**CASE HISTORY**
Adult female chattering lory (Lorius garrulous) found dead.

**GROSS PATHOLOGY**

*External examination:* No visible lesions.
Marked dehydration, Muscle mass: excellent, Fat deposits: abundant subcutaneous and abdominal fat stores.

*Internal findings:* The crop is distended with nectar and fruit pulp. The coelomic membranes are remarkably dry and mildly opaque. The duodenum is distended with foul smelling clear liquid that contains occasional flocculent material. The duodenal mucosa has a granular, erythematous, and tiger-striped appearance. The colon contains normal faecal material. The liver may be mildly enlarged. There are multiple small petechial haemorrhages along the capsular surface of the left liver lobe. The ovary appears small and inactive.

**HISTOPATHOLOGY**
Lesions are not evident within the following tissues: brain, ovary, kidney, skin, trachea, pancreas.

*Ventriculus:* Bacterial colonies are scattered throughout the kollin layer.

*Spleen:* The splenic parenchyma is well populated with lymphoid tissue. There is multifocal fibrinoid necrosis of the media of the medium and large sized arteries.

*Small intestine:* Many segments of the small intestine have intact mucosa and luminal acid haematin and bacteria. There is extensive acute necrosis of the villar mucosa throughout one duodenal sample (Fig 1). A carpet of robust bacilli infiltrate the necrotic tissue (Fig 2).

*Lung:* The pulmonary parenchyma is congested and there is mild perivascular oedema.

*Myocardium:* The pericardial sac is focally adherent to the epicardium.

*Liver:* The portal tracts contain small mononuclear cell aggregates (Fig 3, 4). Erythrophagocytosis is prominent within the sinusoids. Hepatocytes contain small quantities of cytoplasmic brown pigment.

**MICROBIOLOGY**

*Liver:* Escherichia coli 1+
*Kidney:* Escherichia coli 3+, Clostridium perfringens 1+
*Small intestine:* Escherichia coli 3+, Pseudomonas sp. 1+
*Candida* sp. 1+

**DUODENAL SCRAPING** and wet preparation: no significant findings.

**MORPHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS**
Necrotising duodenitis
Marked dehydration
Focal hepatic haemorrhages

**COMMENTS**
The Lory appears to have died as a result of a very acute intestinal infection. *E. coli* and *Clostridia* were cultured from the intestinal tract and kidney, thus it appears that the bird was terminally bacteraemic. The fibrinoid necrosis of blood vessel walls within the spleen is suggestive of concurrent toxaemia. Periportal hepatic inflammation may be due to bacteria or antigens arriving haematogenously, or via the biliary tree. *E. coli* and *Clostridia* are suspected as the cause of necrotising enteritis in rainbow lorikeets and king parrots at approximately this time of year.
REFERENCES


Case interpretation: Karrie Rose. Photography and case construction: Damien Higgins