

## SHORT COMMUNICATION/NOTA PRÉVIA

### Chondroma in rufescent tiger-heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*): case report

### Chondroma em socó-boi (*Tigrisoma lineatum*): relato de caso

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#### SUMMARY

The paper describes a chondroma affecting the left metacarpus of a free-ranging rufescent tiger-heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*). There are very few reports of such neoplastic process in this avian species.

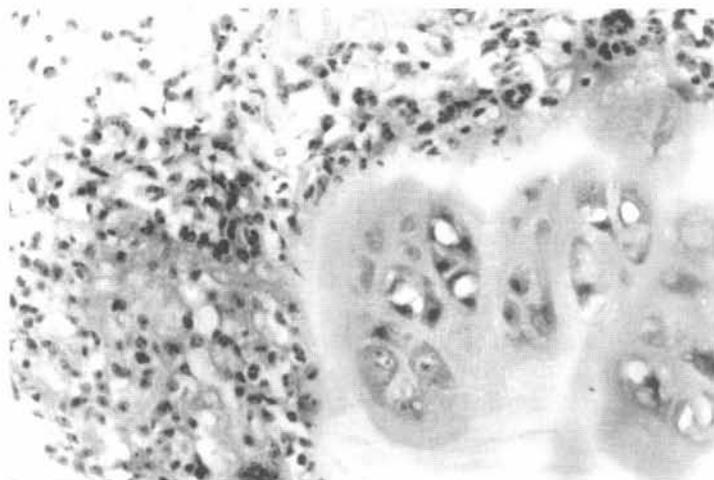
**UNITERMS:** Neoplasms; Chondroma; Birds.

Reports of neoplastic process on wild animals, especially on free ranging birds, are rare or sporadic. The present work describes a tumor on the left metacarpal area affecting a free-ranging rufescent tiger-heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*). The bird was sinantropic to the Santa Bárbara d'Oeste Ecological Park, SP - Brazil. The tumor was surgically excised and the bird was promptly released to the wild.

Fragments from the tumor were cut into 1 cm<sup>3</sup>, fixed in 10% formalin solution and submitted to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechny - University of São Paulo, to be processed according to histological routine procedures. Cuts of 5 micrometers were obtained and stained with Hematoxylin-Eosin (HE).

Histopathologic analysis revealed a non capsulated neoplastic tissue of mesenchymal origin formed by chondroblasts and chondrocytes distributed in isolated nodules with irregular limits and surrounded by a delicate net of loose connective tissues (Fig. 1). Cellular pleomorphism was not very evident, chondrocytes were well differentiated, their nuclei were round and well defined and nucleoli were usually lonely, peripheral and very evident. No mitosis could be seen. Inflammatory infiltration consisted basically by mononuclear cells and heterophyls surrounding cartilaginous lobuli and inserting themselves into the stroma. Interstitial haemorrhage foci, without necrosis, were also observed.

Chondromas are benign neoplasms arising from the cartilaginous tissue. In Veterinary Medicine, the term chondroma is also used to describe any benign proliferation of the cartilage, such as extraskeleton chondroma from mixed tumors of the mammary gland of dog, synovial and bursal



**Figure 1**

Well differentiated chondroma on the left metacarpal region, formed by chondroblasts and chondrocytes (at right) with irregular limits and surrounded by a delicate net of loose connective tissues. HE stain (x 650).

chondromas, osteochondromas, enchondromas and many non-classified bone chondromas<sup>3</sup>.

Usually, these tumors grow slowly, producing minor bone deformations. Clinical signs are associated to size and localization of the neoplasm. Grossly, chondromas are variable in size, multilobular, firms, surrounded by a fibrous capsule, displaying a whitish discoloration. Histologically, are formed by irregular lobules of hyaline cartilage. The morphology of neoplastic chondrocytes tends to be uniform. The surrounding skin may shows atrophy, ulceration and suppurative exudation, and invasion of the adjacent venous vessels may occur due to extensive growth<sup>1</sup>. According to Ewing<sup>1</sup>, in humans chondromas might have a traumatic origin.

Differences between chondromas and malignant

cartilaginous neoplasms are not always clearly identified; there are some transitional tumors and some neoplastic processes believed to be benign might acquire malignant characteristics<sup>1,6</sup>. In men chondromas are most frequently found affecting the metacarpal and phalangeal areas.

Chondromas have already been seen on practically every domestic animals<sup>2,4</sup>. Sullivan<sup>5</sup> described chondromas and chondrosarcomas in domestic animals, specially sheeps. However, neoplasms arising from the cartilage are rarely reported in wild birds<sup>6</sup>, and little information regarding these processes are available in the current literature. The morphological characteristics seen in the present case are compatible with those depicted elsewhere, assuring that this tumor represents a rare report of chondroma in wild birds.

## RESUMO

Relata-se a ocorrência de neoplasia em *Tigrisoma lineatum* (socó-boi), localizada na região metacarpiana esquerda, caracterizada histologicamente como condroma. Este é um dos primeiros relatos desta patologia em indivíduos desta espécie.

**UNITERMS:** Neoplasia; Condroma; Socó-boi.

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