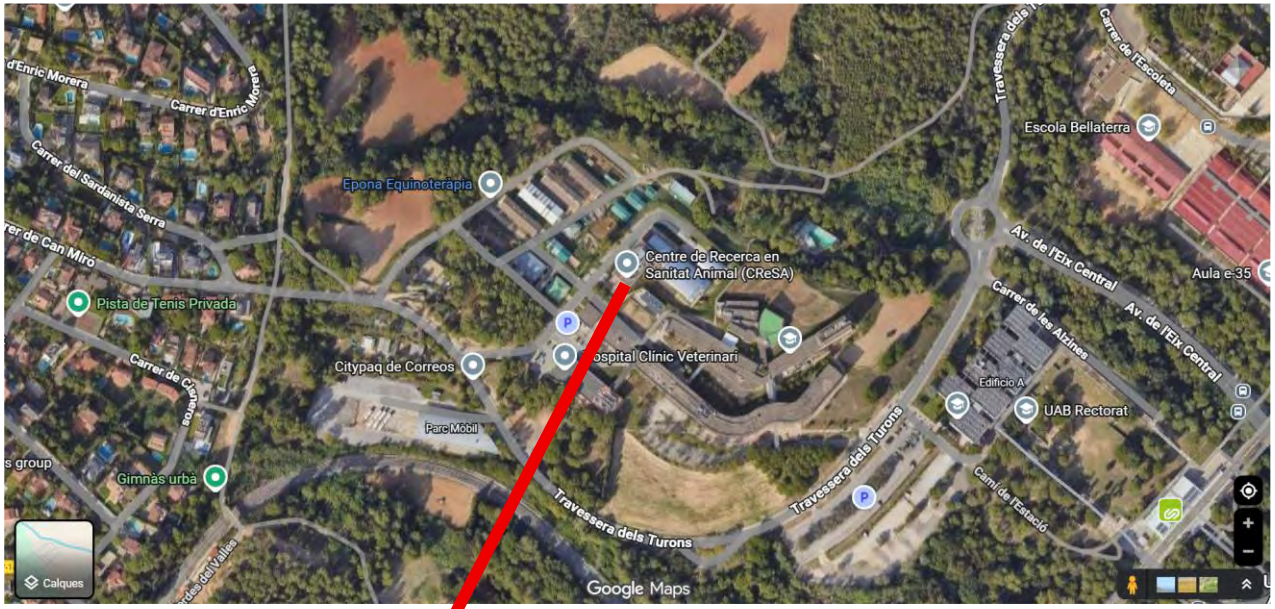
- Provide scientific and technical assistance to the CA on their investigations

Main aspects addressed during the mission:

1. Do the investigations carried out so far may allow identification of the origin of the infection?

2. Can risks or vulnerabilities associated to the facility or procedures be identified which could explain a release of the virus from Cresa?

Place visited during the mission: Animal Health Research Center, IRTA-CReSA (Bellaterra)



People met:

- *Ministry of Agriculture of Spain – CVO office*
- *Ministry of territorial Policy*
- *DARPA - Departament d'Agricultura, Ramaderia, Pesca i Alimentació*
- *CReSA - Animal Health Research Center*
- *Other laboratories*

Main conclusions

- The reference laboratory team is competent and did a very good work.
- The analyses carried out by the reference laboratories are high-level and relevant.
- The EURL conducted sequence analysis, including the WGS, which led to a detailed genetic characterization of the outbreak strain.
- Comparison of these sequences to sequences publicly available was performed. These analyses do not allow identification of the origin of the virus due to lack of closely related strains in the databases.
- These analysis allowed identification of genetic markers in the viral genomes sequenced. These markers could help to trace the origin of the virus if other sequence data become available.

- The biosecurity measures presented are adequate and well established. The biosecurity officer is competent.
- The laboratory is aware of the risks of virus escape from the facility and has established assessment of critical points in the facility or protocols.
- A relevant incident with the digester in November 2025 was handled appropriately and was discussed in a very transparent way. It is highly unlikely that this is related to the outbreak, as the necessary measures were taken, and the timing does not fit with the start of the outbreak which occurred earlier based on the finding of ASF positive wild boar carcasses.
- The laboratory maintain inventory of viruses and their use, records animal experiments and incidents/accidents.

Based on the data presented, the EUVET team could not identify any obvious route by which the virus could have been released from the IRTA-CReSA facilities.

Recommendations

- Perform sequencing and sequence analysis from sample collected from other outbreaks.
- Perform sequencing and sequence analysis of relevant viruses available in IRTA-CReSA.
- Perform sequence comparison with sequences that will be provided by other laboratories in Barcelona, in Cataluña and in general in Spain.
- Implement a real time PCR for detection and screening for the deletion observed in the 5’ end of the virus genome.
- Use the established multigene approach to screen stocks and samples for the unique SNPs.
- Adress the critical points pointed in the facility or protocols by performing an audit if this is not already done.

The EU-VET team would like to thank all colleagues In Spain for their hospitality and assistance

The EU-VET team experienced a fruitful and cooperative working atmosphere during the mission.