

UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO SUL  
FACULDADE DE VETERINÁRIA  
PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM CIÊNCIAS VETERINÁIAS

**ANÁLISES SOROLÓGICAS E FILOGENÉTICAS DE  
AMOSTRAS DE HERPESVÍRUS BOVINO TIPOS 1 E 5**

Mestranda: Ana Paula Muterle Varela

Porto Alegre  
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Dissertação de mestrado apresentada como  
requisito ao grau de Mestre em Ciências  
Veterinárias, área de Microbiologia  
Veterinária – Virologia.

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Porto Alegre  
2011

## **AGRADECIMENTOS**

*Aos meus estimados familiares, em especial, minha mãe, Ires, e minha irmã, Fabiana pessoas que sempre estiveram ao meu lado.*

*Ao meu namorado, Fabiano, pela paciência e compreensão.*

*Ao Dr. Paulo M. Roehe, pelos ensinamentos, confiança e oportunidade de fazer parte de um grupo tão especial.*

*Aos componentes da banca Cláudio, Amauri e Paulo por aceitarem o convite e participarem deste importante processo.*

*Aos meus atuais e antigos colegas e grandes amigos do IPVDF: Thais, Samuel, Lissandra, Carol, Gabriela, Camila, Carine, Diógenes, Matheus e Wilia pela ajuda, paciência, amizade, parceria, incentivo, companheirismo e ensinamentos.*

*Aos colegas do Laboratório de Virologia do ICBS, em especial à Martha, pessoa que sempre se dispôs a me ajudar.*

*Às minhas ex-colegas de graduação e sempre amigas Morgana e Sheila, pela amizade, apoio e incentivo mesmo que à distância.*

**“Quanto mais aumenta nosso  
conhecimento, mais evidente fica  
nossa ignorância”.**

**John F. Kennedy**

## **ANÁLISES SOROLÓGICAS E FILOGENÉTICAS DE AMOSTRAS DE HERPESVÍRUS BOVINO TIPOS 1 E 5**

### **RESUMO**

O presente estudo foi conduzido com o objetivo de determinar se a sensibilidade do teste de Soroneutralização (SN) seria afetada quando utilizados distintos subtipos de herpesvírus bovino tipos 1 (BoHV-1) e 5 (BoHV-5). Dessa forma, soros de bovinos, coletados randomicamente ( $n= 287$ ) foram testados por SN frente a três amostras de BoHV-1 (BoHV-1.1: EVI123/98 e Los Angeles (LA); BoHV-1.2a: SV265/96) e três amostras de BoHV-5 (BoHV-5a: EVI88/95; BoHV-5b: A663 e BoHV-5c: ISO 97/95), utilizando um período de incubação soro-vírus de 24 horas. A sensibilidade da SN variou significativamente dependendo da amostra viral utilizada. Esta variação foi de 77% (80/104 soros positivos) até 91% (95/104) com as amostras ISO 97/95 e LA, respectivamente, quando cada vírus foi considerado individualmente. A sensibilidade máxima (104/104) foi obtida quando os resultados positivos de uma combinação particular de quatro vírus (LA + EVI123 + SV265 + A663), algumas combinações de cinco vírus, ou ainda, todos os seis vírus foram adicionados. Estes resultados evidenciaram que quando a SN é realizada frente a uma única amostra viral, a sensibilidade pode variar significativamente, podendo comprometer programas de controle e erradicação das infecções por estes agentes. Além disso, a realização de SN frente a diferentes isolados virais mostrou aumentar significativamente a sensibilidade do teste. Com isso, a caracterização de novos isolados de campo pode favorecer futuras avaliações de diferentes subtipos de BoHV-1 e BoHV-5 e contribuir com a escolha de amostra e/ou combinação de amostras mais sensíveis. Deste modo, buscou-se caracterizar isolados de campo de BoHV-1 e BoHV-5 com base na análise molecular da região carboxi-terminal do gene que codifica a glicoproteína C (gC) e na análise com enzima de restrição (REA) do genoma viral. Para tanto, a multiplicação de 24 isolados da América do Sul foi realizada em células CRIB para posterior extração do DNA viral, PCR e sequenciamento. As seqüências foram alinhadas utilizando o programa ClustalX2 para uma inferência filogenética pelo método de Neighbor-Joining (Mega 4.0), Kimura 2-parâmetros. O alinhamento das seqüências de nucleotídeos revelou níveis de identidade variando de 70 a 99,6% entre os isolados de BoHV-1; de 66,9 a 100% entre os isolados de BoHV-5 e de 62,9 a 92,8% entre os isolados BoHV-1 e BoHV-5. A árvore filogenética mostrou o agrupamento dos vírus de acordo com o tipo (BoHV-1 e BoHV-5) e subtipo de BoHV-1 (BoHV-1.1 e BoHV-1.2). No entanto, essa técnica não permitiu a diferenciação dos isolados em diferentes subtipos de BoHV-5. Do mesmo modo, a análise por restrição enzimática não proporcionou uma clara diferenciação dos isolados em subtipos devido à presença de variações nos padrões de restrição. Somente um isolado (ISO 94/232) pode ser diferenciado como subtipo 5a. Todavia, este estudo mostrou que a análise filogenética utilizada representa uma potencial ferramenta para a diferenciação e classificação dos vírus em BoHV-1.1, BoHV-1.2 e BoHV-5. No entanto, ambas as técnicas podem ser empregadas, de maneira complementar, quando maiores informações sobre estes vírus forem requeridas. Além disso, com o presente estudo, foi possível expandir o número de amostras caracterizadas, fornecendo subsídios para estudos futuros.

**Palavras-chave:** Herpesvírus bovino tipo 1, Herpesvírus bovino tipo 5, Soroneutralização, Caracterização.

## **SEROLOGICAL AND PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSIS OF BOVINE HERPESVIRUS TYPES 1 AND 5 ISOLATES**

### **ABSTRACT**

This study was carried out to determine whether the sensitivity of serum neutralization (SN) tests would be affected by the use of distinct subtypes of bovine herpesvirus 1 (BoHV- 1) and 5 (BoHV-5) as test challenge viruses. Bovine sera collected from a randomized sample ( $n = 287$ ) were tested in a 24 hour incubation SN against three type 1 viruses (BoHV-1.1 strains “Los Angeles” (LA) and “EVI 123”; BoHV-1.2a strain “SV 265”) and three type 5 viruses (BoHV-5a strain “EVI 88”; BoHV-5b strain “A 663” and BoHV-5c “ISO 97”). SN sensitivity varied greatly depending on the challenge virus used in the test, particularly when results against each virus were considered individually, where it ranged from 77% (detecting 80 out of 104 antibody-positive sera) to 91% (95/104) with ISO 97/95 and LA strain, respectively. Maximum sensitivity (104/104) was achieved when positive results to a particular combination of four of the challenge viruses (LA + EVI 123 + SV 265 + A 663) or some combinations of five viruses (or all six viruses) were added cumulatively. These results clearly show that when SN is performed with single test challenge viruses, sensitivity could vary significantly that might compromise control or eradication efforts. Performing SN against a number of different viruses demonstrated to improve significantly the test’s sensitivity. Thus, new field isolates characterization could aid future evaluations of different BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 subtypes and also provide the better strain and/or strains combination choice. In such case, this study aimed to characterize field isolates of BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 by molecular analyses of glycoprotein C (gC) carboxy-terminal region and viral genome restriction enzymatic analysis (REA). The 24 isolates from South America were propagated in CRIB cells for viral DNA extraction, PCR and sequencing. The sequences were aligned in ClustalX2 to perform a distance-based phylogenetic analysis by Neighbor-Joining method in MEGA 4.0 software under de Kimura 2-parameter. The nucleotide sequence alignments revealed levels of genomic similarity ranging from 70% to 99.6% between BoHV-1 isolates; from 67% to 100% among BoHV-5 isolates and from 63% to 93% between BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 isolates. The phylogenetic tree clustered the viruses according to types (BoHV-1 and BoHV-5) and BoHV-1 subtypes (BoHV-1.1, -1.2). However, this method did not allow clearly differentiated in BoHV-5 subtypes. Likewise, REA did not clearly show differentiation in subtypes due to presence variation in restriction pattern. Only one isolate (ISO 94/232) could be differentiated in subtype 5a. The results suggest that the phylogenetic analysis performed could be an important tool for differentiation and classification of such viruses in BoHV-1.1, BoHV-1.2, BoHV-5. However, when additional information was requested both techniques should be performed. Furthermore, with this work it was possible to expand the number of samples characterized to support future investigation of these viruses.

**Keywords:** Bovine herpesvirus type 1, Bovine herpesvirus type 5, Serum neutralization, Characterization.

## SUMÁRIO

1. INTRODUÇÃO .....	8
2. REVISÃO BIBLIOGRÁFICA .....	10
2.1 Herpesvírus bovino .....	10
2.2 Estrutura do vírion.....	11
2.3 Organização Genômica.....	12
2.4 Glicoproteínas Virais .....	13
2.4.1 Glicoproteína C .....	14
2.5 Ciclos Replicativos .....	15
2.5.1 Infecção Aguda ou Produtiva.....	16
2.5.2 Infecção Latente .....	21
2.6 Epidemiologia .....	22
2.6.1 Situação no Mundo .....	22
2.6.2 Situação no Brasil .....	23
2.7 Diagnóstico .....	24
2.7.1 Diagnóstico Virológico .....	25
2.7.2 Diagnóstico Molecular .....	26
2.7.3 Diagnóstico Sorológico.....	27
3. OBJETIVOS .....	29
3.1 Objetivos Gerais.....	29
3.2 Objetivos Específicos.....	29
Capítulo 1 .....	30
Neutralizing antibodies to bovine herpesvirus types 1 (BoHV-1) and 5 (BoHV-5) and its subtypes.....	30
Capítulo 2 .....	47
Phylogenetic and restriction enzyme analysis of South American bovine herpesviruses types 1 and 5 .....	47
4. DISCUSSÃO E CONCLUSÕES .....	67
REFERÊNCIAS .....	70

## 1. INTRODUÇÃO

Os herpesvírus bovino tipo 1 (BoHV-1) e tipo 5 (BoHV-5) são membros da ordem *Herpesvirales*, família *Herpesviridae*, subfamília *Alphaherpesvirinae*, gênero *Varicellovirus*. Os bovinos são hospedeiros primários destes vírus que estão amplamente disseminados nos rebanhos e tem causado significativas perdas econômicas.

BoHV-1 e BoHV-5 estão associados a vários quadros, incluindo rinotraqueíte, conjuntivite, aborto, vulvovaginite, balanopostite e encefalite. Com base em características genômicas e antigênicas, os isolados de BoHV-1 foram subdivididos em BoHV-1.1, BoHV-1.2a e BoHV-1.2b. Do mesmo modo, análises moleculares, utilizando enzimas de restrição, permitiram a divisão de amostras de BoHV-5 em três subtipos, “a”, “b”, e “não a-não b” ou “c”. Amostras de BoHV-5 têm sido identificadas primariamente em casos de meningoencefalite em bovinos, mas o vírus também pode induzir doença respiratória. Ocasionalmente, o BoHV-5 tem sido detectado no trato genital e sêmen de bovinos, onde sua importância como patógeno tem sido investigada. Além das evidências indicando que amostras de BoHV-5 causam encefalites ou meningoencefalites, não existe informação a respeito de associações entre distintos subtipos de BoHV-5 e diferentes quadros clínicos.

O BoHV-1 e o BoHV-5 apresentam alto grau de similaridade molecular e antigênico, fator que dificulta o diagnóstico e o conhecimento epidemiológico. Em virtude disso, técnicas moleculares vêm sendo desenvolvidas com intuito de explorar as diferenças genômicas existentes entre estes agentes. Dessa forma, estas técnicas podem promover a diferenciação entre estes vírus contribuindo no processo de caracterização de novos isolados, assim como no desenvolvimento e aprimoramento de testes diagnóstico.

Além disso, a análise de isolados ainda não caracterizados pode representar uma importante ferramenta para acompanhar a origem e evolução do ciclo dessas infecções nos locais de ocorrência e sua distribuição biogeográfica. Adicionalmente, o conhecimento de isolados pode contribuir na definição e padronização das amostras mais adequadas e representativas que devem ser utilizadas em testes diagnósticos mais sensíveis e específicos. Dessa forma, esta informação pode fornecer subsídios para ampliação do conhecimento da biologia destes agentes e para verificação da real prevalência tipo ou subtipo-específica, dado ainda desconhecido no Brasil.

Até o momento, informações epidemiológicas de BoHV-1 e BoHV-5 têm sido obtidas através de métodos sorológicos frente a somente uma única amostra de vírus de desafio. O teste de Soroneutralização (SN), por exemplo, é considerado como “padrão ouro” e tem sido amplamente empregado em inquéritos epidemiológicos, certificação de rebanhos, triagem de reprodutores destinados à coleta e comercialização de sêmen, além de dar suporte à investigação clínica. No entanto, devido às amplas reações sorológicas cruzadas, o teste de SN não permite diferenciar os anticorpos produzidos contra o BoHV-1 daqueles produzidos contra o BoHV-5 impossibilitando, dessa forma, o conhecimento da real prevalência das infecções por BoHV-1 e/ou BoHV-5.

Outro aspecto relevante do teste de SN, tanto para diagnóstico quanto para estudo epidemiológico, refere-se à escolha da amostra viral a ser utilizada e o emprego de um período de incubação soro-vírus de 24 horas. Nossa grupo recentemente mostrou que amostras de herpesvírus bovino reagem com muita variabilidade em testes sorológicos. Portanto, a escolha de uma amostra menos reativa pode acarretar em resultados “falso-negativos”. No entanto, naquele momento, não fora considerado um período de incubação soro-vírus de 24 horas que é descrito por aumentar em até dezesseis vezes a sensibilidade do teste.

Buscando contribuir com essas questões, o presente estudo foi realizado com intuito de determinar qual vírus ou combinação de tipos e/ou subtipos de vírus poderia alcançar uma sensibilidade máxima e também ampliar o conhecimento sobre isolados de campo de BoHV-1 e BoHV-5 ainda não caracterizados.

## 2. REVISÃO BIBLIOGRÁFICA

### 2.1 Herpesvírus bovino

Os herpesvírus bovino tipo 1 (BoHV-1) e tipo 5 (BoHV-5) são membros da ordem *Herpesvirales*, família *Herpesviridae*, subfamília *Alphaherpesvirinae*, gênero *Varicelovirus* (DAVISON et al., 2009). Estes vírus são importantes agentes infecciosos dos rebanhos de gado de corte e leite. Eles são responsáveis por significativas perdas econômicas à bovinocultura e encontram-se amplamente disseminados em rebanhos nacionais (RIET-CORREA et al., 1989; WEIBLEN et al., 1989; SCHILD et al., 1994; SALVADOR et al., 1998; D'ARCE et al., 2002; CAMPOS et al., 2009).

O BoHV-1 tem sido associado a uma série de manifestações clínicas, incluindo infecções respiratórias, como a rinotraqueíte infecciosa bovina (IBR) e infecções do trato genital, como a vulvovaginite pustular/balanopostite pustular infecciosa (IPV/IPB). Outras manifestações associadas a infecções por BoHV-1 podem ocorrer, tais como abortos e outras falhas reprodutivas, infecções generalizadas em neonatos, conjuntivite, infecções entéricas e cutâneas (GIBBS & RWEYEMAMU, 1977; WYLER et al., 1989). Além disso, o BoHV-1 já foi também associado com casos de doenças neurológicas (ROELS et al., 2000; SILVA et al., 2007a).

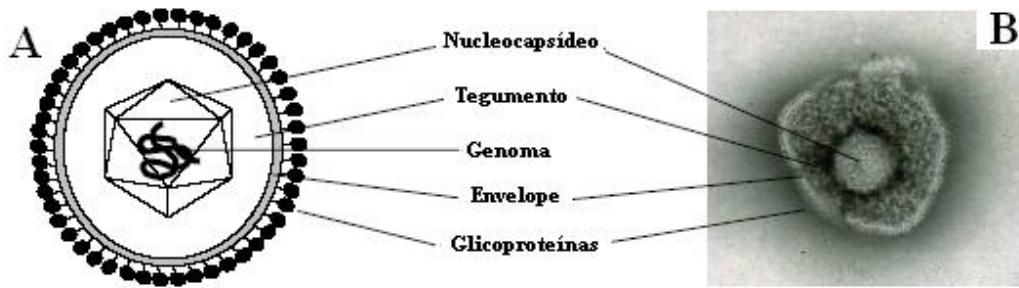
Três subtipos de BoHV-1 são atualmente reconhecidos: BoHV-1.1, BoHV-1.2a e BoHV-1.2b (METZLER et al., 1985; D'ARCE et al., 2002; FRANCO & ROEHE, 2007; JONES & CHOWDHURY, 2008). O subtipo 1 (BoHV-1.1) compreende as amostras “clássicas” de rinotraqueíte infecciosa bovina que deram origem à descrição do agente (ENGELS et al., 1981; METZLER et al., 1985) e amostras similares isoladas desde então. O subtipo 2a (BoHV-1.2a) está relacionado a uma ampla gama de manifestações clínicas no trato respiratório e genital, incluindo problemas reprodutivos (MILLER et al., 1991; OIRSCHOT, 1995). Os subtipos 1 e 2a são mais patogênicos que 2b (METZLER et al., 1985; EDWARDS et al., 1990; MILLER et al., 1991). Este último, embora tenha sido associado aos mesmos quadros que o subtipo 2a, não tem aparente associação com problemas reprodutivos (MILLER, 1991; SMITH et al., 1995). Embora ambos os subtipos de BoHV-1 sejam capazes de infectar os tratos genital e respiratório, tem sido sugerido que cada subtipo é melhor adaptado ou a infecções respiratórias (BoHV-1.1) ou a infecções genitais (BoHV-1.2) (EDWARDS et al., 1991; RIJSEWIJK et al., 1999; SPIELKI et al., 2004).

Por outro lado, amostras de BoHV-1 associadas a encefalites foram, inicialmente, classificadas como variantes encefalitogênicas de BoHV-1, sendo classificadas como subtipo 3 (METZLER et al., 1986). Posteriormente, com base em diferenças epidemiológicas, antigênicas e moleculares, o subtipo 3 foi reconhecido como um vírus distinto, denominado BoHV-5 (ROIZMAN et al., 1992). Atualmente, o tipo 5 encontra-se dividido nos subtipos: BoHV-5a, BoHV-5b e BoHV-5 “não a - não b” (D’ARCE et al., 2002). Por sugestão de um dos revisores do artigo de D’Arce e colaboradores (2002), as amostras para as quais os autores haviam proposto a designação de subtipo “c” foram denominadas “não a - não b”. No entanto, a denominação “c” deve ser adotada por ser mais conveniente e simples (P.M. Roehe, comunicação pessoal).

Até o presente, não existe informação a respeito de associações entre distintos subtipos de BoHV-5 e diferentes quadros clínicos. A única associação clara e reconhecida é a correlação entre casos de encefalites ou meningoencefalites agudas e o isolamento de BoHV-5 a partir de tecido nervoso de animais afetados (CARRILLO et al., 1983; WEIBLEN et al., 1989; D’OFFAY et al., 1995; COLODEL et al., 2002). Em função disso, o BoHV-5 é considerado o principal agente responsável por meningoencefalites fatais em bovinos e afeta principalmente animais jovens.

## 2.2 Estrutura do vírion

O BoHV-1 e o BoHV-5, assim como os demais membros da família *Herpesviridae*, apresentam material genético protegido por um nucleocapsídeo icosaédrico de 100 a 110 nm de diâmetro. O nucleocapsídeo é constituído por 150 hexâmeros e 12 pentâmeros e encontra-se envolvido por uma camada protéica, denominada tegumento. Este, por sua vez, é circundado por uma bicamada lipídica, o envelope (Figura 1) (THIRY et al., 2006). O envelope contém um grande número de glicoproteínas virais as quais desempenham importante papel na interação entre o vírus e suas células hospedeiras.

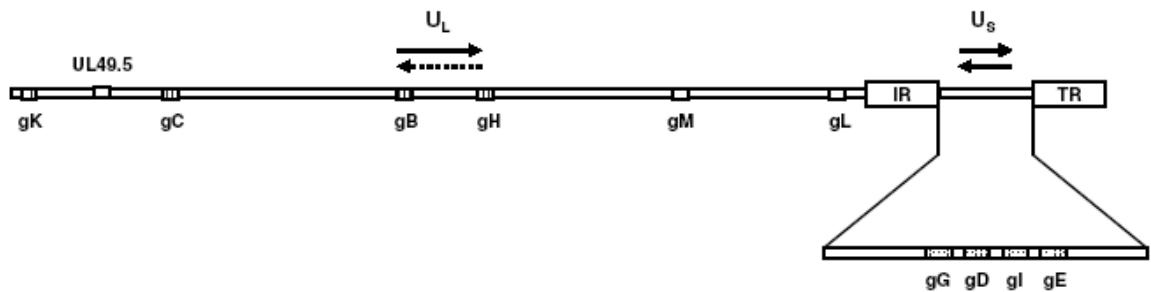


**Figura 1.** Morfologia esquemática dos herpesvírus. A) Ilustração simplificada de uma partícula vírica com seus principais componentes. B) Fotografia de microscopia eletrônica (Adaptado de THIRY et al., 2006).

### 2.3 Organização Genômica

O BoHV-1 e o BoHV-5 apresentam genoma composto por uma fita dupla linear de DNA com 135.872 e 138.890 pares de bases (pb), respectivamente (DELHON et al., 2003). O genoma apresenta peso molecular (PM) de  $95\text{--}150 \times 10^6$  Daltons (Da) e um conteúdo de CG de 75% para BoHV-1 e 72% para BoHV-5 (FENNER et al., 1993; DELHON et al., 2003; NANDI et al., 2009).

Os genomas desses vírus estão organizados em dois segmentos: um segmento único longo (UL) e um segmento único curto (US) flanqueados por duas seqüências repetidas e invertidas, sendo uma interna (IR) e outra terminal (TR) (Figura 2) (SCHWYZER & ACKERMANN, 1996). Tal organização permite que estes vírus sejam classificados na classe D dos genomas dos herpesvírus (ROIZMAN & KNIPE, 2001). Nesta classe, durante a replicação do DNA, tanto a região UL quanto a US pode mudar de direção uma em relação à outra gerando, consequentemente, quatro formas isoméricas do genoma viral (SCHYNTS et al., 2003). No entanto, o segmento UL é predominantemente fixado em somente uma orientação, denominada orientação protótipo em nível de clivagem dos concatâmeros de DNA. Assim, o DNA viral contém quantidades equimolares dos dois isômeros preditos pela inversão do segmento US (ROIZMAN & PELLETT, 2001; THIRY et al., 2006; MUYLKENS et al., 2007).



**Figura 2.** Organização genômica de um alfa-herpesvírus de ruminante. O genoma se constitui de uma fita dupla linear de DNA que é dividida em uma região longa (UL) e uma região curta (US) flanqueada por duas seqüências repetidas invertidas, denominadas repetição interna (IR) e terminal (TR). O genoma inclui dez genes que codificam para diferentes glicoproteínas: seis estão localizados no segmento UL e quatro no segmento US. O segmento US pode apresentar duas possíveis orientações (demonstrado pelas flechas), no entanto o segmento UL apresenta-se predominantemente em uma única orientação. Calcula-se que apenas 5% dos genomas apresentam-se com o segmento UL na orientação invertida (THIRY et al., 2006).

## 2.4 Glicoproteínas Virais

O genoma viral compreende cerca de 70 genes, dos quais pelo menos dez codificam glicoproteínas. Seis destes genes estão localizados na região UL e codificam: gK (UL53), gC (UL44), gB (UL27), gH (UL22), gM (UL10), gL (UL1) e os quatro restantes são encontrados na região US e codificam: gG (UL4), gI (US9), gD (UL6) e gE (US8). Algumas destas glicoproteínas são essenciais à multiplicação viral (gB, gD, gH, gK e gL), enquanto outras são dispensáveis à sua multiplicação, ditas não-essenciais (gC, gG, gM, gI e gE), embora exerçam importantes funções de interação com a célula hospedeira (SCHWYZER & ACKERMANN, 1996; REBORDOSA et al., 1996).

As glicoproteínas virais são sintetizadas e processadas na célula infectada (SCHWYZER & ACKERMAN, 1996) e executam um importante papel na interação entre o vírus e suas células hospedeiras. Elas estão inseridas no envelope e participam de várias etapas do ciclo viral que inclui interação com membranas celulares (adsorção), penetração, maturação e saída do vírus da célula. Por essa razão elas constituem um alvo importante para a resposta imune do hospedeiro (THIRY et al., 2005).

#### 2.4.1 Glicoproteína C

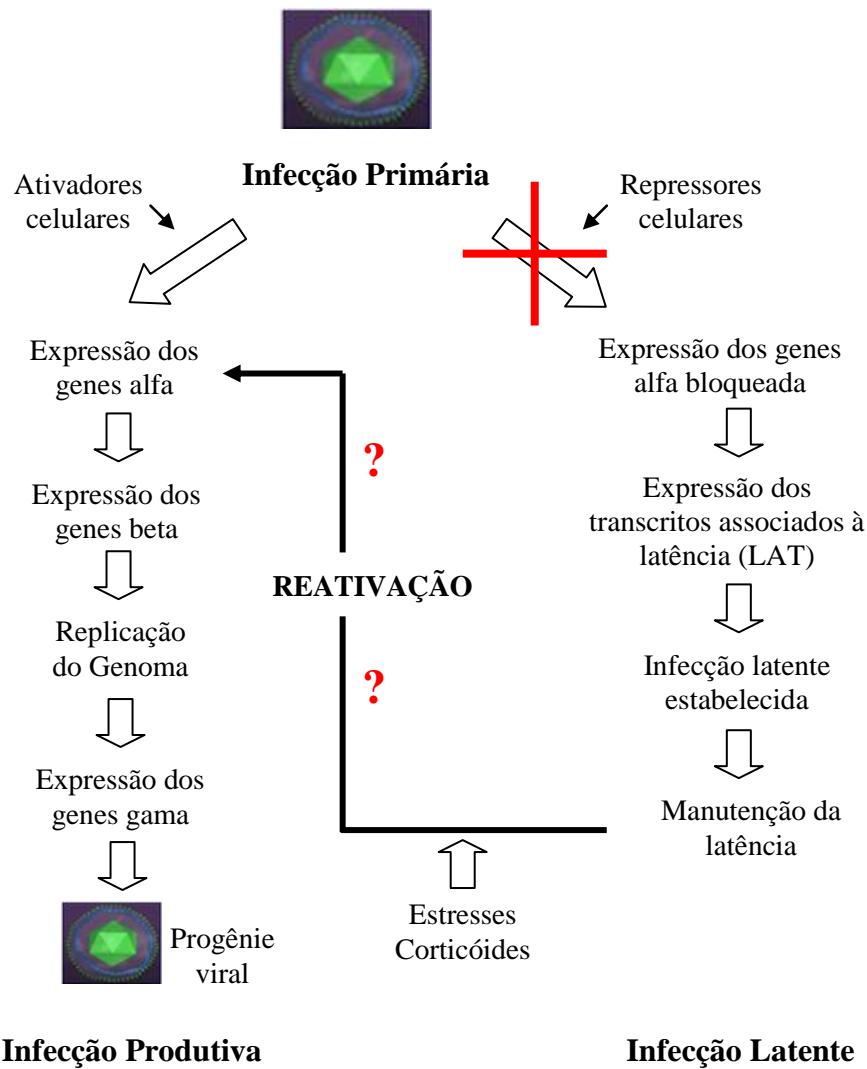
Apesar do alto grau de similaridade entre os genomas do BoHV-1 e BoHV-5, existem regiões genômicas menos conservadas entre eles. Dentre estas regiões está o gene que codifica a glicoproteína C (gC) (ALEGRE et al., 2001; ESTEVES et al., 2003; CLAUS et al., 2005; SPILKI et al., 2005). A gC é codificada pela região UL 44, posição 16683-18209/ Z54206 do genoma de BoHV-1 e 19051-17594/Z49224 de BoHV-5 (DELHON et al., 2003). No vírion, a gC apresenta-se como um dímero de 508 aminoácidos no BoHV-1 e 486 aminoácidos no BoHV-5. As gCs desses vírus compartilham cerca de 75% de similaridade (DELHON et al., 2003).

A gC é uma proteína transmembrana que se encontra inserida no envelope viral (FITZPATRICK et al., 1989; CHOWDHURY, 1997). Apesar de não essencial à replicação, ela é uma das principais glicoproteínas, sendo expressa em altos níveis tanto no envelope quanto na membrana plasmática das células infectadas. Esta glicoproteína apresenta peso molecular de 91 kDa (MARSHALL et al., 1986) e pertence à superfamília das imunoglobulinas (METTENLEITER, 2003; THIRY et al., 2006).

A gC apresenta uma região N-terminal altamente hidrofílica que forma longas espículas no vírion e uma outra região que pode se ligar a receptores de sulfato de heparina na superfície das células hospedeiras (LIANG et al., 1993; OKAZAKI et al., 1994). Esta ligação representa um importante papel na interação do vírus com as células hospedeiras e pode contribuir no tropismo celular (SPEAR, 1993). Além das regiões mencionadas, a gC possui uma terceira região que é altamente homóloga à抗ígenos do domínio do complexo maior de histocompatibilidade (MHC) de classe II e pode ter importância funcional (FITZPATRICK et al., 1989). Todas as três regiões apresentam diferenças na seqüência de aminoácidos que podem contribuir na compreensão da biologia dos herpesvírus. A região carboxi-terminal, por exemplo, tem sido alvo para o desenvolvimento de técnicas moleculares voltadas ao diagnóstico rápido e diferencial entre estes dois vírus e também para análise filogenética de novos isolados (SILVA et al., 2007a; ESTEVES et al., 2008; CAMPOS et al., 2010; OLIVEIRA et al., 2011). Além disso, a gC tem sido empregada como antígeno para obtenção de anticorpos monoclonais diferenciais entre os subtipos 1 e 2 do BoHV-1 (METZLER et al., 1985; RIJSEWIJK et al., 1999; SPILKI et al., 2005), assim como para diferenciar entre os tipos 1 e 5 de BoHV (CHUNG et al., 1994).

## 2.5 Ciclos Replicativos

Como característico para os membros da subfamília *Alphaherpesvirinae*, o BoHV-1 e o BoHV-5 apresentam dois ciclos replicativos com características distintas: a infecção aguda ou produtiva (ciclo lítico) e a infecção latente (Figura 3) (FRANCO & ROEHE, 2007).

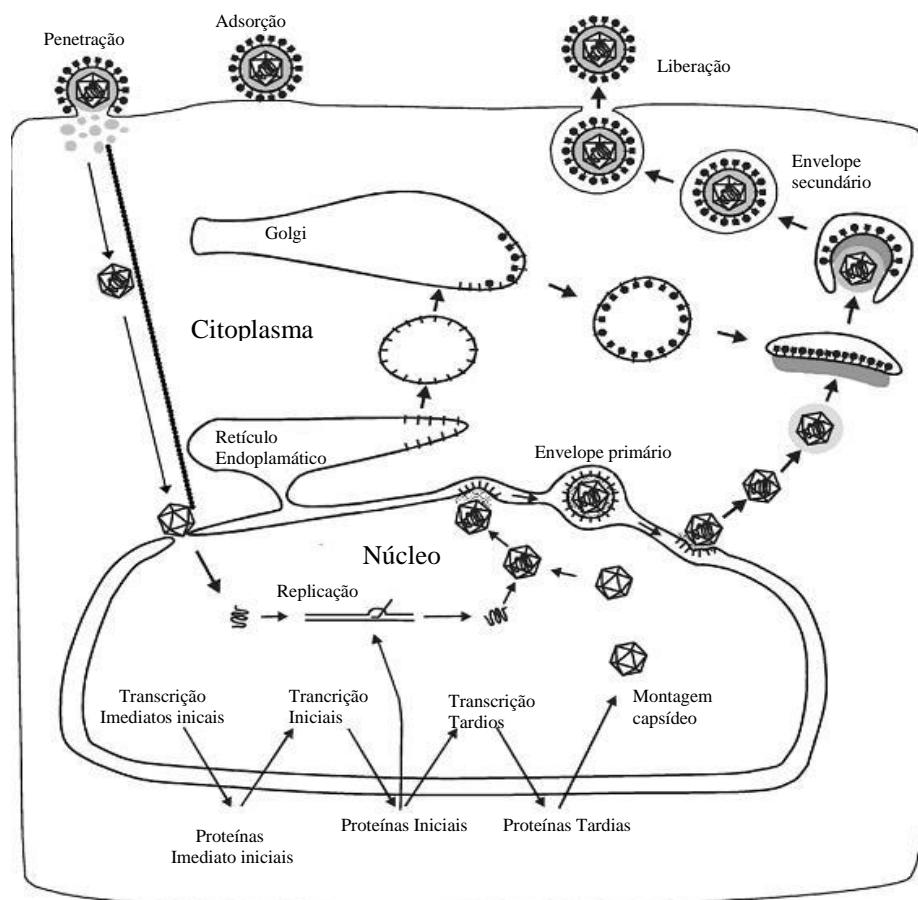


**Figura 3.** Síntese das etapas dos dois ciclos replicativos dos alfaherpesvírus. O ciclo replicativo lítico ocorre em células totalmente permissivas à replicação e resulta na produção de progênie infecciosa. A infecção latente ocorre em células semipermissivas, principalmente neurônios, e resulta na manutenção do genoma viral sem expressão gênica ou produção de progênie viral. Em determinadas situações, a infecção latente pode ser reativada e o vírus reassume a replicação produtiva (Adaptado de FLINT et al., 2000).

### 2.5.1 Infecção Aguda ou Produtiva

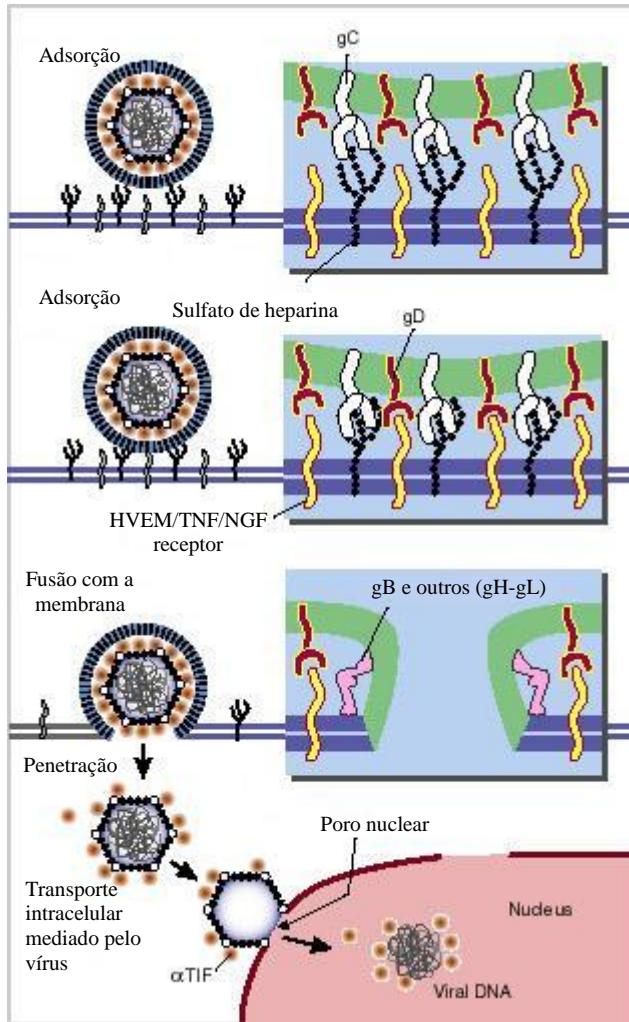
A infecção aguda ou produtiva caracteriza-se pela expressão de todos os genes virais, replicação do genoma e produção de progênie viral infecciosa (FRANCO & ROEHE, 2007).

Avanços no estudo da replicação dos herpesvírus têm sido obtidos nos últimos anos, particularmente baseados em estudos com o herpes simples vírus humano (HSV-1, HHV-1). A replicação viral compreende as seguintes etapas (Figura 4): reconhecimento e interação vírus-célula, fusão do envelope viral com a membrana plasmática, penetração do nucleocapsídeo no citoplasma da célula, transporte do nucleocapsídeo e proteínas virais para o núcleo, transcrição, replicação e síntese de DNA e proteínas virais, montagem e liberação da progênie viral (ROIZMAN & KNIPE, 2001).



**Figura 4.** Ciclo replicativo dos herpesvírus. Representação das etapas do ciclo de replicação incluindo entrada do vírus e dissociação do tegumento, transporte do nucleocapsídeo até os poros nucleares, transcrição, replicação do DNA viral e subsequente montagem e liberação da progênie viral (Adaptado de METTENLEITER, 2004).

O início da infecção viral de células permissíveis ocorre através do reconhecimento e interação de glicoproteínas virais aos receptores de superfície celular (OKAZAKI et al., 1991; LIANG et al., 1993) (Figura 5). As glicoproteínas B, H, L são estruturalmente conservadas entre todos os herpesvírus e provavelmente desempenham papel essencial na entrada do vírus na célula (FORRESTER et al., 1992; ROOP et al., 1993; SPEAR, 2004). Por outro lado, a gC e gD somente são conservadas entre a maioria dos alfaherpesvírus neutrópicos (SPEAR, 2004). A gC, conforme anteriormente mencionado, facilita a interação das partículas virais com a superfície celular através da interação com receptores de sulfato de heparina (OKAZAKI et al., 1991). Na ausência da gC, a gB assume a função de reconhecimento, interagindo com os mesmos receptores onde a gC atuaria (LI et al., 1995; METTENLEITER, 2002). Segundo o reconhecimento inicial, a próxima etapa corresponde à fusão do envelope viral com a membrana plasmática das células hospedeiras (SPEAR, 2004). Nesta etapa, o nucleocapsídeo e o tegumento são liberados dentro do citoplasma da célula, onde são transportados para o núcleo. Nesse processo é necessária a interação da gD com o receptor celular nectina 1, HVEM (mediador de entrada de herpesvírus) ou receptor de sulfato de heparina, além da interação da gB e/ou do complexo gH-gL com proteínas da membrana celular (Figura 5) (SPEAR et al., 2000; METTENLEITER, 2002; CAMPADELLI-FIUME et al., 2007).



**Figura 5.** Representação do início da infecção viral de células permissíveis. Etapas de reconhecimento, interação de glicoproteínas virais aos receptores de superfície celular, penetração (fusão) e transporte do nucleocapsídeo ao núcleo (Adaptado da homepage Dr. Edward K. Wagner, disponível em: <http://darwin.bio.uci.edu>).

No núcleo, a transcrição dos genes virais inicia de maneira ordenada em três fases: “imediata inicial” ou “immediate early” (IE), “inicial” ou “early” (E) e “tardia” ou “late” (L) (MISRA et al., 1994). As fases citadas envolvem os três grupos de genes virais: alfa, beta e gama, respectivamente. O genoma viral é acompanhado pela proteína do tegumento  $\alpha$ -TIF, cuja função é aumentar a transcrição dos genes virais IE via fatores de transcrição celular. Cinco genes são expressos nesta fase: ICP4, ICP0, ICP27, ICP22 e ICP47. As proteínas transcritas por tais genes atuam no estágio anterior do ciclo da infecção produtiva e, funcionalmente, interagem com o genoma viral formando complexos nucleares. A ativação da maquinaria transcricional das células hospedeiras,

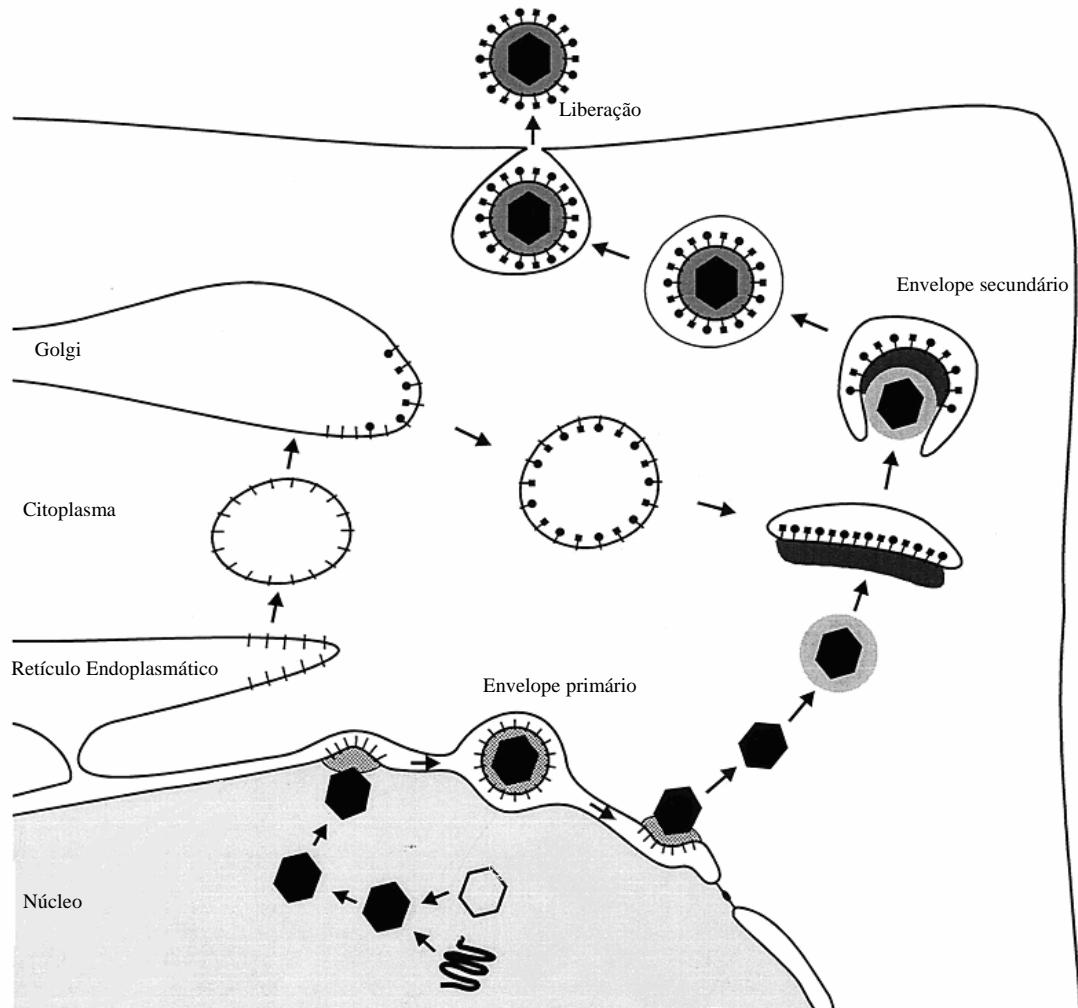
pela ação dos produtos dos genes  $\alpha$ , resultam na expressão dos genes  $\beta$  ou iniciais. Sete desses genes iniciais são necessários e suficientes para a replicação viral: DNA polimerase (UL30), proteínas de ligação do DNA (UL42 e UL29 ou ICP8), proteína de ligação à ORI (UL9) e o complexo helicase/primase (UL5, UL8, e UL52). Quando acumulados em níveis suficientes, a replicação do DNA viral prossegue.

A replicação do DNA viral representa um evento crítico e central na replicação viral. No início da replicação a molécula de DNA está circularizada e a replicação parte de uma origem, em seguida a replicação se torna bidirecional e, posteriormente, é alterada para um mecanismo de círculo rolante. O resultado da replicação é a produção de moléculas longas, formadas por múltiplas cópias genômicas. Estas cópias se acumulam em compartimentos replicativos, localizados em determinadas áreas do núcleo, e formam concatâmeros que posteriormente serão clivados, originando genomas individuais (FRANCO & ROEHE, 2007).

A expressão de genes iniciais é significativamente reduzida ou cessada após o inicio da replicação de DNA, enquanto genes tardios começam a ser expressos em altos níveis. A expressão dos transcritos de genes tardios pode ser dividida em duas subclasses: "leaky-late" ( $\beta\gamma$ ) e "strict" late ( $\gamma$ ). Promotores que controlam a expressão de ambas as subclasses são similares desde que tenham elementos próximos ao sítio de inicio da transcrição. Estes sítios são requeridos para atividade promotora, mas a localização de outros elementos pode diferir. Os transcritos  $\beta\gamma$  são expressos em baixos níveis antes da replicação do DNA, mas podem alcançar expressão máxima depois da replicação ter iniciado. Em contraste, transcritos  $\gamma$  são dificilmente detectados até o começo da replicação viral.

Após a replicação, proteínas virais interagem com DNA viral replicado para permitir o processo de montagem do capsídeo (Figura 6). METTENLEITER e colaboradores (2006) apresentaram evidências que a formação da membrana viral ocorre por um processo duplo. A primeira etapa da maturação dos herpesvírus ocorre por meio de brotamento do nucleocapsídeo com a membrana nuclear interna (envelope primário) (DARLINGTON & MOSS, 1968). O envelope primário é perdido por fusão com a membrana nuclear externa. Assim, os capsídeos são translocados para dentro do citoplasma, local onde irão receber o tegumento e o envelope final por um processo de envelopamento secundário. Evidências morfológicas indicam que as vesículas onde ocorre o brotamento são derivadas do retículo endoplasmático e aparelho de Golgi

(GERSHON et al, 1994; GRANZOW et al, 2001; MCMILLAN & JOHNSON, 2001; METTENLEITER, 2004). O resultado dos processos de envelopamento e de brotamento resume-se na obtenção do vírion dentro de uma vesícula secretória. A vesícula é então transportada para a membrana plasmática, onde sofre fusão, liberando os vírions que poderão infectar células vizinhas (METTENLEITER, 2004).



**Figura 6.** Síntese do processo de liberação dos herpesvírus (METTENLEITER, 2002).

A infecção aguda ocorre nos locais de penetração do vírus no hospedeiro (epitélio e tecidos subjacentes) e, provavelmente, também em neurônios, antes do estabelecimento e durante a reativação da infecção latente (FRANCO & ROEHE, 2007).

### 2.5.2 Infecção Latente

Uma das características mais importantes da família *Herpesviridae* refere-se à capacidade de estabelecer infecções latentes (THIRY et al., 2005). O termo “latência” refere-se à persistência do vírus no organismo do hospedeiro de forma silenciosa. Neste tipo de infecção os únicos genes expressos são os que produzem transcritos relacionados com a latência (LRT). Tal expressão resulta na inibição do ciclo lítico e na indução de um estado anti-apoptótico das células infectadas (HENDERSON et al., 2004, NANDI et al., 2010). Assim, partículas virais infecciosas não são produzidas durante a infecção latente, fato que impossibilita a detecção do vírus por meio de procedimentos virológicos usuais (ROCK, 1994; ENGELS & ACKERMANN, 1996).

A infecção latente é estabelecida principalmente em neurônios dos gânglios sensoriais e autonômicos dos animais infectados (THIRY et al., 2005; FRANCO & ROEHE, 2007). Os principais sítios de latência são os gânglios trigêmeos (quando ocorrem infecções respiratórias) e sacrais (quando ocorrem infecções genitais) (JONES, 2003). No entanto, em bovinos latentemente infectados com BoHV-1, DNA viral foi encontrado em centros germinativos das tonsilas faríngeas (WINKLER et al., 2000), células do sangue periférico (FUCHS et al., 1999), linfonodos e baço (MWEENE et al., 1996). Por outro lado, DNA de BoHV-5 foi detectado em várias áreas do Sistema Nervoso Central (SNC), principalmente córtex, tálamos, mesencéfalo e ponte encefálica (MEYER et al., 2001; PEREZ et al., 2002; VOGEL et al., 2003). As mucosas nasal e traqueal também foram sugeridas como possíveis sítios de latência de BoHV-5 (MEYER et al., 2001).

Eventualmente pode ocorrer reativação da latência em resposta a estímulos naturais ou induzidos, como situações de estresse (CASTRUCCI et al., 1983; EDWARDS & ROEDER, 1983; MSOLLA et al., 1983; PASTORET & THIRY, 1985) ou de administração prolongada de corticosteróides (SHEFFY & DAVIES, 1972). Uma vez reativado, o vírus é transportado pela mesma via nervosa de volta ao sítio de infecção primária (FRANCO & ROEHE, 2007). No processo de reativação, o genoma viral inicia um novo ciclo lítico onde os genes virais voltam a ser expressos a fim de sintetizar novas partículas virais (ROCK, 1994). Dessa forma, o estabelecimento e reativação da latência representam pontos-chave na biologia dos herpesvírus. Estes eventos permitem a permanência do vírus nos hospedeiros ao longo da vida. Além disso, os episódios esporádicos de reativação e excreção viral representam uma fonte de disseminação do vírus (THIRY et al., 1985; FRANCO & ROEHE, 2007).

## 2.6 Epidemiologia

### 2.6.1 Situação no Mundo

O BoHV-1 encontra-se presente em todos os continentes embora existam diferenças na prevalência e incidência da infecção (Tabela 1).

Continente	País	Casos estudados	Teste aplicado	Prevalência (%)	Referência
América	Canadá	1745	ELISA	37,8	DURHAM & HASSARD, 1990
	Costa Rica	496	SN	48	RAIZMAN et al., 2010
	Venezuela	650	ELISA	67	OBANDO et al., 1999
	Uruguai	6358	ELISA	37	GUARINO et al, 2007
Ásia	Peru	636	ELISA	51	STÅHL et al, 2002
	Índia	1115	SN	39,2	NANDI et al, 2008
África	China	1344	ELISA	35,8	YAN et al., 2008
	Tanzânia	61	SN	85	LYAKU et al., 1999
	Bélgica	11289	ELISA	35,9	BOELAERT et al., 2000
Europa	Turquia	615	SN	5,52%	YESILBAG et al, 2003
	Itália	6979	SN	35 - 39	CASTRUCCI et al., 1997

A Europa possui uma longa história de luta contra infecção por BoHV-1 (ACKERMANN et al., 1990a,b). Muitos programas de erradicação já foram empregados, entretanto somente um pequeno número de países como Áustria, Dinamarca, Finlândia, Noruega, Suécia e Suíça, alcançou o objetivo (ACKERMANN et al., 1989, 1990b; NYLIN et al., 1998; KÖFER et al., 1999; NOORDEGRAAF et al., 2000; PAISLEY et al., 2001). Apesar de considerada livre de IBR, na Suíça, 29 novos

casos foram registrados longo da última década. Estes casos foram detectados em procedimento sorológico anual (ACKERNANN & ENGLES, 2006).

Em relação ao BoHV-5, infecções por este agente parecem possuir uma distribuição geográfica restrita ao hemisfério sul, sendo raras no hemisfério norte (D'OFFAY et al., 1993; D'ARCE et al., 2002). Surtos de BoHV-5 são mais comumente detectados no Brasil (RIET-CORREA et al., 1989, 2006; SALVADOR et al., 1998) e Argentina (CARRILLO et al., 1983; SCHUDEL et al., 1986; PEREZ et al., 2003). No entanto, alguns casos de BoHV-5 associados com encefalites já foram detectados na Austrália (FRENCH, 1962; JOHNSTON et al., 1962), América do Norte (REED et al., 1973; D'OFFAY et al., 1993) e Europa (BARTHA et al., 1969; MORETTI et al., 1964).

## 2.6.2 Situação no Brasil

No Brasil inúmeros inquéritos sorológicos regionais têm sido realizados e demonstram que a prevalência varia com as diferentes regiões avaliadas e com a finalidade do rebanho (Tabela 2).

Tabela 2. Dados referentes à prevalência de BoHV-1 nas diferentes regiões do Brasil.

Regiões do Brasil	Estado	Casos estudados	Descrição do rebanho	Teste aplicado	Prevalência (%)	Referência
Nordeste	Bahia	558	Corte e leite	ELISA e SN	56 e 48	CERQUEIRA et al., 2000
	Mato Grosso do Sul	1097	Leite	SN	50,9	TOMICH et al., 2009
Centro-Oeste	Goiás	790	Corte, leite e misto	ELISA	83	VIEIRA et al., 2003
	Goiás	6932	Corte, leite e misto	SN	51,9	BARBOSA et al., 2005

Regiões do Brasil	Estado	Casos estudados	Descrição do rebanho	Teste aplicado	Prevalência (%)	Referência
Sudeste	Rio de Janeiro	235	Não informado	SN	56	GRÉGIO et al., 2000
	Minas Gerais	5511	Não informado	ELISA e SN	58,2	ROCHA et al., 2001
	Paraná	1235	Corte e leite	SN	43,7	MÉDICE et al., 2000
Sul	Rio Grande do Sul	7956	Leite	SN	18,8	LOVATO et al., 1995
	Rio Grande do Sul	2200	Corte e Leite	SN	29,2	HOLZ et al., 2009

A maioria dos inquéritos epidemiológicos, citados na Tabela 1, são baseados nos resultados de testes sorológicos os quais são incapazes de distinguir respostas sorológicas induzidas por BoHV-1 e/ou BoHV-5. Além disso, estes testes, normalmente, são realizados frente a uma única amostra viral de BoHV-1, o que pode influenciar no resultado devido à existência de uma variabilidade de reação das amostras de herpesvírus em testes de soroneutralização (HOLZ et al., 2009). Assim, a real prevalência de infecções, tanto por BoHV-1 como por BoHV-5, permanece efetivamente desconhecida. Igualmente, permanece desconhecida a prevalência de infecções mistas com ambos os vírus, como levantado em estudos recentes, onde um alto índice de co-infecção (75,9%) foi verificado (CAMPOS et al., 2009). Deste modo, as prevalências investigadas tornam-se apenas meras estimativas que, de qualquer forma, refletem a ampla distribuição de BoHV-1 e BoHV-5 nos rebanhos brasileiros.

## 2.7 Diagnóstico

A diversidade dos sinais clínicos, bem como a semelhança destes sinais com outras doenças infecciosas e parasitárias, não permite a elaboração de um diagnóstico clínico conclusivo da infecção ocasionada pelo BoHV-1 ou BoHV-5. Até mesmo nos casos de vulvovaginite, onde as lesões são características, o diagnóstico baseado no exame clínico é apenas presuntivo.

Nos quadros clínicos que envolvem o sistema respiratório é importante diferenciar a infecção pelo BoHV-1 daquelas ocasionadas por outros patógenos que estão agrupados no Complexo Respiratório Bovino, como o vírus respiratório sincicial

bovino (BRSV), vírus da diarréia viral bovina (BVDV), vírus parainfluenza tipo 3 (PI-3) e bactérias do gênero Pasteurella (OBANDO et al., 1999).

Nos casos de encefalites (BoHV-5), devem ser descartadas outras infecções e/ou patologias que comprometem o sistema nervoso central de bovinos como o vírus da raiva, babesiose cerebral, enterotoxemia, toxinfecções, intoxicação por plantas tóxicas, uréia, chumbo, acidentes ofídicos e encefalopatia espongiforme bovina (SANCHES et al., 2000).

Nos distúrbios reprodutivos ocasionados pelo BoHV-1 o diagnóstico clínico é praticamente impossível. O aborto, considerado a manifestação clínica mais evidente da infecção deve ainda ser diferenciado de outras causas infecciosas como a brucelose, leptospirose, campilobacteriose, neosporose, tricomonose e de infecções ocasionadas pelo vírus da diarréia viral bovina e por micoplasmas. Causas não infecciosas relacionadas ao manejo (estresse térmico), endotoxinas, corticosteróides exógenos, desordens genéticas e/ou nutricionais, teratogenia, plantas tóxicas, micotoxinas (zearalenona), entre outras causas, também devem ser incluídas no diagnóstico diferencial (LARSON, 1996).

Dessa forma, a suspeita clínico-patológica deve ser confirmada através de testes laboratoriais. Infecções por BoHV-1 e/ou BoHV-5 podem ser diagnosticadas por testes sorológicos, a partir da presença do vírus ou de componentes dele, ou ainda, por testes baseados na análise do ácido nucléico por reação em cadeia da polimerase (PCR), hibridização do ácido nucléico e sequenciamento (CLAUS et al., 2002).

### 2.7.1 Diagnóstico Virológico

O diagnóstico virológico de infecções por BoHV-1 e BoHV-5 pode ser realizado através da identificação de抗ígenos virais, sobre secreções ou tecidos de animais infectados, do isolamento viral em cultivos celulares ou ainda, através de métodos moleculares.

Para a detecção de componentes virais, como proteínas, podem ser empregadas técnicas de imunofluorescência (IFA), imunohistoquímica e imunoperoxidase (IPX). Estes testes dependem essencialmente do tipo de anticorpo empregado para a detecção do抗ígeno. Se realizados com anticorpos policlonais a detecção torna-se menos específica ao tipo de BoHV, sendo provavelmente incapaz de diferenciar entre amostras de BoHV-1 e BoHV-5. Contudo, a utilização de anticorpos monoclonais tipo-

específicos possibilita a diferenciação entre os vírus. Assim, os testes podem ser utilizados como diagnóstico e também como ferramenta para caracterização de isolados de campo (ROEHE et al., 1997; SOUZA et al., 2002; SILVA et al., 2007b).

O BoHV-1 e o BoHV-5 podem ser isolados em cultivos celulares primários ou linhagens celulares desde que sejam permissíveis ao vírus. O vírus pode ser isolado de várias fontes: suave nasal, conjuntivo, vaginal, lavado prepucial, cotilédone placentário de fetos abortados, alguns órgãos de feto abortado (fígado, baço, rim, pulmão, linfonodo, mucosa do trato respiratório e tonsilas) (HOMAN & EASTERDAY, 1980). Sêmen fresco ou devidamente preservado também pode ser utilizado para o isolamento viral (SNOWDON, 1965; DEKA et al., 2005). A presença do vírus nos cultivos celulares inoculados pode ser observada em microscópio óptico por meio da presença de efeito citopático (ECP) característico dos herpesvírus (STRAUB, 1990; TURIN & RUSSO, 2003).

A microscopia eletrônica também pode ser empregada para detecção de partículas virais através de características estruturais e morfológicas comuns à família viral. Entretanto, a baixa sensibilidade, o custo elevado e a necessidade de equipe altamente capacitada para a operação e interpretação dos resultados tornam esta técnica inviável como ferramenta de diagnóstico.

## 2.7.2 Diagnóstico Molecular

### 2.7.2.1 Reação em cadeia da polimerase

A reação em cadeia da polimerase (PCR) é uma técnica altamente específica, sensível e rápida, que consiste na síntese *in vitro* de uma grande quantidade de cópias de um segmento alvo no DNA. Esta técnica vem sendo aprimorada e amplamente utilizada na detecção e diferenciação de infecções por BoHV-1 e/ou BoHV-5 (ALEGRE et al., 2001; CLAUS et al., 2005; SILVA et al., 2007a; ESTEVES et al., 2008; CAMPOS et al., 2009), podendo ser aplicada em amostras oriundas de diferentes fontes (amostras clínicas, soro, sêmen, líquido folicular, isolados virais) (VAN ENGELENBURG et al., 1994; SANTURDE et al., 1995, FUCHS et al., 1999, CLAUS et al., 2005). Além disso, o produto obtido por PCR pode ser seqüenciado e utilizado como um instrumento importante para acompanhar a origem e evolução desses vírus. Dessa forma, torna-se

possível ampliar o conhecimento sobre as infecções nos locais de ocorrência e sua distribuição biogeográfica.

#### 2.7.2.2 Análise Genômica com Restrição Enzimática

A análise com enzimas de restrição (REA) realizada em isolados virais tem sido utilizada para identificação e diferenciação entre amostras de vírus (BRAKE & STUDDERT, 1985; BULACH & STUDDERT, 1990; RIMSTAD et al., 1992; BUONAVOGLIA et al., 1996; WILLIAMS et al., 1997) e também para detecção de recombinantes interespecíficos (MEURENS et al., 2004). Alguns estudos empregaram a técnica com intuito de avaliar as diferenças existentes entre os isolados, além da tentativa de relacionar patogenia com agente causador específico (MISRA et al., 1983; WHETSTONE et al., 1989; EDWARDS et al., 1991; HORIUCHI et al., 1995). Engels e colaboradores (1981), utilizando REA, propuseram a subdivisão de BoHV-1 em BoHV-1.1 e BoHV-1.2. Esta subdivisão tem sido empregada desde então. Posteriormente, D'Arce e colaboradores (2002) sugeriram padrões enzimáticos que podem ser obtidos a partir da REA para diferenciar isolados de campo nos subtipos de BoHV-1 e BoHV-5. Além disso, o grupo propôs a existência de um terceiro subtipo de BoHV-5. Deste modo, o emprego da técnica, assim como o sequenciamento, pode favorecer a diferenciação entre amostras de herpesvírus bovino. Posteriormente, estes dados poderão contribuir com o conhecimento da prevalência tipo ou subtipo-específica, informação ainda desconhecida no Brasil e na maioria dos países.

#### 2.7.3 Diagnóstico Sorológico

Muitos testes sorológicos são utilizados para detecção de anticorpos e do aumento do título dos anticorpos entre as fases aguda e latente da infecção. Atualmente as técnicas sorológicas mais empregadas incluem a soroneutralização (SN) e os ensaios imunoenzimáticos (ELISA). O teste de ELISA é específico, sensível e bastante prático. Uma variedade de testes de ELISA (indireto, direto, de competição) comerciais ou “caseiros” tem sido desenvolvida para a triagem das amostras de soro de bovinos (NANDI et al., 2004, 2007). Com o intuito de minimizar o risco da introdução de animais infectados em rebanhos ou em centrais de inseminação, os testes sorológicos devem ser sensíveis o suficiente para evitar resultados falso-negativos.

### 2.7.3.1 Soroneutralização

Soroneutralização (SN) é o teste considerado “padrão ouro” para a detecção de anticorpos específicos para BoHV (BITSCH, 1978; DEL FAVA et al., 1998; ROCHA et al., 2001; VIEIRA et al., 2003). A SN tem sido amplamente empregada em inquéritos epidemiológicos, certificação de rebanhos, triagem de reprodutores destinados à coleta e comercialização de sêmen, além de dar suporte à investigação clínica (FRANCO & ROEHE, 2007). Entretanto, o emprego do teste de SN não permite fazer distinção tipo-específica devido à ocorrência de extensas reações cruzadas entre BoHV-1 e BoHV-5 (CAMPOS et al., 2009). Além disso, com as divisões destes agentes em subtipos, a escolha de qual amostra utilizar como vírus de desafio pode ser difícil. Um estudo recentemente realizado mostrou existir variação na detecção de soros positivos dependente da amostra viral utilizada (HOLZ et al., 2009). Do mesmo modo, a combinação de diferentes amostras virais como desafio pode minimizar resultados falso-negativo.

Outra questão importante refere-se às modificações que são empregadas à técnica. Uma das modificações está relacionada ao tempo de incubação da mistura soro-vírus. Essa alteração no tempo exibe efeito significante na sensibilidade do teste. Um período de incubação de 24 horas pode aumentar em dezesseis vezes a detecção de anticorpos e deve ser aplicado quando sensibilidade máxima é requerida (BITSCH, 1978; VIEIRA et al., 2003; OIE, 2010). Assim, é interessante avaliar a reação de diferentes subtipos de BoHV-1 e BoHV-5 empregando período de incubação soro-vírus que proporcione uma sensibilidade máxima e verificar como estes resultados refletiriam na escolha da amostra a ser utilizada.

### **3. OBJETIVOS**

#### **3.1 Objetivos Gerais**

- ✓ Contribuir com o aperfeiçoamento de teste para a detecção de anticorpos contra BoHV-1 e BoHV-5 e ampliar o conhecimento sobre as características genéticas destes agentes.

#### **3.2 Objetivos Específicos**

- ✓ Verificar possíveis diferenças na sensibilidade de testes de SN quando executados frente a diferentes tipos e subtipos de BoHV-1 e BoHV-5;
- ✓ Determinar a melhor combinação de cepas virais a serem utilizadas nos testes de SN a fim de aumentar a sensibilidade na detecção de animais soropositivos;
- ✓ Determinar tipos e subtipos de isolados de campo de BoHV-1 e BoHV-5 através da amplificação e sequenciamento da porção carboxi-terminal do gene que codifica a glicoproteína C e da análise com enzimas de restrição (REA).

## Capítulo 1

### **Neutralizing antibodies to bovine herpesvirus types 1 (BoHV-1) and 5 (BoHV-5) and its subtypes**

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Artigo publicado na revista Veterinary Microbiology, 142: 254-260, 2009.

## Abstract

This study was carried out to determine whether the sensitivity of serum neutralization (SN) tests would be affected by the use of distinct subtypes of bovine herpesvirus 1 (BoHV-1) and 5 (BoHV-5) as test challenge viruses. Bovine sera collected from a randomized sample ( $n = 287$ ) were tested in a 24 h incubation SN against three type 1 viruses (BoHV-1.1 strains “Los Angeles” (LA) and “EVI 123”; BoHV-1.2a strain “SV 265”) and three type 5 viruses (BoHV-5a strain “EVI 88”; BoHV-5b strain “A 663” and BoHV-5c “ISO 97”). SN sensitivity varied greatly depending on the test challenge virus used in the test, particularly when results against each virus were considered individually, where it ranged from 77% (detecting 80 out of 104 antibody-positive sera) with ISO 97 to 91% (95/104) with BoHV-1.1 strain LA. All tests to single viruses revealed a significantly low sensitivity (McNemar’s;  $p < 0.05$ ). Maximum sensitivity (104/104) was achieved when positive results to a particular combination of four of the challenge viruses (LA + EVI 123 + SV 265 + A 663) or some combinations of five viruses (or all six viruses) were added cumulatively. These results provide evidence for no association between any particular virus type/subtype and higher SN sensitivity. In addition, it was clearly shown that when SN is performed with single test challenge viruses, sensitivity can vary so significantly that might compromise control or eradication efforts. Performing SN against a number of different viruses demonstrated to improve significantly the test’s sensitivity.

Keywords: Neutralization, Cross-neutralization, BoHV-1, BoHV-5.

## 1. Introduction

Bovine herpesvirus type 1 (BoHV-1) and type 5 (BoHV-5) belong to the newly created order *Herpesvirales*, family *Herpesviridae*, subfamily *Alphaherpesvirinae*, genus *Varicellovirus* (Davison et al., 2009). With basis on antigenic and genomic properties, BoHV-1 isolates were divided into three different genotypes: BoHV-1.1, BoHV-1.2a and BoHV-1.2b (Metzler et al., 1985; D'Arce et al., 2002; Souza et al., 2002). Subtypes 1.1 and 1.2a are regarded as most pathogenic and have been associated, respectively, to

respiratory disease and abortions (Miller et al., 1991). BoHV-1.2b isolates are considered of moderate pathogenicity (Metzler et al., 1985) and may cause vulvovaginitis or balanopostitis, but have not so far been linked to abortions (Miller, 1991; Smith et al., 1995). Regarding BoHV-5, these were further subdivided in BoHV-5a, BoHV-5b and BoHV-5 “non-a, non-b”, or “c” (Pidone et al., 1999; D'Arce et al., 2002).

Different BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 types and subtypes display extensive serological cross-reactivity which can be evidenced in serum neutralization tests; such crossreactivity precludes the use of SN to distinguish typespecific immune responses or to discriminate infections with viruses of distinct types (Campos et al., 2009). However, the actual degree of serologic cross-reactivity between such viruses has not been evaluated in detail. Besides, SN studies were mostly carried without taking into account the proposed bovine herpesvirus type/ subtype subdivision (Bitsch, 1978; Deregt et al., 1993; Perrin et al., 1993, 1994; Kramps et al., 1996). Nevertheless, many diagnostic and research laboratories rely on SN tests to evaluate serological responses to such viruses.

In the present study, while performing SN tests from regions where most types and subtypes of BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 have been identified, we faced doubt on which particular virus type/subtype would be more suitable for use as challenge virus in SN, since this might affect the test's sensitivity (defined here as the capacity to detect antibody-positive sera within a sample). To check this hypothesis, a series of SN tests were performed with six BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 strains as test challenge viruses. The main aim of the study was to determine which virus – or combination of virus types and/or subtypes – would give rise to maximum sensitivity. As most laboratories usually employ different BoHV-1.1 strains at SN, two strains of this subtype were included in

the tests in order to determine whether sensitivity might also be affected by strain variation within this particular subtype.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1 Cells

The Madin Darby Bovine Kidney (MDBK) cell lineage, originally obtained from ATCC (CCL-22), was multiplied in Eagle's minimal essential medium (MEM; Gibco) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (Soraly) and antibiotics (penicillin 100 IU/mL; streptomycin 100 mg/mL). All cells, sera and media were tested free of pestiviruses, bovine herpesviruses or antibodies to such viruses. Cells were subcultured every 3–4 days following standard procedures (Freshney, 1992).

### 2.2 Viruses

The following viruses were used: BoHV-1.1 strain Los Angeles (Madin et al., 1956) from here on referred to as "LA"; BoHV-1.1 strain EVI 123/98 ("EVI 123"; Roehe et al., 1997; Souza et al., 2002), BoHV-1.2a strain SV 265/96 ("SV 265"; Franco et al., 2002; Spilki et al., 2005), BoHV-5a strain EVI 88/95 ("EVI 88"; Roehe et al., 1997; Souza et al., 2002), BoHV-5b strain A 663 (Carrillo et al., 1983; D'Arce et al., 2002) and BoHV-5c strain ISO 97/95 ("ISO 97"; Souza et al., 2002). From the so far recognized BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 subtypes, only a representative of BoHV-1 subtype 2b was not included in the present study, as it was not available in the laboratory. Virus multiplication and titrations were carried out on MDBK cells following standard procedures (Roehe et al., 1997).

### 2.3. Cattle serum samples

Sera from 287 adult cattle with no history of vaccination to BoHV-1 or BoHV-5 were examined in the present study. All sera were previously inactivated at 56 °C for 30 min and stored in aliquots at –20°C until use.

#### *2.4. Serum neutralization tests*

Neutralizing antibodies to BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 were detected in a serum-virus neutralization test (SN) with the constant virus, varying serum method, in 96-well cell culture plates, as described previously (van Oirschot, 2000). Sera were diluted in twofold dilutions (1/2 and 1/4) and the serum-virus mixtures were incubated for 24 h at 37 °C before the addition of MDBK cells. Tests were performed separately against each of the six different virus strains, against 100 median tissue culture infectious doses (TCID<sub>50</sub>). Challenge virus doses were calculated with basis on titrations performed with a 24 h incubation of the virus at 37°C before addition of cells. In each battery of tests, challenge virus dosage was checked by back titrations. Tests were considered valid when infectious virus doses were between 1.5 and 2.5 log<sub>10</sub>(31.6–316 TCID<sub>50</sub>). When the actual TCID<sub>50</sub> was not within the acceptable range for a particular challenge virus, the tests were repeated. All tests were performed by experienced operators, in separate laminar flow cabinets. Plates were incubated at 37 °C in a moist atmosphere with 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for up to 120 h until the final readings, which were performed with basis on the presence or absence of cytopathic effect. Results were calculated by the method of Reed and Müench (Lorenz and Bögel, 1973) and expressed as positive (neutralizing antibody titer ≥2) or negative (neutralizing antibody titer <2).

Extreme care was taken to avoid cross-contamination; different biological safety cabinets were used for each virus whenever possible; when this was not the case, thorough sterilization and disinfection procedures were performed before and after each round of tests.

#### *2.5. Sensitivity and statistical analyses*

The sensitivity of the test was here defined as the capacity to detect antibody-positive sera in relation to the maximum number of positive sera detected. Comparisons of results at SN tests with different viruses were performed with the McNemar's test for related populations (Zar, 1999) over the total number of sera considered as antibody-positive ( $n = 104$ ), with a 5% significance level and a 5% probability, calculated with the program Dag Stat (Mackinnon, 2000).

### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Serum neutralization tests

The results obtained at SN with the six different challenge viruses are shown in Table 1. From the 287 sera examined in the present study, 104 were positive for neutralizing antibodies to at least one of the six SN challenge viruses, whereas 183 sera were negative for antibodies to all viruses assayed. The total number of antibody-positive sera ( $n = 104$ ) was considered as 100% sensitivity for the purpose of this study. For sake of clarity, all figures were rounded whenever adequate.

The number of antibody-positive sera detected by each challenge virus varied from 80/104 (77% sensitivity) to 95/104 (91% sensitivity). The smallest number of positive sera was detected with strain ISO 97, with a 23% (24/104) decrease in the test's sensitivity (McNemar's = 0.00). Strain LA was the single virus that detected most positive sera (95/104). Nevertheless, about 9% (9/104) of the overall antibody-positive sera were missed by SN to LA, a highly significant error (McNemar's = 0.004; Table 1).

A comparison between the results obtained with the two viruses of the same subtype (BoHV-1.1 strains LA and EVI 123) reveals that LA detected 95 (91%), whereas EVI 123 detected 89 (86%) of the total 100 positive sera detected by the two viruses (Table 1). Between these, agreement on positive reactions was detected in 85% of the sera, with 16/104 samples showing disagreeing results (Fig. 1). When considered separately, both LA and EVI 123 revealed significantly low sensitivity (McNemar's = 0.004 and 0.000). Therefore, 15% of the sera gave rise to significantly discrepant results even with test challenge viruses belonged to the same subtype. Nevertheless, the combination of positive results obtained with LA and EVI 123 (and of course other combinations of these plus any other viruses) was the only one in which the cumulative sum of positive results with just two test viruses was statistically significant at the McNemar's test ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Maximum sensitivity (that is, detection of the highest number of neutralizing antibody-positive sera), was attained when the positive SN results obtained were considered cumulatively. The highest sensitivity was achieved when the positive results of tests with a particular combination of at least four of the test challenge viruses were added. Such combination consisted of strains LA, EVI 123, SV 265 and A 663 (Table

1). Other combinations of results with four or five viruses that would not include all those mentioned above would not detect all 104 antibody-positive samples (Table 1).

The profile of sera reactivity at SN with the six different test challenge viruses was plotted in search for recognizable patterns (Fig. 1). From the 104 reactive sera, 62 reacted with the six viruses tested; 18 reacted to five; 8 reacted with four; 2 reacted with three; 5 reacted with two and 9 sera reacted with only one of six test challenge viruses. SN did not allow type-specific differentiation between the neutralizing antibody responses to BoHV-1 and BoHV-5. Most antibody-positive serum samples (92/104) reacted with viruses of both types 1 and 5; 11/104 sera reacted with BoHV-1 only, whereas only 1/104 reacted with BoHV-5 only.

#### **4. Discussion**

In view of the proposed subdivisions of BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 into subtypes, this study was designed to check whether such subdivisions would bear any relationship with the neutralization patterns revealed by field sera when confronted with different virus types/subtypes as test challenge viruses in SN tests. The test challenge viruses were considered representative of all types and subtypes of BoHV-1 and BoHV-5, except for BoHV-1.2b, which was not available in the laboratory as its occurrence in Brazil is rare (not shown).

It became clear that the sensitivity of SN was highly affected by the strain used as test challenge virus in the SN procedure. Moreover, it was shown here that the use of a single virus strain as challenge virus at SN will result in significantly lower sensitivity when compared to the overall sum of positive results obtained by testing against a number of different challenge viruses.

The neutralization profiles observed in the present study were quite variable, probably defined by the interplay between the host and the particular infecting virus. Therefore, in the field, it seems likely that a wide spectrum of neutralization profiles against an equally wide range of evolving viruses would be in constant generation, as co-evolution progresses. Therefore, if intended to provide a closer insight of such variability, searches for neutralizing antibodies should be performed with various test challenge viruses. Ideally, at least one representative of the virus types/subtypes circulating in a given region of origin of serum samples would have to be included in the tests, in order to decrease the probability of obtaining misleading results, albeit this

would still not warrant the highest sensitivity. Even with viruses belonging to a same subtype, as seen here with the two BoHV-1.1 strains (LA and EVI 123), sensitivity varied from 86% (with EVI 123) to 91% (with LA). These results also suggest that type/subtype may bear little meaning in terms of antigenic relatedness among such viruses.

No correlation was evident between the results at SN and any particular virus type or subtype used at test challenge viruses. Type or subtype-specific responses were not apparent with the screening method here employed. It has been suggested that antibody titrations in sera might reveal differential levels of antibodies to a particular type. However, we have experienced previously that type-differentiation could not be achieved by SN because antibody titers would not differ significantly (equal to or greater than fourfold) in about 92% of sera (Teixeira et al., 1998). Thus, it seems that BoHV-1, BoHV-5 and its subtypes do not induce a discriminative neutralizing antibody response that could be used as a type/subtype-specific marker, at least in SN tests. Although genomic and pathogenic differences between types 1 and 5 viruses are quite consistent, a differential serological for BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 is still missing. The only test reported to discriminate between BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 antibodies was carried out with one BoHV-5b strain (Wellenberg et al., 2001). Therefore, type-specific tests still await further development. In addition, cattle may also be infected with more than one virus type/subtype, as recently demonstrated (Campos et al., 2009).

Low sensitivity can compromise control efforts, what highlights the importance of the findings here reported. Particularly where eradication is to be achieved, and in view of the particularities of herpesvirus latency, false negative results might lead to missing a significant population of potential virus shedders, thus compromising eventual eradication policies and perpetuating the infection in flocks. Moreover, in situations where sero-negativity is a mandatory requirement, such as in the international trade of animals (Perrin et al., 1993, Perrin et al., 1994, Kramps et al., 1996, van Oirschot, 2000), regulatory organs should take into account the findings here reported if maximum sensitivity is to be targeted.

In practical terms, the use of many distinct viruses for SN testing is complicated and difficult to introduce and to perform in diagnostic laboratories. However, SN testing against a single virus will certainly lead to low sensitivity at detection of positive sera. Alternatives should, therefore, be considered, since SN is often taken as gold standard to validate other serological tests. One such alternative would be to define which

combination of viruses could be practically used at SN challenge that could detect most SN positive sera. In our laboratory, an option was made for using the four most “sensitive” strains for regional prevalence studies (Holz et al., 2009).

Despite the lower sensitivity revealed here, single challenge SN tests have been used to support eradication programs (Ackermann et al., 1990, Nuotio et al., 2007). However, in such situations the number of infected flocks and seropositive animals was probably low, with a limited number of circulating viruses, where strain variation would be less evident. In other situations where seroprevalence is high, or where the number of different circulating viruses may be high, testing for antibodies by SN against a single virus will probably lead to misleading results and put eventual eradication programs or control strategies at risk. However, this may be unnecessary when sero-epidemiological studies were to be performed in regions where the number of circulating bovine herpesvirus types/subtypes is known to be small. This, of course, would require knowledge on the actually circulating viruses within those particular regions.

Another point that must be raised is the specificity of the test. In this study, the occurrence of false positive sera was not taken into account. This possibility had already been pointed out by others (Deregt et al., 1993). However, the number of possibly false positive sera would be expected to be low. It was reasoned that any eventual bias that might be introduced by the occurrence of false positive sera would be diluted by the large number of samples examined. In fact, only 12 out of 104 sera (11.5%) reacted with one challenge virus only (Fig. 1). False positive results would be expected to lie within such population, perhaps giving rise to some equivocal results (although the actual number of false positives would be impossible to determine with precision). Therefore, the number of false positive sera within the population examined would not be expected to interfere significantly in the results here obtained.

In relation to false negative sera, as tests were performed against six different challenge viruses, it was inferred that these were truly neutralizing antibody-negative sera, although again this could not be precisely determined with the methodology employed here. However, these are probably the closest a sample of field sera could get to truly BoHV-neutralizing antibody-negative sera. Therefore, although possible, it seems unlikely that false negative sera would have played any significant role in the results here presented.

It is quite possible that theoretically more sensitive tests, such as ELISAs, might prove more adequate for BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 serology than SN against single viruses

(Kramps et al., 1993). However, all available ELISAs for antibodies to BoHV available to date have been prepared with antigens from single, “classical” BoHV-1 strains, and validated against sera which were also tested usually against one, or a few, “classical” strains. In addition, to date, no ELISA for BoHV-5 serology has been fully validated. In view of the findings reported here, it would be advisable that ELISAs for antibodies to BoHV should have their validation parameters redefined with sera tested against a wider number of viruses. This might reveal that perhaps many of the discrepancies occasionally found between results of SN and ELISAs may in fact be due to SN's low sensitivity. This variation was in fact already evidenced when tests performed in different laboratories were compared (Perrin et al., 1993, Perrin et al., 1994, Kramps et al., 1996). Our group is currently working on the development of an ELISA which will be expected to display high multi-type/subtype sensitivity and specificity.

Another point to consider is the importance of performing SN with a 24 h incubation period. In a similar study with 1 h SN tests, variability of results within and between types/subtypes reached levels that were even more discrepant than the ones reported here, so that the overall sensitivity of the test was decreased, on average, an additional 30% (Holz et al., 2009). Thus, SN with 1 h incubation indeed displays unacceptably low sensitivity, as indeed already highlighted by others (Deregt et al., 1993).

The findings here reported may also be of interest for vaccine testing. In neutralizing antibody determinations for vaccine evaluation, the challenge strains employed at SN may influence the results obtained. Perhaps such variation may be accounted for when poor correlations are found between neutralizing antibodies and vaccine efficacy. Analyses of previous studies suggest that when SN tests are performed with homologous viruses, neutralizing antibodies tend to correlate better with protection than when heterologous viruses are used at challenge (van Drunen Little-van den Hurk et al., 1994). Therefore, for more accurate analysis, vaccines should ideally be tested at least to those virus types/subtypes circulating in the regions where the final product is intended to be applied.

## 5. Conclusions

SN tests to BoHV-1 and BoHV-5, when performed with a single BoHV-1 strain as challenge virus, were shown in the present study to perform poorly in identifying

antibody-positive sera. Sensitivity of SN to single viruses, regardless of their types or subtypes, varied between 77 and 91%, giving rise to significantly low sensitivity (McNemar's  $p = 0.005$ ). Thus, if SN is used to support control or eradication strategies, low sensitivity might compromise such attempts. When SN aims maximum sensitivity, tests should be performed against a combination of strains to confer the highest sensitivity. Such procedure would minimize the chances of false negative results.

The highest sensitivity (that is, the highest number of sera positive for neutralizing antibodies) with the least number of test viruses in this particular study was detected by the cumulative sum of the positive results obtained at SN with a particular combination of four strains (BoHV-1.1 LA + BoHV-1.1 EVI 123 + BoHV-1.2a SV 265 + BoHV-5a A 663). The addition of positive test results to most combinations of five – plus of course the combination of all six viruses tested – allowed maximum sensitivity (detecting 104/104 antibody-positive samples). Clearly, the results obtained in the present study refer to a particular situation, where a number of virus types/subtypes are known to circulate in the country. In different countries or regions, however, it would be wise to compare the performance of different challenge viruses to achieve higher SN sensitivity.

The results obtained at SN as performed here do not allow type or subtype-specific differentiation; in fact, they provide additional evidence to support that SN tests are not discriminatory enough to provide type or subtype-specific sensitivity. The development of a type/subtype-specific test remains a challenging task for the future, as well as the determination of type and/or subtype-specific prevalence in flocks and its relevance in the biology of bovine herpesvirus infections.

### Acknowledgements

We thank prof. Lucas Veiga (UFCSPA) for aid in the statistical analyses. Financial support from CNPq, FAPERGS, CAPES, and the State Government of Rio Grande do Sul. A.P.M.V. is on receipt of a Master's grant from the Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES). C.L.H. is a M.Sc. fellow at the Postgraduate Program in Veterinary Sciences (PPGCV), Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS); T.F.T. and D.D. are doctorate fellows at PPGCV/UFRGS. P.M.R. is a CNPq 1C research fellow.

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Table 1. Performance (individualized and cumulative) of different bovine herpesviruses (BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 and its subtypes) as challenge viruses in 24 h serum neutralization (SN) tests with filed cattle sera which resulted positive for neutralizing antibodies to at least one of the viruses tested (n=104).

Test challenge virus(es) used in SN tests	Number of positive sera	Sensitivity <sup>a</sup> (104/104=100%)	McNemar's Test <sup>x</sup>
BoHV-1.1 LA <sup>b</sup>	95	91	<b>0.004</b>
BoHV-1.1 EVI 123 <sup>b</sup>	89	86	<b>0.000</b>
BoHV-1.2a SV 265 <sup>c</sup>	90	86	<b>0.000</b>
BoHV-5a EVI 88 <sup>d</sup>	81	78	<b>0.000</b>
BoHV-5b A 663 <sup>e</sup>	84	81	<b>0.000</b>
BoHV-5c ISO 97 <sup>f</sup>	80	77	<b>0.000</b>
LA + EVI 123	100	96	0.125
LA + SV 265	98	94	<b>0.031</b>
LA + EVI 88	97	93	<b>0.016</b>
LA + A 663	98	94	<b>0.031</b>
LA + ISO 97	97	93	<b>0.016</b>
EVI 123 + SV 265	96	92	<b>0.008</b>
EVI 123 + EVI 88	93	89	<b>0.001</b>
EVI 123 + A 663	98	94	<b>0.031</b>
EVI 123 + ISO 97	92	88	<b>0.000</b>
SV 265 + EVI 88	94	90	<b>0.002</b>
SV 265 + A 663	98	94	<b>0.031</b>
SV 265 + ISO 97	94	90	<b>0.002</b>
EVI 88 + A 663	93	89	<b>0.001</b>
EVI 88 + ISO 97	87	84	<b>0.000</b>
A 663 + ISO 97	91	87	<b>0.000</b>
LA + EVI 123 + SV 265	103	99	1.000
LA + EVI 123 + EVI 88	101	97	0.250
LA + EVI 123 + A 663	102	98	0.500
LA + EVI 123 + ISO 97	101	97	0.250
LA + SV 265 + EVI 88	99	95	0.062
LA + SV 265 + A 663	100	96	0.125
LA + SV 265 + ISO 97	99	95	0.062
LA + EVI 88 + A 663	98	94	<b>0.031</b>
LA + EVI 88 + ISO 97	97	93	<b>0.016</b>
LA + A 663 + ISO 97	98	94	<b>0.031</b>
EVI 123 + SV 265 + EVI 88	98	94	<b>0.031</b>
EVI 123 + SV 265 + A 663	102	98	0.500
EVI 123 + SV 265 + ISO 97	98	94	<b>0.031</b>
EVI 123 + EVI 88 + A 663	98	94	<b>0.031</b>
EVI 123 + EVI 88 + ISO 97	93	89	<b>0.001</b>
EVI 123 + A 663 + ISO 97	98	94	<b>0.031</b>
EVI 88 + A 663 + ISO 97	93	89	<b>0.001</b>
LA + EVI 123 + SV 265 + EVI 88	103	99	1.000
LA + EVI 123 + SV 265 + A 663	104	100	1.000
LA + EVI 123 + SV 265 + ISO 97	103	99	<b>0.031</b>
LA + EVI 123 + EVI 88 + A 663	102	98	0.500
LA + EVI 123 + EVI 88 + ISO 97	101	97	0.250
LA + EVI 123 + A 663 + ISO 97	102	98	0.500

Test challenge virus(es) used in SN tests	Number of positive sera	Sensitivity <sup>a</sup> (104/104=100%)	McNemar's Test <sup>b</sup>
LA + SV 265 + EVI 88 + A 663	100	96	0.125
LA + SV 265 + A 663 + ISO 97	100	96	0.125
EVI 123 + SV 265 + EVI 88 + A 663	102	98	0.500
EVI 123 + SV 265 + EVI 88 + ISO 97	98	94	<b>0.031</b>
EVI 123 + SV 265 + A 663 + ISO 97	102	98	0.500
EVI 123 + EVI 88 + A 663 + ISO 97	98	94	<b>0.031</b>
SV 265 + EVI 88 + A 663 +ISO 97	98	94	<b>0.031</b>
LA + EVI 123 + SV 265 + EVI 88 + A 663	104	100	1.000
LA + EVI 123 + SV 265 + EVI 88 + ISO 97	103	99	1.000
LA + EVI 123 + SV 265 + A 663 + ISO 97	104	100	1.000
LA + EVI 123 + EVI 88 + A 663 + ISO 97	102	98	1.000
LA + SV 265 + EVI 88 + A 663 + ISO 97	100	96	0.125
EVI 123 + SV 265 + EVI 88 + A 663 + ISO 97	102	98	0.500
LA + EVI 123 + SV 265 + EVI 88 + A 663 + ISO 97	104	100	-

<sup>b</sup>Values < 0.05 (in bold type) are considered significant.

<sup>a</sup>Sensitivity calculated within a 95% confidence interval, over the total number of positive sera (n=104)

<sup>b</sup>BoHV-1.1 strain Los Angeles and EVI 123.

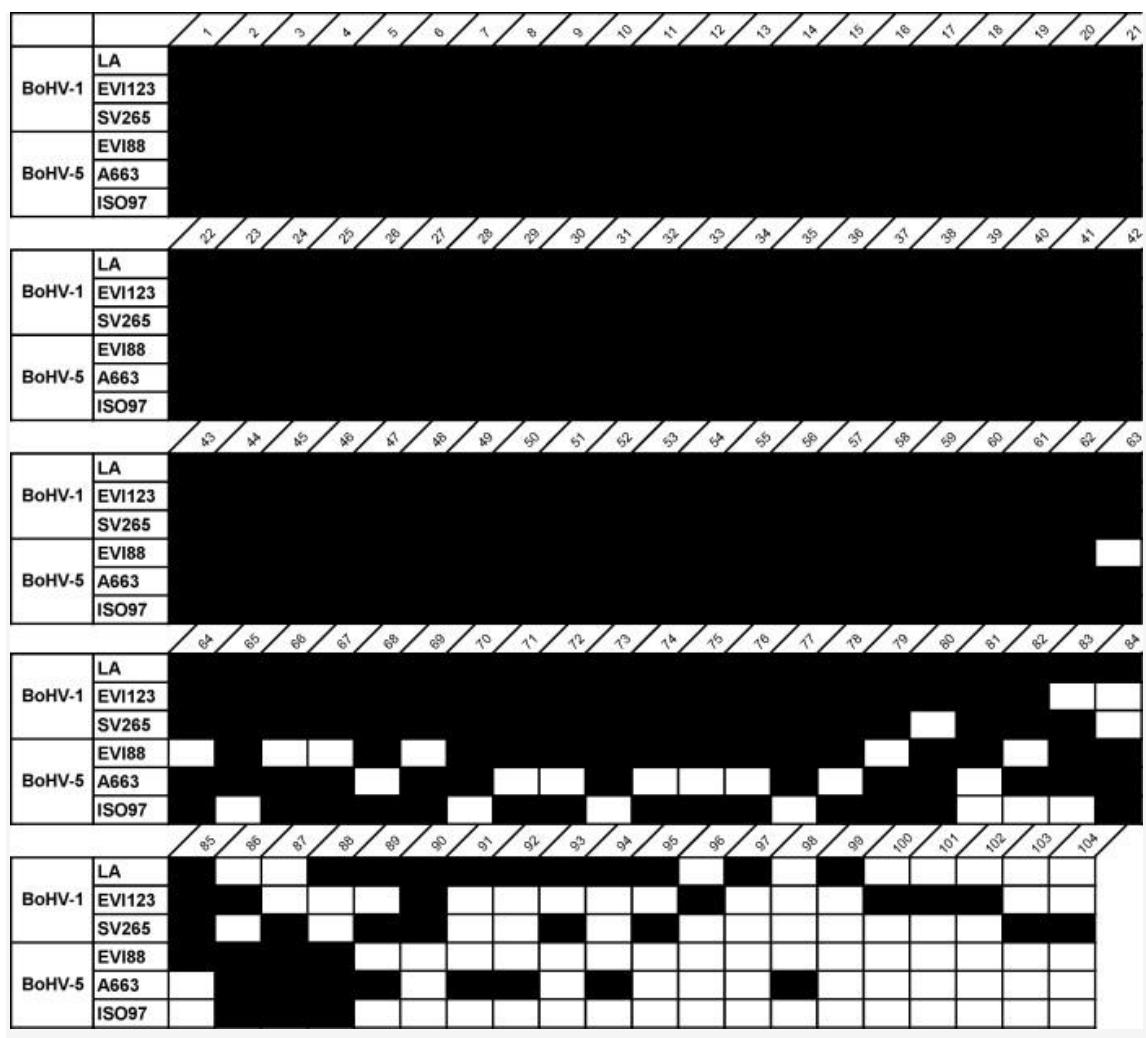
<sup>c</sup>BoHV-1.2a strain SV 265/96.

<sup>d</sup>BoHV-5a strain EVI 88/95.

<sup>e</sup>BoHV-5b strain A 663.

<sup>f</sup>BoHV-5c strain ISO 97/95.

Fig. 1. Reactivity profile of neutralizing antibody-positive filed sera in 24 h neutralization test (SN) with six different bovine herpsviruses (BoHV-1: LA, EVI 123, SV 265; BoHV-5: EVI 88, A 663, ISO 97) as test challenge viruses. Black squares refer to the presence of neutralizing antibodies to a particular strain; white squares = negative reaction (n=104).



## Capítulo 2

### Phylogenetic and restriction enzyme analysis of South American bovine herpesviruses types 1 and 5

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## Abstract

The present study was conducted to determine types and – whenever possible - subtypes of bovine herpesviruses types 1 (BoHV-1) and 5 (BoHV-5) circulating in South America. Typing/subtyping was carried out by PCR amplification of the carboxy-terminal portion of the glycoprotein C gene (*gC*), at genome positions 16.763-17.337 (BoHV-1) and 17.671-18.242 (BoHV-5). Sequences obtained were aligned in ClustalX2 program. A distance-based phylogenetic analysis by Neighbor-Joining method was performed through MEGA 4.0 software. In addition to the bioinformatics approach, the restriction enzyme analysis (REA) was performed using *BstEII* and *HindIII*. The phylogenetic analysis allowed to differentiate BoHV-1 isolates up to the subtype level (BoHV-1.1, -1.2), but it only showed differentiation of BoHV-5 isolates to the type level. Most of the sequenced isolates belonged to type 5 (17/24 samples). Nucleotide sequences alignment revealed levels of genomic identity ranging from 70% to 99.6% among BoHV-1 isolates, 67% to 100% for BoHV-5 isolates and from 63% to 93% between BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 isolates. At the amino acid level, sequence identity range from 95% to 100% within BoHV-1, from 94% to 100% within BoHV-5 isolates and from 83% to 92% between BoHV-1 and BoHV-5. Although the employed methods could be able to differentiate BoHV-1 isolates up to the subtype level (BoHV-1.1, -1.2), they only allowed differentiation of BoHV-5 isolates to the type level. The REA could not clearly differentiate subtypes due to the presence of minor variations in restriction pattern. Only one isolate (ISO 94/232) could be differentiated in subtype 5a. These findings support future investigations about immunogenicity, pathogenicity and epidemiological knowledge as well the development of diagnostic tests for such viruses.

**Keywords:** Bovine herpesviruses, Phylogenetic analysis, Restriction endonuclease analysis.

## 1. Introduction

Bovine herpesviruses types 1 (BoHV-1) and 5 (BoHV-5) are members of the order *Herpesvirales*, family *Herpesviridae*, subfamily *Alphaherpesvirinae*, genus *Varicellovirus* (Davison et al, 2009). Alphaherpesviruses are well recognized for their ability to establish latency in neurons, primarily in sensory nerve ganglia (Roizman, 1990).

BoHV-1 primarily infects the upper respiratory and genital tracts (Miller et al., 1991). The virus may also cause other conditions, including reproductive disease and central nervous disorders (Straub, 1990; Abril et al., 2004; Silva et al., 2007a). Based on antigenic and genomic properties, BoHV-1 was subdivided in BoHV-1.1, BoHV-1.2a and BoHV-1.2b (Metzler et al., 1985; Whetstone and Miller, 1989). The subtypes have been associated to distinct disease manifestations, though such associations have been questioned (Edwards et al., 1991; Engels et al., 1992). Thus, BoHV-1 subtype 1 (BoHV-1.1) has been associated to classical IBR; BoHV-1.2a has been associated with IPV or IPB and abortion, whereas, BoHV-1.2b includes isolates that cause vulvovaginitis or balanopostitis, but are not associated with abortion (Miller, 1991). Even though epidemiological data suggests that the BoHV-1.1 and BoHV-1.2 strains induce different clinical signs, the basis for such distinction in the host and virus subtype relationship remains unclear (Achour and Moussa, 1996; Rijsewijk et al., 1999; Spilki et al., 2004). Both subtypes are able to infect respiratory and genital tract of cattle. However, it has been suggested that each genotype is better adapted to either the respiratory (BoHV-1.1) or the genital (BoHV-1.2) tract (Edwards et al., 1991; Rijsewijk et al., 1999; Spilki et al., 2004).

On the other hand, BoHV-5 is a neurovirulent virus that causes non-suppurative meningoencephalitis in young calves (Bulach and Studdert, 1990; Roizman et al., 1992). Nevertheless, epidemiological data reveals that it most often causes unapparent infections (Campos et al, 2009), where encephalitis is the “tip of the iceberg”, so often present in herpesviruses’ biology (Roizman and Pellet, 2001). BoHV-5 strains are classified in three subtypes based on viral DNA restriction endonuclease analysis: BoHV-5a, BoHV-5b (Metzler et al., 1986) and BoHV-5 “non-a, non-b” (D’Arce et al., 2002). The latter from now on will here be referred to as BoHV-5 subtype “c”. No association between any particular BoHV-5 subtypes and clinical condition has so far been reported.

BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 are closely related herpesviruses and their genomes share an overall 82% similarity (Delhon et al., 2003). Genomic differences have been showed by restriction enzymatic (REA) profiles which additionally lead to the subtyping of viruses apparently belonging to the same type (Engels et al., 1981; Misra et al., 1983; D'Arce et al., 2002). Besides, less conserved genomic regions between these viruses have been highlighted in attempts to explain some of the differences in pathogenicity (Engelhart and Keil, 1996; Meyer et al., 2001). The glycoprotein C (gC) coding region shows significant differences between the viruses and has been used to differentiate types and/or subtypes (Claus et al., 2005; Esteves et al., 2008). Glicoprotein C is a dimeric non-essential glycoprotein that consists of 508 (BoHV-1) and 486 (BoHV-5) amino acids (aa) residues and is inserted in the viral envelope (Delhon et al., 2003). It is a type I transmembrane protein that belongs to the immunoglobulin superfamily (Fitzpatrick et al., 1989; Chowdhury, 1997). Although non essential, gC facilitates the attachment of virus particles onto the cell surface by binding to heparan sulfate proteoglycans (Okazaki et al., 1991).

Type/subtype determination would be important for a better understanding of bovine herpesvirus biology, including to examine possible associations between particular types/subtypes and specific clinical conditions as well as to improve infection control measures. Knowledge on the epidemiology of such infections is rather superficial; while BoHV-1 seems widely distributed worldwide (Wyler et al., 1989; Ackermann et al., 1990), BoHV-5 apparently has a limited distribution. Strikingly, although apparently uncommon in the northern hemisphere, BoHV-5 infections may be more prevalent than BoHV-1 infections, at least in Brazil (Campos et al., 2009). In addition, not frequently, co-infections with BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 have been detected (Campos et al., 2009; Oliveira et al., 2011). Only a few bovine herpesviruses have to date been examined up to the level of subtype determination (D'Arce et al., 2002; Esteves et al., 2008). Recently, 28 BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 isolates were examined with basis on the amplification of the nucleotide sequence of the carboxy terminal portion corresponding to nucleotides 873-1447 (on BoHV-1) and 813-1384 (on BoHV-5) of the gC coding region. However on that occasion it was not possible to differentiate BoHV-1.2 variants and BoHV-5 subtypes (Esteves et al., 2008). In a previous study, D'Arce et al. (2002) characterized isolates by restriction endonuclease analyses (REA) and reported a differential pattern which would allow BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 subtype differentiation. In this study, 24 BoHV isolates were examined by gC carboxy-terminal

region phylogenetic analysis comprising and compare with previously sequenced strains. Additionally, viral DNA of isolates was analyzed by restriction enzymatic in order to expand the information about them.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1 Cells and Virus

The cell lineage CRIB, a clone from *Madin Darby Bovine Kidney* cells (MDBK) selected for resistance to bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) infection (Flores and Donis, 1995) was used throughout these studies. The cells were multiplied in Eagle's minimal essential medium (MEM; Gibco) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (Nutricel) and antibiotics (penicillin 100 IU/mL; streptomycin 100 µg/mL). Cells were subcultured every three to four days following standard procedures (Roehle et al., 1997).

The viruses used in the study, as well as its sources, are shown in Table 1. The strains Los Angeles (LA), SV265/96 and PG1779, representative of BoHV-1.1, 1.2a and 1.2b, respectively, were used as reference strains. For BoHV-5a, -5b and -5c, the reference strains were EVI88/95, A663 and ISO97/95, respectively (Metzler et al., 1985, 1986; Roizman et al., 1992; D'Arce et al., 2002).

### 2.2 Viral DNA extraction

Viruses were propagated in bottles (150 cm<sup>2</sup>) with nearly confluent overnight grown CRIB monolayers at a multiplicity of infection of 0.01–0.1 and incubated at 37°C. When cytopathic effect affected 80–90% of the monolayer (36–48 h), the cell culture medium was clarified by low speed centrifugation and the supernatant was ultracentrifuged at 100,000 x g for 2 h on a 25% sucrose cushion. The viral pellet was then resuspended in 200 µl TE (10 mM Tris, 1 mM EDTA; pH 7.6). The viral suspension was treated with 0.5% sodium dodecyl sulfate and 0.1 mg/ml proteinase K for 1 h at 37°C. After digestion, the viral DNA was extracted once with an equal volume of phenol with 0.3 M NaCl and precipitated with cold ethanol. The pellet was dried and resuspended in 30 µl TE (pH 7.6). The DNA was stored at –20°C until use.

### 2.3 Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and DNA sequencing

The viral DNA was submitted to a PCR as described previously (Esteves et al. 2008). The primers used in the PCR assays were designed based on the gC gene sequences of both BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 available at GenBank ([www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)). Primers forward (PF: 5'-CGGCCACGACGCTGACGA-3') and reverse (PR: 5'-CGCCGCCGAGTACTACCC-3') were designed to target a 575/572 bp fragment on BoHV-1 and 5, respectively. Amplification reactions were performed in a thermocycler (Mastercycler Eppendorf) under conditions previously suggested (Esteves et al., 2008). The amplicons were subjected to electrophoresis in a 1% agarose gel stained with ethidium bromide (0.4 µg/ml) and visualized under UV light. The size of the amplified products was determined by comparison with a 100 pb DNA ladder (Fermentas Life Science). To avoid contamination, filter tips were used on PCR reactions and separate rooms were used to prepare reaction buffers, to extract DNA and to manipulate PCR products.

The PCR products were purified using GFX PCR DNA and Gel Band Purification Kit (GE Healthcare Biosciences) following the manufacturer's protocol. Quality of all DNA preparation was checked by electrophoresis (Sambrook and Russell, 2001). Sequencing reactions were carried out three times in both strands with PCR primers using the Big Dye Terminator v3.1 cycle sequencing kit (Applied Biosystems) and run using the ABI Prism 3100 genetic analyzer (Applied Biosystems).

### 2.4 Sequence analysis

The quality of the DNA sequences was checked and overlapping fragments were assembled using the BioEdit software, version 7.01 (Hall, 1999). Assembled sequences with high quality were aligned by ClustalX2 software, version 2.0 (Thompson et al., 1994). Distance-based phylogenetic analysis was performed by the Neighbor-Joining method in MEGA 4.0 software and using a number of 1000 total replications on the bootstrap, under de Kimura 2-parameter. Sequences included for comparison were obtained at the GenBanK database under the accession numbers: DQ173734 (EVI340); DQ173719 (A663); DQ173740 (SV507); DQ173742 (AA05); DQ173737 (Taim); DQ173721 (V175); DQ173727 (P160); DQ173730 (EVI99); DQ173729 (RP); DQ173722 (SV136); DQ173720 (EVI88); DQ184912 (EVI100); DQ173738 (T2);

DQ173741 (ISO45); DQ173725 (ISO87); DQ173726 (N569); EU723234 (BuHV); DQ173735 (UY1999); DQ184913 (LA); DQ173724 (LAM); DQ173733 (COOPER); DQ173736 (T3); DQ173731 (UY2002); DQ173728 (PG2560); DQ173717 (EVI123); DQ173739 (EVI14); DQ173723 (PG1779); DQ173732 (UY2004); DQ173718 (SV265). The caprine herpesvirus type 1 gC gene, CapHV-1, AY821804 was used as an outgroup.

## 2.5 Selective pressure analysis

An additional pressure analysis on the gC gene was performed using non-synonymous and synonymous nucleotide substitutions (those which change or do not change the amino acid, respectively). It was based on the Nei-Gojobori method (Kumar et al., 2004). Non-synonymous to synonymous substitutions ratios (dn/ds) were calculated and plotted for individual codons using SNAP program (<http://hiv-web.lanl.gov/content/hivdb/SNAP/WEBSNAP/SNAP.html>).

## 2.6 Restriction endonuclease analysis

Two µg of viral DNA were cleaved with *Hind*III and *Bst*EII (New England Biolabs) under conditions recommended by the manufacturer. Digestion reactions products were submitted to electrophoresis in 0.6 % agarose gel at 30 V using TAE eletroforesis buffer (4 mM Tris-acetate, 1 mM EDTA; pH 8.0) and stained with ethidium bromide (0.4 µg/ml). The gel was visualized under UV light.

## 3. Results

### 3.1 Nucleotide sequences analyses

The nucleotide sequence alignments revealed levels of genomic similarity ranging from 70% to 99.6% between BoHV-1 isolates, from 67% to 100% among BoHV-5 isolates and from 63% to 93% between BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 isolates (data not shown). The phylogenetic tree (Fig. 1) allowed clustering the viruses according to types (BoHV-1 and BoHV-5) and BoHV-1 subtypes (BoHV-1.1, 1.2); however, BoHV-5 subtypes could not be discriminated. Most of the isolates sequenced were found to be BoHV-5 (71%, 17/24 strains). These samples were isolated from neurological diseased

bovine and were located together in same cluster. However, the Australian reference strain N569 was located in a distinct branch (Fig. 1). Nucleotide analysis revealed that two BoHV-5 isolates, ISO45/97 and ISO87/97, seem to form a different subgroup from “a” or “b” subtypes. Additionally, the phylogenetic analysis showed that BoHV-5 isolates and bubaline herpesvirus (BuHV) are related viruses.

The results obtained revealed that the other seven isolates out of the 24 examined are BoHV-1 isolates. According to the filogenetic analysis performed, these could be divided in two subtypes: BoHV-1.1 and BoHV-1.2 (Fig. 1). The SV453/93 isolate was located in BoHV-1.1 cluster together with reference strains this subtype, LA and Cooper. The other strains (Fig. 1) were located in the BoHV-1.2 cluster. Among them, two strains were isolated from cases of neurological disease.

### *3.2 Alignment of deduced amino acid sequences*

The deduced amino acid sequences (amino acid residues 325-435 on BoHV-1 and 304-413 on BoHV-5) showed a high degree of similarity between isolates, ranging between 95% to 100% among BoHV-1, and 83% to 92% between BoHV-1 and BoHV-5. Similarity among BoHV-5 isolates was from 94% to 100% (data not shown).

The differences detected in the amino acid sequences are shown in Figure 2. Ten main differences can be observed between BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 isolates. At positions 366, 369 and 410, tyrosine, glycine and isoleucin residues detected in all BoHV-1 isolates where substituted by an alanin in all BoHV-5 isolates on the corresponding positions. In positions 360, 361, 382, 418 and 430, all BoHV-1 sequences showed a different amino acid residue of BoHV-5 sequences. Another difference in amino acid sequence was found at position 352 for BoHV-1 and 331 for BoHV-5. A amino acid modification from aspartic acid (D) to glutamic acid (E) in viruses UY1001, UY2002 and EVI193. To date, glutamic acid in this position was found in every available BoHV-5 sequence of that region. Finally, a gap at position 377 was found in all BoHV-5 sequences; such gap in BoHV-1 is filled by a glycine residue.

### 3.3 Selective pressure analysis

The dn/ds ratio was calculated based on the number of synonymous and non-synonymous substitutions between BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 isolates gC gene sequences. The average dn/ds ratio was lower than 1, which reveals purifying selection ( $H_0 = dn < ds$ ) acting within BoHV-1 as well as within BoHV-5 isolates (data not shown).

### 3.4 Restriction endonuclease analysis (REA)

The REA patterns obtained after digestion are shown in Figure 3 and summarized in Table 1. Despite all BoHV-5 isolates could be cleaved with *Bst*EII, a clear identification of the REA profile was only possible with nine isolates (Fig. 3). Most of the BoHV-5 isolates showed some degree of variation in relation to the cleavage patterns published by D'Arce et al. (2002). However, this variation was not observed in ISO94/232 isolate. This strain showed the same profile as the reference strain EVI88/95 (BoHV-5a).

## 4. Discussion

The phylogenetic analysis of the nucleotide sequences allowed segregation of BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 isolates in two consistent groups: one included type 1 viruses (BoHV-1.1 or BoHV-1.2), whereas the other consisted of BoHV-5 isolates. These findings are in agreement with studies using gC gene (Esteves et al., 2008) and also using gB and gD genes (Ros and Belak, 1999). These differences between BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 were also supported by deduced amino acid sequences, in which consistent sequence variations were found between the two groups as well as the presence of gap in all BoHV-5 sequences at position 377 (Fig. 2).

In the present study, BoHV-1 isolates SV47/05 and SV609/03, recovered from calves with clinical neurological symptoms, were subtyped as BoHV-1.2 strains. These had previously been identified as BoHV-1 (Silva et al., 2007a), but had not been differentiated to the subtype level. To date, it remains unknown whether there is any relationship between any particular BoHV-1 subtype and neurological disease. Occasionally, BoHV-1 isolates have been recovered from cases of neurological disease (Magyar et al. 1993; Roels et al. 2000; Silva et al., 2007a). In fact, the establishment of associations between bovine herpesvirus subtypes and disease has never been looked at

previously in this respect. BoHV-5 is clearly recognized for its neuropathogenic potential; similarly, in humans, some herpes simplex virus (HSV) isolates are recognized for its neuropathogenicity. In such cases, neuropathogenicity has been linked to the gama ( $\gamma$ ) 34.5 gene. In BoHV-1, a homologue of the  $\gamma$  34.5 gene is not present. Therefore, it would be interesting to study whether there is some correlation between BoHV-1 subtypes and any particular gene - a subject which has also not yet been addressed. Curiously in BoHV-5, notoriously neuropathogenic, there seems not to be a counterpart for gene  $\gamma$  34.5 (Delhon et al., 2003). This makes the search for the basis of the neuropathogenicity of bovine herpesviruses even more intriguing.

Isolate SV453/93, recovered from a case of vulvovaginitis, had previously been typed as BoHV-1.2 by monoclonal antibody typing (Roehe et al., 1997). In present study, this isolate was characterized as BoHV-1.1. Typing/subtyping based on a particular region along the genome may give rise to conflicting results when compared to other typing methods, including monoclonal antibody and sequence analysis (Roehe et al., 1997; Esteves et al., 2008). As typing of BoHV isolates become more widely employed, it can be anticipated that more precise typing methods will become apparent, since differences between methods will become apparent. Till now, some degree of uncertainty in relation to typing remains. Probably, typing based on sequence analysis from different regions along the genome may become more adequate for classification. Subtypes differentiation may not result in accurate data and must be confirmed with other assays. Moreover, these data support the fact that BoHV-1.1 can be associated with genital disease and the clear distinction between pathology and subtypes remains unknown.

Isolates UY2002, UY1001 and EVI193 isolates from Uruguay and Brazil were grouped along with BoHV-1.2 strain. Formerly, UY2002 was previously cited as an “atypical” BoHV-1.2 with a distinctive RFLP pattern by Puentes (2005). Moreover, it was grouped in a different branch of others BoHV-1 strains in a phylogenetic analysis performed by Esteves et al. (2008). The deduced amino acids analyses here presented enhanced the difference noted in these samples in relation to the others BoHV-1 strains. UY2002, UY1001 and EVI193 showed a modification from aspartic acid (D) to glutamic acid (E) in the position 352 (Fig. 2). Interestingly, this amino acid is found in all BoHV-5 sequences. Probably, this difference can induce conformational structure change of viruses.

BoHV-5 phylogenetic analysis did not allow to determine specific isolates subtypes, however some important remarks could be inferred. The N569 reference strain was located in a distinct branch from all other samples (Fig. 1). This could be explained by geographic influence, as N569 is an Australian sample and the others are from South America. Another important point is the fact that N569 was isolated in 1962. Therefore, a spatial and/or temporal evolutive process may be associated. Furthermore, ISO45/97 and ISO87/97 proved to be different from the other BoHV-5 isolates, forming a distinct branch in the phylogenetic tree. These findings confirmed previous results (D'Arce et al., 2002; Esteves et al., 2008) evidencing that ISO45/97 and ISO87/97 belong to a distinct subtype, non-“a” non-“b”, or “c”, for sake of simplicity (Souza et al., 2002).

In order to determine BoHV-5 subtypes, a correlation between restriction enzymatic patterns of isolates was performed. Nevertheless, only ISO94/232 isolate was clearly defined as BoHV-5a (Fig. 3). The reference strains profiles (BoHV-5a strain, EVI88/95; BoHV-5b strain, A663; BoHV-5 “non-a non-b” or “c”, ISO 97/95) were similar to previous investigations (d'Offay et al., 1993; Magyar et al., 1993; Horiuchi et al., 1995; D'Arce et al., 2002). The restriction endonuclease patterns results showed variations from the profile suggested by D'Arce et al. (2002). Differences in digestion pattern had already been found in BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 isolates (Whetstone et al., 1989; Maygar et al., 1993; Horiuchi et al., 1995; D'Offay et al., 1995). In addition, variations on restriction enzymatic profiles could be related to the tissue analyzed (nasal or vaginal) or co-infection with different types and/or subtypes (Whetstone et al., 1989; Meurens et al., 2004). Recently, co-infections with distinct BoHV subtypes have been identified in naturally infected cattle (Campos et al., 2009; Oliveira et al., 2011).

Interestingly, the phylogenetic analysis showed that BoHV-5 isolates were closely related to BuHV. This similarity was already showed in phylogenetic trees inferred by amino acid sequences from the gB regions (Thiry et al., 2006). Moreover, BoHV-5 (EVI190/93) and BuHV strains displayed the same profiles of reactivity (Souza et al. 2002). This is interesting to point out, since other have hypothesized that BoHV-5 might have originated from buffaloes, rather than from cattle (Studdert, 1989). However, apart from the similarity reported here in this region of the viral genome, to date no evidences have been provided to confirm or reject such hypothesis.

The analysis of selective pressures of the gC gene fragment sequences obtained in this work showed that  $dn/ds < 1$ . Therefore, it is possible to infer that purifying

selection is acting within both 1 and 5 types. Furthermore, the low frequency of occurrence of in synonymous changes suggests an important functional role that could limit this region's molecular evolution.

## 5. Conclusion

The present study allowed to increase the number of characterized BoHV samples, especially BoHV-5. Although the BoHV-5 prevalence remains unclear, it was possible to verify the presence this BoHV subtype in the South American' herds. These findings support future investigations about immunogenicity, pathogenicity and epidemiological knowledge as well the development of diagnostic tests for such viruses. Therefore, further studies are needed to achieve a better understanding of the biological significance of such viral subtype. In this regard, it will be of considerable interest to evaluate other isolates and to search other genomic regions.

## Acknowledgements

Financial support from CNPq, FAPERGS, CAPES, and the State Government of Rio Grande do Sul.

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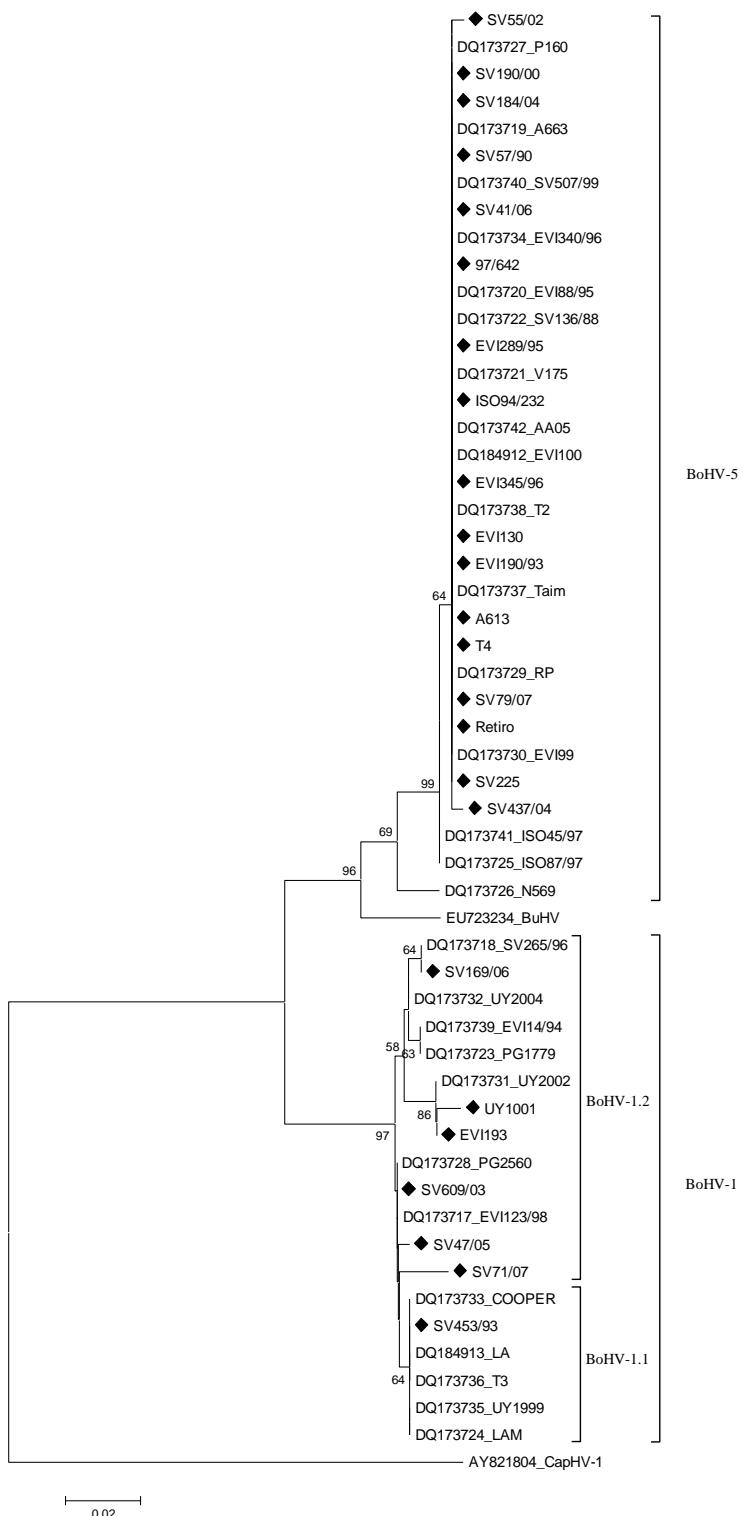
**Table 1.** Summary of bovine herpesvirus isolates characterized in the present study (n=24).

Virus	Classification	Country/State	Reference/Origin
A613	BoHV-5	Argentina	Caron et al., 2002
97/642	BoHV-5	Argentina	Silva et al., 2007b
T4	BoHV-5	Uruguay	FVURU <sup>a</sup>
EVI130	BoHV-5	Brazil	IPVDF <sup>b</sup>
EVI190/93	BoHV-5	Brazil	IPVDF <sup>b</sup>
EVI289/95	BoHV-5	Brazil	IPVDF <sup>b</sup>
EVI345/96	BoHV-5	Brazil	IPVDF <sup>b</sup>
SV41/06	BoHV-5	Brazil	UFSM <sup>c</sup>
SV184/04	BoHV-5	Brazil	UFSM <sup>c</sup>
SV225	BoHV-5	Brazil	UFSM <sup>c</sup>
SV190/00	BoHV-5	Brazil	UFSM <sup>c</sup>
SV437/04	BoHV-5	Brazil	UFSM <sup>c</sup>
SV55/02	BoHV-5	Brazil	UFSM <sup>c</sup>
SV57/90	BoHV-5	Brazil	UFSM <sup>c</sup>
SV79/07	BoHV-5	Brazil	UFSM <sup>c</sup>
RETIRO	BoHV-5	Brazil	UFPel <sup>d*</sup>
ISO94/232	BoHV-5a	Brazil	IBSP <sup>e</sup>
SV453/93	BoHV-1.1	Brazil	Roehe et al., 1997 <sup>c</sup>
SV71/07	BoHV-1.2	Brazil	UFSM <sup>c</sup>
SV169/06	BoHV-1.2	Brazil	UFSM <sup>c</sup>
SV609/03	BoHV-1.2	Brazil	Silva et al., 2007a <sup>c</sup>
UY1001/06	BoHV-1.2	Uruguay	FVURU <sup>a</sup>
SV47/05	BoHV-1.2	Brazil	Silva et al., 2007a <sup>c</sup>
EVI193	BoHV-1.2	Brazil	IPVDF <sup>b</sup>

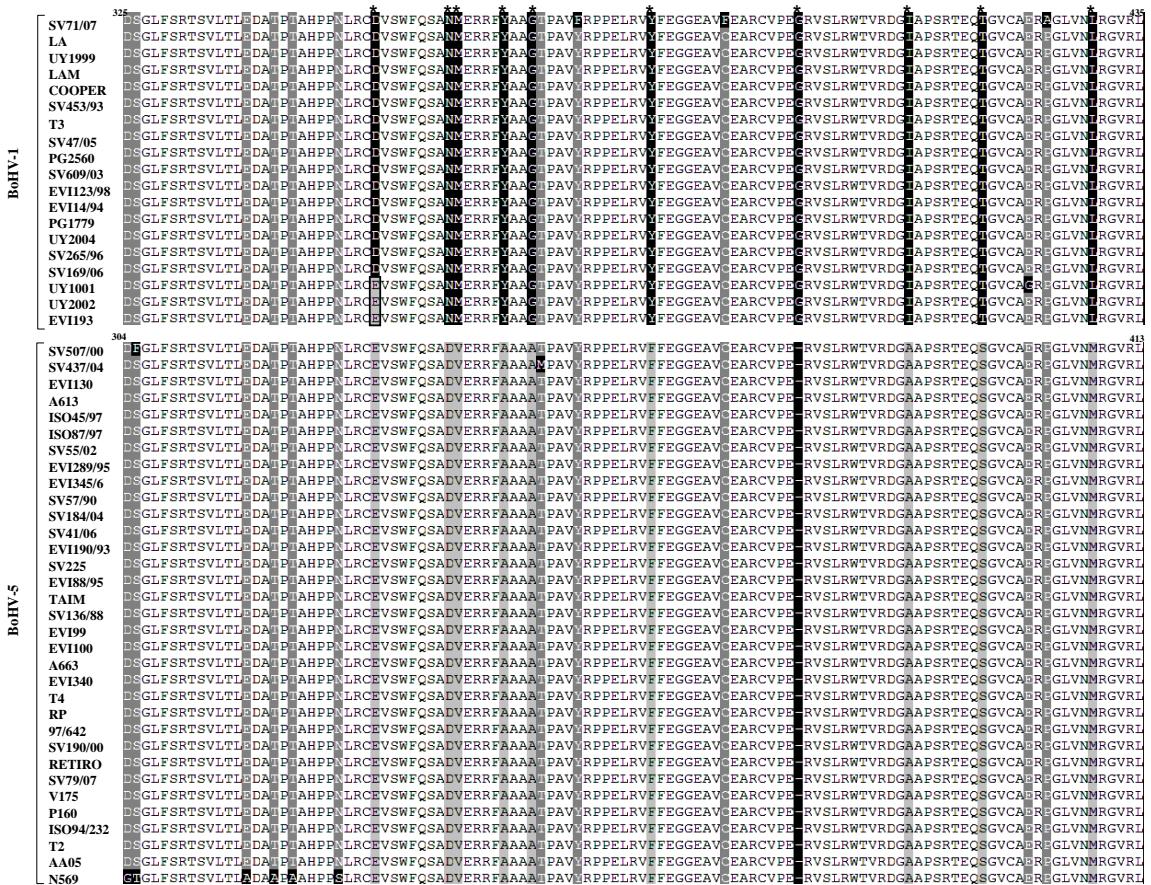
\*Sample kindly donated by Dr. Telmo Vidor

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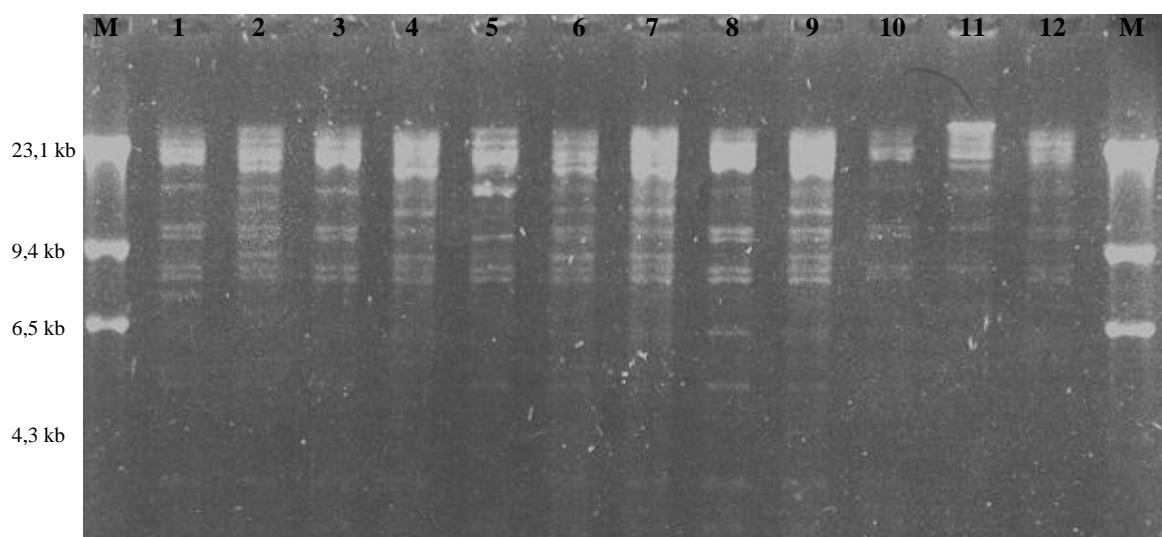
**Fig. 1.** Phylogenetic analysis inferred using the Neighbor-Joining and the Kimura 2-parameter methods. The tree is drawn to scale, with branch lengths in the same units as those of the evolutionary distances used to infer the phylogenetic tree. Only the bootstraps values higher than 50% of 1000 replicates are shown. The marker ♦ represents the isolates sequenced in this work.



**Fig. 2.** Conservation in amino acid sequence alignments of the analyzed part of the BoHV-1 and BoHV-5 gC (amino acid residues 325-435 on BoHV-1 and 304-413 on BoHV-5). (\*) Represents differences of amino acids between BoHV-1 and 5.



**Fig. 3.** Restriction endonuclease digestion patterns of BoHV-5 isolates cleaved with BstEII. M, molecular weight marker; lanes 1: A613; 2: SV57/90; 3: ISO94/232 (BoHV-5a); 4: SV190/00; 5: SV225; 6: SV437/04; 7: EVI99; 8: T4; 9: EVI130; 10: EVI88 (BoHV-5a reference); 11: A663 (BoHV-5b reference); 12: ISO97/95 (BoHV-5c reference).



#### 4. DISCUSSÃO E CONCLUSÕES

A primeira etapa do presente estudo foi desenvolvida com objetivo de determinar uma possível variação na sensibilidade do teste de Soroneutralização (SN) quando realizado frente a distintos subtipos de herpsvírus bovinos tipos 1 (BoHV-1) e 5 (BoHV-5). O teste convencional preconiza a utilização de um vírus “padrão” e um período de incubação de uma hora entre o vírus e os soros, antes da adição das células (DEREGT et al., 1993; VIEIRA et al., 2003). Entretanto, estudo recente demonstrou existir uma variabilidade de reação entre amostras virais (HOLZ et al., 2009). Além disso, um período de incubação soro-vírus de 24 horas (h) pode aumentar em até dezesseis vezes a sensibilidade do teste (OIE, 2010). Dessa forma, na primeira etapa do presente estudo procurou-se avaliar a sensibilidade do teste de SN frente a diferentes amostras virais e um período de incubação de 24 h.

Este estudo possibilitou constatar que realmente existe variabilidade de reação entre amostras virais e que a utilização de apenas um vírus pode prejudicar a detecção de grande parte dos animais soropositivos. Esses resultados corroboram com aqueles obtidos por Holz e colaboradores (2009). Consequentemente, estudos epidemiológicos, assim como programas de controle e erradicação dos BoHV-1 e BoHV-5, podem ser seriamente comprometidos. Certamente, os dados epidemiológicos obtidos até o momento não refletem a real prevalência das infecções causadas por BoHV-1 e/ou BoHV-5. Dessa forma, mais estudos são necessários para alcançar tal objetivo.

Interessantemente, a sensibilidade máxima pode ser alcançada com uma combinação específica de quatro amostras virais. Esse resultado sugere que um estudo prévio, com diferentes vírus, deva ser realizado para auxiliar na escolha da amostra e/ou combinação de amostras a ser utilizada quando uma sensibilidade máxima for requerida.

A verificação que amostras virais podem reagir de forma diferente, aliada à falta de informação sobre isolados de campo, impulsionou a realização de um segundo estudo que visou a caracterização de BoHV, apresentado no capítulo 2. Dessa forma, vinte e quatro isolados de campo de BoHV-1 e BoHV-5 provenientes da América do Sul foram analisados utilizando ferramentas moleculares. Na primeira etapa foi realizada uma análise filogenética baseada na região carboxi-terminal do gene que codifica a glicoproteína C, metodologia previamente descrita por Esteves e colaboradores (2008). A região analisada apresentou alto grau de similaridade entre os diferentes isolados em nível de nucleotídeos e aminoácidos, contudo algumas diferenças

foram verificadas. A análise filogenética inferida a partir das sequências de nucleotídeos possibilitou a diferenciação dos isolados entre os tipos 1 e 5 de BoHV e entre os subtipos 1 e 2 de BoHV-1. A maioria dos isolados estudados (17/24) foram classificados como BoHV-5 e ficaram agrupados juntos, no mesmo cluster. No entanto, as amostras ISO45/97, ISO87/97 e N569 mantiveram um comportamento diferenciado conforme anteriormente observado (Esteves et al., 2008). As amostras ISO45 e ISO87 ficaram agrupadas em um braço distinto na árvore filogenética, mantendo resultados anteriormente encontrados com anticorpos monoclonais, análise de restrição enzimática e filogenia (SOUZA et al., 2002; D'ARCE et al., 2002; ESTEVES et al., 2008). Essa diferença, provavelmente, deve-se ao fato destes vírus formarem um terceiro subtipo de BoHV-5 (BoHV-5c), conforme sugerido por D'Arce e colaboradores (2002). Por outro lado, a amostra australiana N569 mostrou menor similaridade e gerou um braço distinto. Talvez esta amostra apresente diferenças devido à influência biogeográfica, pois todos os outros isolados são da América do Sul, ou ainda pelo fator tempo, uma vez que se trata de uma amostra mais antiga, isolada em 1962.

Em relação aos isolados de BoHV-1, através da análise filogenética, apenas um isolado foi classificado como subtipo 1. Interesantemente esta amostra (SV453/93), anteriormente analisada com anticorpos monoclonais (ROEHE et al., 1997; SOUZA et al., 2002; SILVA et al., 2007b), foi classificada como subtipo 1.2, uma vez que, refere-se a um isolado de vulvovaginite (ROEHE et al., 1997). Entretanto, esta amostra foi classificada como BoHV-1.1 através da análise filogenética, apresentando maior grau de similaridade com amostras deste subtipo. Outra observação interessante refere-se às amostras SV47/05 e SV609/03. Apesar de isoladas de animais com sintomas de doenças neurológicas, tais amostras foram diferenciadas como BoHV-1. Esse resultado corrobora com estudos anteriores onde isolados de doenças neurológicas já foram diferenciados em BoHV-1 (ELY et al. 1996; ROELS et al., 2000; SILVA et al., 2007a). Assim, apesar dos esforços para associar subtipo à patologia específica, esta relação ainda necessita ser melhor compreendida.

Como não foi possível diferenciar os isolados em subtipos através da análise filogenética, foi realizada análise com enzima de restrição. D'Arce e colaboradores (2002) sugeriram padrões de clivagem para cada subtipo de BoHV-1 e BoHV-5. Entretanto, neste estudo foram observadas variações no padrão de clivagem previamente sugerido (D'ARCE et al., 2002), dessa forma, não foi possível distinguir claramente o subtipo de cada isolado. Algumas variações no padrão de restrição

enzimática já foram observadas em estudos anteriores, tanto para BoHV-1 quanto para BoHV-5 (Whetstone et al., 1989; Maygar et al., 1993; Horiuchi et al., 1995; D'Offay et al, 1995). Entretanto, as razões que justificam tal observação ainda não são conhecidas. Whetstone e colaboradores (1989) verificaram, em experimentos com BoHV-1, que a variação no perfil enzimático poderia estar relacionada ao tipo de tecido onde foi isolada a amostra, ou ainda, por co-infecção viral. Da mesma forma, estudos recentes detectaram verificaram altos índices de co-infecção viral, no entanto mais estudos são necessários para esclarecer esta questão (Campos et al., 2009; Oliveira et al., 2011). Por outro lado, as amostras utilizadas como referência para os subtipos 5a, 5b e 5c (EVI88/95, A663 e ISO97/95, respectivamente) e o isolado ISO94/232 (BoHV-5a) apresentaram perfil enzimático esperado.

Em síntese, os resultados apresentados foram importantes, pois permitiram verificar que a sensibilidade do teste de SN pode ser melhorada quando empregado uma combinação de vírus. Além disso, foi possível verificar que BoHV-5 está bastante presente nos rebanhos da América do Sul, apesar de não conhecermos a real prevalência de infecções por este agente. Este estudo possibilitou também ampliar o número de amostras caracterizadas e expandir o conhecimento das relações filogenéticas. No entanto, mais estudos devem ser realizados para que, futuramente, seja possível determinar quais as amostras mais apropriadas para o desenvolvimento de testes diagnósticos, produção de vacinas e ainda poder estimar as prevalências tipo e subtipo-específicas, fornecendo suporte a medidas de prevenção e controle.

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