“Monkeypox”:
Historical overview

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“Monkeypox”

Historically, it was:

- a rare disease in the central/west African rain forest …

Initially important because of the smallpox eradication programme –

- animal reservoir of variola ?
- similar virus which would invade the niche vacated by variola ?

And now ? !
Monkeypox - timeline

- First described in Asian monkeys in Copenhagen –
- Monkeypox
- Global Smallpox eradication Programme

Now!
“Monkeypox” - timeline

- **Monkeypox**
  - First described in Asian monkeys in Copenhagen

- First *human* mpx case Zaire/DRC

- Last smallpox case in Equateur Zaire

- Global Smallpox eradication Programme

- Now!
Monkeypox
First described - in Asian monkeys
In Copenhagen –

First human mpx case
Zaire/DRC

Intensified Surveillance

Global Smallpox eradication Programme

Last smallpox case in Equateur Zaire

Vaccination stopped (Zaire)

Now!
Monkeypox
First described - in Asian monkeys
In Copenhagen – 1970

First human mpx case
Zaire/DRC
1980

Intensified Surveillance

Last smallpox case in Equateur Zaire
1990

Vaccination stopped (Zaire)

Global Smallpox eradication Programme
1960

Dramatic increase in reported cases, esp in DRC, also Nigeria and importations
Now!

Increasing susceptibility ....
"Monkeypox" -- The past 50 years (from Bunge et al 2022)
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Vast majority of recent cases, esp in DRC, not confirmed
"Monkeypox" – Broad assessment (from the 1980s....)

• Reservoir –
  • Several ... esp squirrels? ....
  • (is the name appropriate?)

• Low transmissibility in humans
  • H/h Secondary attack rate  c. 10 - 15 %
  • (much lower than smallpox)

• Smallpox vaccine highly effective
  • VE  c. 85 %
  • (but declines with time)

• Heterogeneity
  • Central vs West Africa
  • (at least two "clades"?)

And now?