

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

INTERVET, INC.
29160 Intervet Lane
Millsboro, DE 19966

Plaintiff,

v.

MERIAL LIMITED
27 Knightsbridge,
London SW1X 7QT
United Kingdom;

MERIAL SAS
29, Avenue Tony Garnier
69007 Lyon
France;

THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OF
BELFAST
University Rd
Belfast, Northern Ireland
BT7 1NN
United Kingdom; and

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
105 Administration Place
Saskatoon, SK S7W 5A2
Canada,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. _____

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

Plaintiff Intervet, Inc. ("Intervet"), hereby brings this action for declaratory judgment against Defendants Merial Limited, Merial SAS, The Queen's University of Belfast ("Belfast"), and the University of Saskatchewan ("Saskatchewan") and states as follows:

PARTIES

1. Intervet is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware and maintains its U.S. headquarters at 29160 Intervet Lane, Millsboro, Delaware.
2. On information and belief, Defendant Merial Limited is a company limited by shares registered in England and Wales with a registered office in England, and incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware as Merial LLC. Merial Limited's North American Operational Headquarters is located in Duluth, Georgia. On information and belief, Merial Limited sells and/or offers for sale veterinary pharmaceuticals or vaccines in this judicial district.
3. On information and belief, Merial SAS is a French corporation affiliated with Merial Limited and has a principal place of business at 29, Avenue Tony Garnier, 69007 Lyon, France.
4. On information and belief, Defendant Belfast is a public university, whose address is University Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT7 1NN United Kingdom.
5. On information and belief Defendant Saskatchewan is a public university, whose address is 105 Administration Place, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7W 5A2, Canada.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

6. This is an action for a declaratory judgment of patent noninfringement, invalidity and unenforceability. Intervet seeks a declaration that the manufacture, importation, use, offer for sale, or sale of Intervet's Porcine Circovirus Vaccine Type 2 does not infringe any valid and enforceable claim of U.S. Patent No. 6,368,601 ("the '601 patent") under 35 U.S.C. § 271, that the claims of the '601 patent are invalid under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101 *et seq*, and that the '601 patent

is unenforceable due to inequitable conduct in its procurement. A true copy of the '601 patent is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

7. This action for a declaratory judgment arises under Title 35 of the United States Code with a specific remedy sought based upon the laws authorizing actions for declaratory judgment in the courts of the United States, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.

8. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action, which arises under the patent laws of the United States, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338(a), and 2201.

9. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and (c). Defendant Merial Limited has conducted continuous and systematic commercial activity in this judicial district. Defendants Merial SAS, Belfast and Saskatchewan are subject to jurisdiction in this judicial district pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 293.

BACKGROUND

10. Porcine Circovirus is a causative agent of post-weaning multisystemic wasting syndrome (PMWS) in pigs. PMWS is widely considered the most significant health problem of the last decade in nursery and young feeder pigs around the world. PMWS normally affects piglets between 6 and 14 weeks of age. Symptoms include chronic wasting, respiratory distress, diarrhea, poor coordination and jaundice. There is no effective treatment for this virus and mortality rates are high. As a result, PMWS can have significant economic consequences.

11. Intervet is dedicated to the research, development, manufacture and sale of animal health products. Intervet is one of the world's largest animal health companies and is a leader in

research and development of veterinary vaccines and pharmaceutical products. Intervet's products include vaccines for use in pets, livestock, poultry and aquaculture; antiparasitics, anti-infectives, endocrine products, diagnostics, feed additives and productivity enhancers. Of particular relevance here, Intervet is an industry leader in the area of swine immunology and produces products for preventing, treating and controlling diseases in pigs. Intervet has developed a Porcine Circovirus Vaccine Type 2 that can be used to immunize pigs from PMWS.

12. On October 13, 2005, the USDA's Center for Veterinary Biologics issued to Intervet a Conditional License to produce and distribute its Porcine Circovirus Vaccine Type 2.

13. On information and belief, the '601 patent, entitled PORCINE CIRCOVIRUS VACCINE AND DIAGNOSTICS REAGENTS, issued on April 9, 2002, and is assigned to Merial SAS, The Queen's University of Belfast, and the University of Saskatchewan.

EXISTENCE OF AN ACTUAL CONTROVERSY

14. There is an actual and justiciable controversy between Intervet and Defendants regarding whether the commercial manufacture, use, sale, offer for sale, or importation into the United States of Intervet's Porcine Circovirus Vaccine Type 2 infringes one or more claims of the '601 patent.

15. On December 15, 2005, Merial Limited, alone, filed suit in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia (05-CV-3168) against Intervet alleging that Intervet has infringed, contributed to the infringement of, and/or actively induced the infringement of claims of the '601 patent by making, using, selling, and/or offering to sell Intervet's Porcine

Circovirus Vaccine Type 2. A true copy of the complaint filed by Merial Limited is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

16. On April 11, 2006, Intervet filed a Motion to Dismiss Merial Limited's Complaint for lack of standing and for failure to join necessary parties. Specifically, Merial Limited failed to allege any basis for its standing to bring the action against Intervet and failed to include indispensable parties in that action, namely, the patent owners and defendants Merial SAS, Belfast and Saskatchewan.

17. Intervet denies infringement of the '601 patent and disputes its validity and enforceability.

**FIRST COUNT
DECLARATORY JUDGMENT OF PATENT NONINFRINGEMENT**

18. Plaintiff hereby restates and realleges the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 17 and incorporates them by reference.

19. Intervet has not at any time infringed, induced others to infringe, and/or committed acts of contributory infringement of any of the claims of the '601 patent either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

**SECOND COUNT
DECLARATORY JUDGMENT OF PATENT INVALIDITY**

20. Intervet hereby restates and realleges the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 19 and incorporates them by reference.

21. The claims of the '601 patent are invalid because the claimed invention does not satisfy the requirements for patentability under Title 35 of the United States Code, including without limitation, 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, 112.

**THIRD COUNT
DECLARATORY JUDGMENT OF UNENFORCEABILITY**

22. Intervet hereby restates and realleges the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 21 and incorporates them by reference.

23. The '601 patent is unenforceable due to inequitable conduct by the applicants for the '601 patent during prosecution of the application leading to the patent.

24. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("Patent Office"). 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. On information and belief, the '601 patentees failed in their duty of candor and good faith to the Patent Office by misrepresenting that the '601 patent application is entitled to claim benefit of priority to French Patent Application FR 97 12382 ("FR 97 12382"), which was filed October 3, 1997.

25. During prosecution of the '601 patent application the Patent Office rejected pending claims in the application as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) by Genbank Accession No. 027217 ("Hamel"), which, according to the applicants for the '601 patent, was publicly available December 17, 1997, *i.e.*, after the filing date of FR 97 12382.

26. To be an effective priority document for the pending claims of the '601 patent application, the patent law requires that FR 97 12382 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §

112, and, for example, provide a written description of the invention claimed in the '601 patent. Failure of FR 97 12382 to satisfy the requirements of § 112 would have precluded the applicants for the '601 patent from claiming the benefit of the October 1997 filing date of FR 97 12382 as a priority date for the pending claims of the '601 patent application, and, therefore, would have precluded them from removing Hamel as a prior art reference on that basis.

27. On information and belief, FR 97 12382 plainly does not satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 for either the claims of the '601 patent application pending before the examiner at the time of the rejection over Hamel, or the issued claims of the '601 patent. For example, although the claims recite the terms "porcine circovirus type II" and "ORFs 1-13," FR 97 12382 fails to mention either of these terms, much less provide an adequate written description of the terms as required by § 112.

28. On information and belief, individuals associated with the filing and prosecution of the '601 patent application were aware that FR 97 12382 failed to satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Nevertheless, those individuals claimed the benefit of priority to FR 97 12382 in order to obtain allowance of the claims of the '601 patent. For example, in order to remove Hamel as a prior art reference, the applicants stated that "Hamel is not available as a section 102(a) reference in this application because the publication date of Hamel, i.e [sic] December 17, 1997, was after the October 3, 1997 priority date of this application." At no time during prosecution did the applicants apprise the Patent Office of the inadequacy of FR 97 12382 under § 112. On information and belief, the Patent Office would have found this information material to the patentability of the '601 patent claims because it refutes and is inconsistent with the applicants' position in, for example, opposing the rejection over Hamel. 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b)(2).

29. On information and belief, the applicants intentionally and inequitably concealed from the Patent Office this information regarding the '601 patent's entitlement to priority with an intent to deceive the Patent Office. Such intentional acts constitute inequitable conduct before the Patent Office and render the '601 patent unenforceable.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF requests that the Court enter judgment:

- (a) Declaring that Plaintiff does not infringe any claim of the '601 patent;
- (b) Declaring invalid the claims of the '601 patent;
- (c) Declaring unenforceable the '601 patent;
- (d) Finding that, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285 and/or other applicable laws,

Defendants' conduct renders this an exceptional case and that Plaintiff be awarded costs of this action and its attorneys' fees to the extent permitted by law; and

- (e) Granting such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Date: April 11, 2006

Respectfully Submitted,



John R. Hutchins, Esq. (D.C. Bar # 456749)
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CO-386-online
10/03

**United States District Court
For the District of Columbia**

INTERVET, INC.,

vs

Plaintiff

MERIAL LIMITED, MERIAL SAS, THE
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST,
and UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
Defendant

Civil Action No. _____

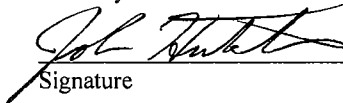
CERTIFICATE RULE LCvR 7.1

I, the undersigned, counsel of record for Intervet, Inc. certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the following are parent companies, subsidiaries or affiliates of Intervet, Inc. which have any outstanding securities in the hands of the public:

Akzo Nobel, Ltd.

These representations are made in order that judges of this court may determine the need for recusal.

Attorney of Record


Signature

John R. Hutchins, Esq.

Print Name

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BAR IDENTIFICATION NO.

EXHIBIT A



US006368601B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Allan et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** US 6,368,601 B1
(45) **Date of Patent:** Apr. 9, 2002

(54) **PORCINE CIRCOVIRUS VACCINE AND
DIAGNOSTICS REAGENTS**

(75) **Inventors:** Gordon Allan; Brian Meehan, both of
Belfast (GB); Edward Clark,
Saskatoon (CA); John Ellis, Saskatoon
(CA); Deborah Haines, Saskatoon
(CA); Lori Hassard, Saskatoon (CA);
John Harding, Humboldt (CA);
Catherine Elisabeth Charreyre,
Saint-Laurent de Mure (FR); Gilles
Emile Chappuis, Lyons (FR); Francis
McNeilly, Newtownards (GB)

(73) **Assignees:** Merial, Lyons (FR); The Queen's
University of Belfast, Belfast (GB);
University of Saskatchewan,
Saskatoon (CA)

(*) **Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) **Appl. No.:** 09/082,558

(22) **Filed:** May 21, 1998

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Oct. 3, 1997	(FR)	97 12382
Jan. 22, 1998	(FR)	98 00873
Mar. 20, 1998	(FR)	98 03707

(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** A61K 39/12; A61K 31/70;
C12Q 1/70; C12H 15/00; C12N 7/00

(52) **U.S. Cl.** 424/204.1; 514/44; 435/5;
435/235.1; 435/320.1; 536/23.1; 536/23.4

(58) **Field of Search** 536/23.1, 23.4;
435/5, 320.1, 235.1; 514/44; 424/204.1

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

6,217,883 B1 * 4/2001 Allan et al. 424/201.1

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FR	2772047	* 6/1999
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single-stranded DNA. *Nature*. vol. 295, pp. 64-66.*
Sequence Alignments, for SEQ ID NO:s 1-4 and 6 with
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Tischer et al., *Arch. Virol.*, vol. 91 (1986), pp. 271-276.

Hamel et al., *Database EMBL/Genbank/DBJ*, Sep. 26,
1997.

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Laurie Scheiner

Assistant Examiner—Shanon A. Foley

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Frommer Lawrence &
Haug, LLP; William S. Frommer; Thomas J. Kowalski

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to new porcine circovirus strains
isolated from pulmonary or ganglionic samples obtained
from farms affected by the post-weaning multisystemic
wasting syndrome (PMWS). It relates to purified prepara-
tions of these strains, conventional attenuated or inactivated
vaccines, recombinant live vaccines, plasmid vaccines and
subunit vaccines, as well as reagents and diagnostic meth-
ods. It also relates to the DNA fragments which can be used
for the production of subunits in an in vitro expression
vector or as sequences to be integrated into a virus or
plasmid type in vivo expression vector.

35 Claims, 18 Drawing Sheets

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Figure No. 1

Sequence of the PCV Imp1011-48121 isolate (SEQ ID No. 1)

```
1  AATTCAACCT TAACCTTTCT TATTCTGTAG TATTCAAAGG GCACAGAGCG
51  GGGGTTTGAG CCCCCTCCTG GGGGAAGAAA GTCATTAATA TTGAATCTCA
101 TCATGTCCAC CGCCCAGGAG GCGGTTCTGA CTGTGGTTCTG CTTGACAGTA
151 TATCCGAAGG TCGGGGAGAG GCGGGTGTG AAGATGCCAT TTTTCCTTCT
201 CCAGCGGTAA CGGTGGCGGG GGTGGACGAG CCAGGGGCGG CGGCGGAGGA
251 TCTGGCCAAG ATGGCTGCGG GGGCGGTGTC TTCTTCTCCG GTAACGCCTC
301 CTTGGATACG TCATATCTGA AAACGAAAGA AGTGCCTGT AAGTATTACC
351 AGCGCACTTC GGCAGCGGCA GCACCTCGGC AGCACCTCAG CAGCAACATG
401 CCGAGCAAGA AGAATGGAAG AAGCGGACCC CAACCCATA AAAGGTGGGT
451 GTTCACTCTG AATAATCCTT CCGAAGACGA GCGCAAGAAA ATACGGGATC
501 TTCCAATATC CCTATTTGAT TATTTTATTG TTGGCGAGGA GGGTAATGAG
551 GAAGGACGAA CACCTCACCT CCAGGGGTTT GCTAATTTTG TGAAGAAGCA
601 GACTTTTAAAT AAAGTGAAGT GGTATTTGGG TGCCCGCTGC CACATCGAGA
651 AAGCGAAAGG AACAGATCAG CAGAATAAAG AATACTGCAG TAAAGAAGGC
701 AACTTACTGA TGGAGTGTGG AGCTCCTAGA TCTCAGGGAC AACGGAGTGA
751 CCTGTCTACT GCTGTGAGTA CTTGTTGGA GAGCGGGAGT CTGGTGACCG
801 TTGCAGAGCA GCACCCTGTA ACGTTTGTCA GAAATTTCCG CGGGCTGGCT
851 GAACTTTTGA AAGTGAGCGG GAAAATGCAG AAGCGTGATT GGAAGACTAA
901 TGTACACGTC ATTGTGGGGC CACCTGGGTG TGGTAAAGC AAATGGGCTG
951 CTAATTTTGC AGACCCGGA ACCACATACT GGAAACCACC TAGAAACAAG
1001 TGGTGGGATG GTTACCATGG TGAAGAAGTG GTTGTTATTG ATGACTTTTA
1051 TGGCTGGCTG CCCTGGGATG ATCTACTGAG ACTGTGTGAT CGATATCCAT
1101 TGACTGTAGA GACTAAAGGT GGAAGTGTAC CTTTTTTGGC CCGCAGTATT
1151 CTGATTACCA GCAATCAGAC CCCGTTGGAA TGGTACTCCT CAACTGCTGT
1201 CCCAGCTGTA GAAGCTCTTT ATCGGAGGAT TACTTCCTTG GTATTTTGA
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Figure No. 1 (continuation and end)

1251 AGAATGCTAC AGAACAATCC ACGGAGGAAG GGGGCCAGTT CGTCACCCTT
1301 TCCCCCCCAT GCCCTGAATT TCCATATGAA ATAAATTACT GAGTCTTTTT
1351 TATCACTTCG TAATGGTTTT TATTATTCAT TAAGGGTTAA GTGGGGGGTC
1401 TTTAAGATTA AATTCTCTGA ATTGTACATA CATGGTTACA CGGATATTGT
1451 ATTCCTGGTC GTATATACTG TTTTCGAACG CAGTGCCGAG GCCTACGTGG
1501 TCTACATTTT CAGCAGTTTG TAGTCTCAGC CACAGCTGGT TTCTTTTGTT
1551 GTTTGGTTGG AAGTAATCAA TAGTGGAATC TAGGACAGGT TTGGGGGTAA
1601 AGTAGCGGGA GTGGTAGGAG AAGGGCTGGG TTATGGTATG GCGGGAGGAG
1651 TAGTTTACAT AGGGGTCATA GGTGAGGGCT GTGGCCTTTG TTACAAAGTT
1701 ATCATCTAGA ATAACAGCAC TGGAGCCCAC TCCCCTGTCA CCCTGGGTGA
1751 TCGGGGAGCA GGGCCAG

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Figure No. 2

Sequence of the PCV Imp1011-48285 isolate (SEQ ID No. 2)

```
1  AATTCAACCT TAACCTTTCT TATTCTGTAG TATTCAAAGG GCACAGAGCG
51  GGGGTTTGAG CCCCTCCTG GGGGAAGAAA GTCATTAATA TTGAATCTCA
101 TCATGTCCAC CGCCAGGAG GCGTTTTGA CTGTGGTTTCG CTTGACAGTA
151 TATCCGAAGG TCGGGGAGAG GCGGGTGTG AAGATGCCAT TTTTCCTTCT
201 CCAGCGGTAA CGGTGGCGGG GGTGGACGAG CCAGGGGCGG CGGCGGAGGA
251 TCTGGCCAAG ATGGCTGCGG GGGCGGTGTC TTCTTCTCCG GTAACGCCTC
301 CTTGGATACG TCATATCTGA AAACGAAAGA AGTGCCTGT AAGTATTACC
351 AGCGCACTTC GGCAGCGGCA GCACCTCGGC AGCACCTCAG CAGCAACATG
401 CCCAGCAAGA AGAATGGAAG AAGCGGACCC CAACCCATA AAAGGTGGGT
451 GTTCACTCTG AATAATCCTT CCGAAGACGA GCGCAAGAAA ATACGGGATC
501 TTCCAATATC CCTATTTGAT TATTTTATTG TTGGCGAGGA GGGTAATGAG
551 GAAGGACGAA CACCTCACCT CCAGGGGTTT GCTAATTTTG TGAAGAAGCA
601 GACTTTTAAT AAAGTGAAGT GGTATTTGGG TGCCCGCTGC CACATCGAGA
651 AAGCGAAAGG AACAGATCAG CAGAATAAAG AATACTGCAG TAAAGAAGGC
701 AACTTACTGA TGGAGTGTGG AGCTCCTAGa TCTCagGGAC AACGGAGTGA
751 CCTGTCTACT GCTGTGAGTA CCTTGTTGGA GAGCGGGAGT CTGGTGACCG
801 TTGCAGAGCA GCACCCTGTA ACGTTTGTCA GAAATTTCCG CGGGCTGGCT
851 GAACTTTTGA AAGTGAGCGG GAAAATGCAG AAGCGTGATT GGAAGACTAA
901 TGTACACGTC ATTGTGGGGC CACCTGGGTG TGGTAAAAGC AAATGGGCTG
951 CTAATTTTGC AGACCCGGAA ACCACATACT GGAAACCACC TAGAAACAAG
1001 TGGTGGGATG GTTACCATGG TGAAGAAGTG GTTGTATTG ATGACTTTTA
1051 TGGCTGGCTG CCCTGGGATG ATCTACTGAG ACTGTGTGAT CGATATCCAT
1101 TGA CTGTAGA GACTAAAGGT GGAAGTGTAC CTTTTTTGGC CCGCAGTATT
1151 CTGATTACCA GCAATCAGAC CCCGTTGGAA TGGTACTCCT CAACTGCTGT
1201 CCCAGCTGTA GAAGCTCTTT ATCGGAGGAT TACTTCCTTG GTATTTTGGA
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Figure No. 2 (continuation and end)

1251 AGAATGCTAC AGAACAAATCC ACGGAGGAAG GGGGCCAGTT CGTCACCCTT
1301 TCCCCCCCAT GCCCTGAATT TCCATATGAA ATAAATTACT GAGTCTTTTT
1351 TATCACTTCG TAATGGTTTT TATTATTCAT TAAGGGTTAA GTGGGGGGTC
1401 TTTAAGATTA AATTCTCTGA ATTGTACATA CATGGTTACA CGGATATTGT
1451 ATTCCTGGTC GTATATACTG TTTTCGAACG CAGTGCCGAG GCCTACGTGG
1501 TCTACATTTT CAGTAGTTTG TAGTCTCAGC CACAGCTGAT TTCTTTTGTT
1551 GTTTGGTTGG AAGTAATCAA TAGTGAATC TAGGACAGGT TTGGGGGTAA
1601 AGTAGCGGGA GTGGTAGGAG AAGGGCTGGG TTATGGTATG GCGGGAGGAG
1651 TAGTTTACAT AGGGGTCATA GGTGAGGGCT GTGGCCTTTG TTACAAAGTT
1701 ATCATCTAGA ATAACAGCAC TGGAGCCCAC TCCCCTGTCA CCCTGGGTGA
1751 TCGGGGAGCA GGGCCAG

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Figure No. 3

Sequence of the PCV Imp999 isolate (SEQ ID No. 3)

```
1  AATTCAACCT TAACCTTTTT TATTCTGTAG TATTCAAAGG GTATAGAGAT
51  TTTGTTGGTC CCCCCTCCCG GGGGAACAAA GTCGTCAATA TTAAATCTCA
101 TCATGTCCAC CGCCAGGAG GCGTTCTGA CTGTGGTAGC CTTGACAGTA
151 TATCCGAAGG TGCGGAGAG GCGGGTGTG AAGATGCCAT TTTTCCTTCT
201 CCAACGGTAG CGGTGGCGGG GGTGGACGAG CCAGGGGCGG CGGCGGAGGA
251 TCTGGCCAAG ATGGCTGCGG GGGCGGTGTC TTCTTCTGCG GTAACGCCTC
301 CTTGGATACG TCATAGCTGA AAACGAAAGA AGTGCGCTGT AAGTATTACC
351 AGCGCACTTC GGCAGCGGCA GCACCTCGGC AGCACCTCAG CAGCAACATG
401 CCCAGCAAGA AGAATGGAAG AAGCGGACCC CAACCACATA AAAGGTGGGT
451 GTTCACGCTG AATAATCCTT CCGAAGACGA GCGCAAGAAA ATACGGGAGC
501 TCCCAATCTC CCTATTGAT TATTTTATTG TTGGCGAGGA GGGTAATGAG
551 GAAGGACGAA CACCTCACCT CCAGGGGTTT GCTAATTTTG TGAAGAAGCA
601 AACTTTTAAT AAAGTGAAGT GGTATTTGGG TGCCCGCTGC CACATCGAGA
651 AAGCCAAAGG AACTGATCAG CAGAATAAAG AATATTGCAG TAAAGAAGGC
701 AACTTACTTA TTGAATGTGG AGCTCCTCGA TCTCAAGGAC AACGGAGTGA
751 CCTGTCTACT GCTGTGAGTA CTTGTTGGA GAGCGGGAGT CTGGTGACCG
801 TTGCAGAGCA GCACCTGTA ACGTTTGTCA GAAATTTCCG CGGGCTGGCT
851 GAACTTTTGA AAGTGAGCGG GAAAATGCAG AAGCGTGATT GGAAGACCAA
901 TGTACACGTC ATTGTGGGGC CACCTGGGTG TGGTAAAAGC AAATGGGCTG
951 CTAATTTTGC AGACCCGGAA ACCACATACT GGAAACCACC TAGAAACAAG
1001 TGGTGGGATG GTTACCATGG TGAAGAAGTG GTTGTTATTG ATGACTTTTA
1051 TGGCTGGCTG CCGTGGGATG ATCTACTGAG ACTGTGTGAT CGATATCCAT
1101 TGA CTGTAGA GACTAAAGGT GGA ACTGTAC CTTTTTTGGC CCGCAGTATT
1151 CTGATTACCA GCAATCAGAC CCCGTTGGAA TGGTACTCCT CAACTGCTGT
1201 CCCAGCTGTA GAAGCTCTCT ATCGGAGGAT TACTTCCTTG GTATTTTGG
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Figure No. 3 (continuation and end)

1251 AGAATGCTAC AGAACAATCC ACGGAGGAAG GGGGCCAGTT CGTCACCCCTT
1301 TCCCCCCCAT GCCCTGAATT TCCATATGAA ATAAATTACT GAGTCTTTTT
1351 TATCACTTCG TAATGGTTTT TATTATTCAT TTAGGGTTTA AGTGGGGGGT
1401 CTTTAAGATT AAATTCTCTG AATTGTACAT ACATGGTTAC ACGGATATTG
1451 TAGTCCTGGT CGTATATACT GTTTTCGAAC GCAGTGCCGA GGCCTACGTG
1501 GTCCACATTT CTAGAGGTTT GTAGCCTCAG CCAAAGCTGA TTCCTTTTGT
1551 TATTTGGTTG GAAGTAATCA ATAGTGGAGT CAAGAACAGG TTTGGGTGTG
1601 AAGTAACGGG AGTGGTAGGA GAAGGGTTGG GGGATTGTAT GCGGGGAGGA
1651 GTAGTTTACA TATGGGTCAT AGGTTAGGGC TGTGGCCTTT GTTACAAAGT
1701 TATCATCTAG AATAACAGCA GTGGAGCCCA CTCCCCTATC ACCCTGGGTG
1751 ATGGGGGAGC AGGGCCAG

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Figure No. 4

Sequence of the PCV Impl010 isolate (SEQ ID No. 4)

```
1  AATTCAACCT TAACCTTTCT TATTCTGTAG TATTCAAAGG GTATAGAGAT
51  TTTGTTGGTC CCCCCTCCCG GGGGAACAAA GTCGTCAATT TTAAATCTCA
101 TCATGTCCAC CGCCAGGAG GCGGTTGTGA CTGTGGTACG CTTGACAGTA
151 TATCCGAAGG TCGGGGAGAG GCGGGTGTG AAGATGCCAT TTTTCCTTCT
201 CCAACGGTAG CGGTGGCGGG GGTGGACGAG CCAGGGGCGG CGGCGGAGGA
251 TCTGGCCAAG ATGGCTGCGG GGGCGGTGTC TTCTTCTGCG GTAACGCCTC
301 CTTGGATACG TCATAGCTGA AAACGAAAGA AGTGCGCTGT AAGTATTACC
351 AGCGCACTTC GGCAGCGGCA GCACCTCGGC AGCACCTCAG CAGCAACATG
401 CCCAGCAAGA AGAATGGAAG AAGCGGACCC CAACCACATA AAAGGTGGGT
451 GTTCACGCTG AATAATCCTT CCGAAGACGA GCGCAAGAAA ATACGGGAGC
501 TCCCAATCTC CCTATTGAT TATTTTATTG TTGGCGAGGA GGGTAATGAG
551 GAAGGACGAA CACCTCACCT CCAGGGGTTC GCTAATTTTG TGAAGAAGCA
601 AACTTTTAAT AAAGTGAAGT GGTATTTGGG TGCCCGCTGC CACATCGAGA
651 AAGCCAAAGG AACTGATCAG CAGAATAAAG AATATTGCAG TAAAGAAGGC
701 AACTTACTTA TTGAATGTGG AGCTCCTCGA TCTCAAGGAC AACGGAGTGA
751 CCTGTCTACT GCTGTGAGTA CCTTGTGGA GAGCGGGAGT CTGGTGACCG
801 TTGCAGAGCA GCACCCTGTA ACGTTTGTCA GAAATTTCCG CGGGCTGGCT
851 GAACTTTTGA AAGTGAGCGG GAAAATGCAG AAGCGTGATT GGAAGACCAA
901 TGTACACGTC ATTGTGGGGC CACCTGGGTG TGGTAAAAGC AAATGGGCTG
951 CTAATTTTGC AGACCCGAA ACCACATACT GGAAACCACC TAGAAACAAG
1001 TGGTGGGATG GTTACCATGG TGAAGAAGTG GTTGTTATTG ATGACTTTTA
1051 TGGCTGGCTG CCGTGGGATG ATCTACTGAG ACTGTGTGAT CGATATCCAT
1101 TGA CTGTAGA GACTAAAGGT GGAAGTGTAC CTTTTTTGGC CCGCAGTATT
1151 CTGATTACCA GCAATCAGAC CCCGTTGGAA TGGTACTCCT CAACTGCTGT
1201 CCCAGCTGTA GAAGCTCTCT ATCGGAGGAT TACTTCCTTG GTATTTTGGG
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Figure No. 4 (continuation and end)

1251 AGAATGCTAC AGAACAATCC ACGGAGGAAG GGGGCCAGTT CGTCACCCCTT
1301 TCCCCCCCAT GCCCTGAATT TCCATATGAA ATAAATTACT GAGTCTTTTTT
1351 TATCACTTCG TAATGGTTTTT TATTATTCAT TTAGGGTTTA AGTGGGGGGT
1401 CTTTAAGATT AAATTCTCTG AATTGTACAT ACATGGTTAC ACGGATATTG
1451 TAGTCCTGGT CGTATTTACT GTTTTCGAAC GCAGCGCCGA GGCCTACGTG
1501 GTCCACATTT CCAGAGGTTT GTAGTCTCAG CCAAAGCTGA TTCCTTTTGT
1551 TATTTGGTTG GAAGTAATCA ATAGTGGAGT CAAGAACAGG TTTGGGTGTG
1601 AAGTAACGGG AGTGGTAGGA GAAGGGTTGG GGGATTGTAT GGCGGGAGGA
1651 GTAGTTTACA TATGGGTCAT AGGTTAGGGC TGTGGCCTTT GTTACAAAGT
1701 TATCATCTAG AATAACAGCA GTGGAGCCCA CTCCCCTATC ACCCTGGGTG
1751 ATGGGGGAGC AGGGCCAG

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Figure No. 5

CLUSTAL W multiple sequence alignment

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PCVPK-15      AATTCATATTAGCCTTTCTAATACGGTAGTATTGGAAAGGTAGGGGTAGGGGTTGGTG
IMP999-ECO    AATTC AACCTTAACCTTTTATTCTGTAGTATTCAAAGGGTATAGAGATTTTGTGGTC
IMP1010-ST    AATTC AACCTTAACCTTTTATTCTGTAGTATTCAAAGGGTATAGAGATTTTGTGGTC
IMP1011-48    AATTC AACCTTAACCTTTTATTCTGTAGTATTCAAAGGGCACAGAGCGGGGTTTGAG
IMP1011-48    AATTC AACCTTAACCTTTTATTCTGTAGTATTCAAAGGGCACAGAGCGGGGTTTGAG
*****      *** ***** * * * ***** * * * *

PCVPK-15      CCGCCTGAGGGGGGAGGAAGTGGCCGATGTTGAATTTGAGGTAGTTAACATTCCAAGAT
IMP999-ECO    CCCCCTCCCGGGGAACAAAGTCGTCAATATTAATCTCATCATGTCCACCGCCAGGAG
IMP1010-ST    CCCCCTCCCGGGGAACAAAGTCGTCAATTTTAAATCTCATCATGTCCACCGCCAGGAG
IMP1011-48    CCCCCTCCTGGGGGAAGAAAGTCATTAAATATTGAATCTCATCATGTCCACCGCCAGGAG
IMP1011-48    CCCCCTCCTGGGGGAAGAAAGTCATTAAATATTGAATCTCATCATGTCCACCGCCAGGAG
** ***      ***** * * * * * ** ** * * * * ** ** * * * *

PCVPK-15      GGC--TGCGAGTATCCTCCTTTT-ATGGTGAGTACAAATCTGTAGAAAGGCGGGAATTG
IMP999-ECO    GGCCTTCTGACTGTGGTAGCCTTGACAGTATATCCGAAGGTGCGGGAGAGGCGGGTGTG
IMP1010-ST    GGCCTTCTGACTGTGGTAGCCTTGACAGTATATCCGAAGGTGCGGGAGAGGCGGGTGTG
IMP1011-48    GGCCTTCTGACTGTGGTTGCTTGACAGTATATCCGAAGGTGCGGGAGAGGCGGGTGTG
IMP1011-48    GGCCTTCTGACTGTGGTTGCTTGACAGTATATCCGAAGGTGCGGGAGAGGCGGGTGTG
*** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

PCVPK-15      AAGATACCGTCTTTTCGGCGCCATCTGTAAACGGTTTCTGAAGGCGGGGTGTGCCAAATAT
IMP999-ECO    AAGATGCCATTTTCTTCTCCAAACGGTAGCGGTGGC-GGGGGTGA-CGAGCCAGGGGC
IMP1010-ST    AAGATGCCATTTTCTTCTCCAAACGGTAGCGGTGGC-GGGGGTGA-CGAGCCAGGGGC
IMP1011-48    AAGATGCCATTTTCTTCTCCAGCGGTAAACGGTGGC-GGGGGTGA-CGAGCCAGGGGC
IMP1011-48    AAGATGCCATTTTCTTCTCCAGCGGTAAACGGTGGC-GGGGGTGA-CGAGCCAGGGGC
***** ** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

PCVPK-15      GGTCTTCTCCGAGGATGTTTCCAAGATGGCTGCGGGGCGGGTCTTCTTCTCGCGTAA
IMP999-ECO    GG----CGGCGGAGGATCTGGCCAAGATGGCTGCGGGGCGGTGTCTTCTTCTCGCGTAA
IMP1010-ST    GG----CGGCGGAGGATCTGGCCAAGATGGCTGCGGGGCGGTGTCTTCTTCTCGCGTAA
IMP1011-48    GG----CGGCGGAGGATCTGGCCAAGATGGCTGCGGGGCGGTGTCTTCTTCTCGCGTAA
IMP1011-48    GG----CGGCGGAGGATCTGGCCAAGATGGCTGCGGGGCGGTGTCTTCTTCTCGCGTAA
** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

PCVPK-15      CGCCTCCTTGCCACGTCACTCTATAAAAGTGAAAGAAGTGCGCTGCTGTAGTATTACCA
IMP999-ECO    CGCCTCCTTGATACGTATAGC-TGAAAACGAAAGAAGTGCGCTGTA--AGTATTACCA
IMP1010-ST    CGCCTCCTTGATACGTATAGC-TGAAAACGAAAGAAGTGCGCTGTA--AGTATTACCA
IMP1011-48    CGCCTCCTTGATACGTATATC-TGAAAACGAAAGAAGTGCGCTGTA--AGTATTACCA
IMP1011-48    CGCCTCCTTGATACGTATATC-TGAAAACGAAAGAAGTGCGCTGTA--AGTATTACCA
***** ** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

PCVPK-15      GCGCACTTCGGCAGCGGCAGCACCTCGGCAGCG--TCAGTG--AAAATGCCAAGCAAGAA
IMP999-ECO    GCGCACTTCGGCAGCGGCAGCACCTCGGCAGCACCTCAGCAGCAACATGCCAGCAAGAA
IMP1010-ST    GCGCACTTCGGCAGCGGCAGCACCTCGGCAGCACCTCAGCAGCAACATGCCAGCAAGAA
IMP1011-48    GCGCACTTCGGCAGCGGCAGCACCTCGGCAGCACCTCAGCAGCAACATGCCAGCAAGAA
IMP1011-48    GCGCACTTCGGCAGCGGCAGCACCTCGGCAGCACCTCAGCAGCAACATGCCAGCAAGAA
***** ** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

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Figure No. 5 (continuation)

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PCVPK-15      -----AAGCGGCCCGCAACCCCATAAAGAGGTGGGTGTTCAACCTTAATAATCCTTC
IMP999-ECO    GAATGGAAGAAGCGGACCCCAACCATATAAAGGTGGGTGTTCAACCTGAATAATCCTTC
IMP1010-ST    GAATGGAAGAAGCGGACCCCAACCATATAAAGGTGGGTGTTCAACCTGAATAATCCTTC
IMP1011-48    GAATGGAAGAAGCGGACCCCAACCCCATATAAAGGTGGGTGTTCACTCTGAATAATCCTTC
IMP1011-48    GAATGGAAGAAGCGGACCCCAACCCCATATAAAGGTGGGTGTTCACTCTGAATAATCCTTC
                ***** **

PCVPK-15      CGAAGAGGAGAAAAACAAAATACGGGAGCTTCCAACTCCCTTTTGATTATTTTGTG
IMP999-ECO    CGAAGAGGAGCGCAAGAAAATACGGGAGCTCCCAATCTCCCTATTTGATTATTTTATTGT
IMP1010-ST    CGAAGAGGAGCGCAAGAAAATACGGGAGCTCCCAATCTCCCTATTTGATTATTTTATTGT
IMP1011-48    CGAAGAGGAGCGCAAGAAAATACGGGATCTTCCAAATATCCCTATTTGATTATTTTATTGT
IMP1011-48    CGAAGAGGAGCGCAAGAAAATACGGGATCTTCCAAATATCCCTATTTGATTATTTTATTGT
                *** **

PCVPK-15      CGGAGAGGAAGGTTTGAAGAGGAGTAGAATCTCTCACTCCAGGGGTTTGCGAATTTTGC
IMP999-ECO    TGGCGAGGAGGGTAATGAGGAAGGACGAACACCTCACCTCCAGGGGTTGCGTAATTTTGT
IMP1010-ST    TGGCGAGGAGGGTAATGAGGAAGGACGAACACCTCACCTCCAGGGGTTGCGTAATTTTGT
IMP1011-48    TGGCGAGGAGGGTAATGAGGAAGGACGAACACCTCACCTCCAGGGGTTGCGTAATTTTGT
IMP1011-48    TGGCGAGGAGGGTAATGAGGAAGGACGAACACCTCACCTCCAGGGGTTGCGTAATTTTGT
                ** *****

PCVPK-15      TAAGAAGCAGACTTTTAAACAAGGTGAAGTGGTATTTTGGTGCCCGCTGCCACATCGAGAA
IMP999-ECO    GAAGAAGCAAACTTTAAATAAGTGAAGTGGTATTTGGTGCCCGCTGCCACATCGAGAA
IMP1010-ST    GAAGAAGCAAACTTTAAATAAGTGAAGTGGTATTTGGTGCCCGCTGCCACATCGAGAA
IMP1011-48    GAAGAAGCAGACTTTTAAATAAGTGAAGTGGTATTTGGTGCCCGCTGCCACATCGAGAA
IMP1011-48    GAAGAAGCAGACTTTTAAATAAGTGAAGTGGTATTTGGTGCCCGCTGCCACATCGAGAA
                *****

PCVPK-15      AGCGAAAGGAACCGACCAGCAGAATAAAGAATACTGCAGTAAGAAGGCCACATACTTAT
IMP999-ECO    AGCCAAAGGAACCTGATCAGCAGAATAAAGAATATTGCAGTAAGAAGGCCAACTTACTTAT
IMP1010-ST    AGCCAAAGGAACCTGATCAGCAGAATAAAGAATATTGCAGTAAGAAGGCCAACTTACTTAT
IMP1011-48    AGCGAAAGGAACAGATCAGCAGAATAAAGAATACTGCAGTAAGAAGGCCAACTTACTGAT
IMP1011-48    AGCGAAAGGAACAGATCAGCAGAATAAAGAATACTGCAGTAAGAAGGCCAACTTACTGAT
                *** *****

PCVPK-15      CGAGTGTGGAGCTCCGCGGAACCGGGGAAGCGCAGCGACCTGTCTACTGCTGTGAGTAC
IMP999-ECO    TGAATGTGGAGCTCCTCGATCTCAAGGACACCGGAGTGACCTGTCTACTGCTGTGAGTAC
IMP1010-ST    TGAATGTGGAGCTCCTCGATCTCAAGGACACCGGAGTGACCTGTCTACTGCTGTGAGTAC
IMP1011-48    GGAGTGTGGAGCTCCTAGATCTCAGGGACAACGGAGTGACCTGTCTACTGCTGTGAGTAC
IMP1011-48    GGAGTGTGGAGCTCCTAGATCTCAGGGACAACGGAGTGACCTGTCTACTGCTGTGAGTAC
                ** *****

PCVPK-15      CCTTTTGGAGACGGGGTCTTTGGTGACTGTAGCCGAGCAGTTCCCTGTAACGTATGTGAG
IMP999-ECO    CTTGTTGGAGAGCGGGAGTCTGGTGACCGTTGCAGAGCAGCACCTGTAACGTTTGTGAG
IMP1010-ST    CTTGTTGGAGAGCGGGAGTCTGGTGACCGTTGCAGAGCAGCACCTGTAACGTTTGTGAG
IMP1011-48    CTTGTTGGAGAGCGGGAGTCTGGTGACCGTTGCAGAGCAGCACCTGTAACGTTTGTGAG
IMP1011-48    CTTGTTGGAGAGCGGGAGTCTGGTGACCGTTGCAGAGCAGCACCTGTAACGTTTGTGAG
                * * *****

PCVPK-15      AAATTTCCGCGGCTGGCTGAACTTTTGAAAGTGAGCGGGAAAGATGCAGCAGCGTGATTG
IMP999-ECO    AAATTTCCGCGGCTGGCTGAACTTTTGAAAGTGAGCGGGAAAGATGCAGCAGCGTGATTG
IMP1010-ST    AAATTTCCGCGGCTGGCTGAACTTTTGAAAGTGAGCGGGAAAGATGCAGCAGCGTGATTG
IMP1011-48    AAATTTCCGCGGCTGGCTGAACTTTTGAAAGTGAGCGGGAAAGATGCAGCAGCGTGATTG
IMP1011-48    AAATTTCCGCGGCTGGCTGAACTTTTGAAAGTGAGCGGGAAAGATGCAGCAGCGTGATTG
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Figure No. 5 (continuation)

PCVPK-15	GAAGACAGCTGTACACGTCAATGTGGGCCCCCGGTTGTGGGAAGAGCCAGTGGGCCCC
IMP999-ECO	GAAGACCAATGTACACGTCAATGTGGGGCCACCTGGGTGTGGTAAAAGCAAATGGGCTGC
IMP1010-ST	GAAGACCAATGTACACGTCAATGTGGGGCCACCTGGGTGTGGTAAAAGCAAATGGGCTGC
IMP1011-48	GAAGACTAATGTACACGTCAATGTGGGGCCACCTGGGTGTGGTAAAAGCAAATGGGCTGC
IMP1011-48	*****
PCVPK-15	TAATTTTGTCTGAGCCTAGGGACACCTACTGGAAAGCCTAGTAGAAATAAGTGGTGGGATGG
IMP999-ECO	TAATTTTGCAGACCCGGAAACCACATACTGGAAACCACCTAGAAACAAGTGGTGGGATGG
IMP1010-ST	TAATTTTGCAGACCCGGAAACCACATACTGGAAACCACCTAGAAACAAGTGGTGGGATGG
IMP1011-48	TAATTTTGCAGACCCGGAAACCACATACTGGAAACCACCTAGAAACAAGTGGTGGGATGG
IMP1011-48	*****
PCVPK-15	ATATCATGGAGAAGAAGTTGTTGTTTGGATGATTTTATGGCTGGTTACCTGGGATGA
IMP999-ECO	TTACCATGGTGAAGAAGTGGTTGTTATGATGACTTTTATGGCTGGCTGCCGTGGGATGA
IMP1010-ST	TTACCATGGTGAAGAAGTGGTTGTTATGATGACTTTTATGGCTGGCTGCCGTGGGATGA
IMP1011-48	TTACCATGGTGAAGAAGTGGTTGTTATGATGACTTTTATGGCTGGCTGCCGTGGGATGA
IMP1011-48	*****
PCVPK-15	TCTACTGAGACTGTGTGACCGGTATCCATTGACTGTAGAGACTAAAGGGGGTACTGTTCC
IMP999-ECO	TCTACTGAGACTGTGTGATCGATATCCATTGACTGTAGAGACTAAAGGTGGAACGTACC
IMP1010-ST	TCTACTGAGACTGTGTGATCGATATCCATTGACTGTAGAGACTAAAGGTGGAACGTACC
IMP1011-48	TCTACTGAGACTGTGTGATCGATATCCATTGACTGTAGAGACTAAAGGTGGAACGTACC
IMP1011-48	*****
PCVPK-15	TTTTTTGGCCCCGAGTATTTTGATTACCAGCAATCAGGCCCCCAGGAATGGTACTCCTC
IMP999-ECO	TTTTTTGGCCCCGAGTATTTCTGATTACCAGCAATCAGACCCCGTTGGAATGGTACTCCTC
IMP1010-ST	TTTTTTGGCCCCGAGTATTTCTGATTACCAGCAATCAGACCCCGTTGGAATGGTACTCCTC
IMP1011-48	TTTTTTGGCCCCGAGTATTTCTGATTACCAGCAATCAGACCCCGTTGGAATGGTACTCCTC
IMP1011-48	*****
PCVPK-15	AACTGCTGTCCCAGCTGTAGAAGCTCTCTATCGGAGGATTACTACTTTGCAATTTTGGAA
IMP999-ECO	AACTGCTGTCCCAGCTGTAGAAGCTCTCTATCGGAGGATTACTTCCTTGGTATTTTGGAA
IMP1010-ST	AACTGCTGTCCCAGCTGTAGAAGCTCTCTATCGGAGGATTACTTCCTTGGTATTTTGGAA
IMP1011-48	AACTGCTGTCCCAGCTGTAGAAGCTCTTTATCGGAGGATTACTTCCTTGGTATTTTGGAA
IMP1011-48	*****
PCVPK-15	GACTGCTGGAGAACAATCCACGGAGGTACCCGAAGGCCGATTGAAGCAGTGGACCCACC
IMP999-ECO	GAATGCTACAGAACAATCCACGGAGGAA---GGGGGCCAGTTCGTCACCCCTTTCCCCCCC
IMP1010-ST	GAATGCTACAGAACAATCCACGGAGGAA---GGGGGCCAGTTCGTCACCCCTTTCCCCCCC
IMP1011-48	GAATGCTACAGAACAATCCACGGAGGAA---GGGGGCCAGTTCGTCACCCCTTTCCCCCCC
IMP1011-48	*****
PCVPK-15	CTGTGCCCTTTTCCCATATAAAATAAATTACTGAGTCTTTTTTGTATCAGATCGTAATG
IMP999-ECO	ATGCCCTGAATTTCCATATGAAATAAATTACTGAGTCTTTTT---TATCACTTCGTAATG
IMP1010-ST	ATGCCCTGAATTTCCATATGAAATAAATTACTGAGTCTTTTT---TATCACTTCGTAATG
IMP1011-48	ATGCCCTGAATTTCCATATGAAATAAATTACTGAGTCTTTTT---TATCACTTCGTAATG
IMP1011-48	*****

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Figure No. 5 (continuation and end)

PCVPK-15 GTTTTATT-TTTATTAA---TTTA---GAAGGTCCTTTAGGATAAAATCTCTGAATTG
IMP999-ECO GTTTTATTATTCAATTAGGGTTTAAGTGGGGGGTCTTTAAGATTAAATCTCTGAATTG
IMP1010-ST GTTTTATTATTCAATTAGGGTTTAAGTGGGGGGTCTTTAAGATTAAATCTCTGAATTG
IMP1011-48 GTTTTATTATTCAATTAGGGTT-AAGTGGGGGGTCTTTAAGATTAAATCTCTGAATTG
IMP1011-48 GTTTTATTATTCAATTAGGGTT-AAGTGGGGGGTCTTTAAGATTAAATCTCTGAATTG
***** ** * * * * *

PCVPK-15 TACATAAATAGTCAGCCTTACCACATAATTTTGGGCTGTGGCTGC-ATTTTGGAGCGCAT
IMP999-ECO TACATACATGGTTACACGGATATTGTAGTCTCTGG-TCGTATATACTGTTTTCGAACGCAG
IMP1010-ST TACATACATGGTTACACGGATATTGTAGTCTCTGG-TCGTATTTACTGTTTTCGAACGCAG
IMP1011-48 TACATACATGGTTACACGGATATTGTATTCCTGG-TCGTATATACTGTTTTCGAACGCAG
IMP1011-48 TACATACATGGTTACACGGATATTGTATTCCTGG-TCGTATATACTGTTTTCGAACGCAG
***** ** * * * * *

PCVPK-15 AGCCGAGGCCCTGTGTCTCGACATTGGTGTGGGTATTTAAATGGAGCCACAGCTGGTTTC
IMP999-ECO TGCCGAGGCCCTACGTGGTCCACATTTCTAGAGGTTTGTAGCCTCAGCCAAAGCTGATTCC
IMP1010-ST CGCCGAGGCCCTACGTGGTCCACATTTCCAGAGGTTTGTAGTCTCAGCCAAAGCTGATTCC
IMP1011-48 TGCCGAGGCCCTACGTGGTCTACATTTCCAGCAGTTTGTAGTCTCAGCCACAGCTGGTTTC
IMP1011-48 TGCCGAGGCCCTACGTGGTCTACATTTCCAGTAGTTTGTAGTCTCAGCCACAGCTGATTTC
***** ** * * * * *

PCVPK-15 TTTTATTATTGGGTGGAACCAATCAATTGTTTGGTCCAGCTCAGGTTTGGGGGTGAAGT
IMP999-ECO TTTTGTATTATTGGTTGGAAGTAATCAATAGTGGAGTCAAGAACAGGTTTGGGTGTGAAGT
IMP1010-ST TTTTGTATTATTGGTTGGAAGTAATCAATAGTGGAGTCAAGAACAGGTTTGGGTGTGAAGT
IMP1011-48 TTTTGTATTATTGGTTGGAAGTAATCAATAGTGGAAATCTAGGACAGGTTTGGGGGTAAAGT
IMP1011-48 TTTTGTATTATTGGTTGGAAGTAATCAATAGTGGAAATCTAGGACAGGTTTGGGGGTAAAGT
**** ** ***** ** * * *

PCVPK-15 ACCTGGAGTGGTAGGTAAGGGCTGCCTTATGGTGTGGCGGGAGGAGTAGTTAATATAGG
IMP999-ECO AACGGGAGTGGTAGGAGAAGGGTTGGGGGATTGTATGGCGGGAGGAGTAGTTTACATATG
IMP1010-ST AACGGGAGTGGTAGGAGAAGGGTTGGGGGATTGTATGGCGGGAGGAGTAGTTTACATATG
IMP1011-48 AGCGGGAGTGGTAGGAGAAGGGCTGGGTTATGGTATGGCGGGAGGAGTAGTTTACATAGG
IMP1011-48 AGCGGGAGTGGTAGGAGAAGGGCTGGGTTATGGTATGGCGGGAGGAGTAGTTTACATAGG
* * ***** ** * * *

PCVPK-15 GGTCATAGGCCAAGTTGGTGGAGGGGTTACAAAGTTGCCATCCAAGATAACAACAGTGG
IMP999-ECO GGTCATAGGTTAGGGCTGTGGCCTTTGTTACAAAGTTATCATCTAGAATAACAGCAGTGG
IMP1010-ST GGTCATAGGTTAGGGCTGTGGCCTTTGTTACAAAGTTATCATCTAGAATAACAGCAGTGG
IMP1011-48 GGTCATAGGTGAGGGCTGTGGCCTTTGTTACAAAGTTATCATCTAGAATAACAGCACTGG
IMP1011-48 GGTCATAGGTGAGGGCTGTGGCCTTTGTTACAAAGTTATCATCTAGAATAACAGCACTGG
***** * * **** ***** ** * *

PCVPK-15 ACCCAACACCTCTTTGATTAGAGGTGATGGGGTCTCTGGGGTAA
IMP999-ECO AGCCCACTCCCTATCACCTGGGTGATGGGGAGCAGGGCCAG
IMP1010-ST AGCCCACTCCCTATCACCTGGGTGATGGGGAGCAGGGCCAG
IMP1011-48 AGCCCACTCCCTGTCACTCTGGGTGATCGGGAGCAGGGCCAG
IMP1011-48 AGCCCACTCCCTGTCACTCTGGGTGATCGGGAGCAGGGCCAG
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Figure No. 6

1 GAATTCAACC TTAACCTTTT TTATTCTGTA GTATTCAAAG GGTATAaAgA
 51 TTTTGTGGT CCCCCCTCCC GGGGGAACAA AGTCgTCAAT ATTAAATCTC
 101 ATCATGTCCA CCGCCCAGGA GGGCGTTCTG ACTGTGGTAg CCTTGACAgT
 151 ATATCCGAAG GTGCGGGAGA FCGGGGTGTT GAAAATGCCA TTTTTCCTTC
 201 TCCAACGGTA GCGGTGGCGG GGGTGGACmA nCCAcgGGCG GCGGCGGAWG
 251 ATCTGGCCAA GATGGCTGCG GGGGCGGTGT CTTCTTCTGC GGTAACGCCT
 301 CCTTGGATAC GTCATAgCTG AAAACGAAAG AAGTGCCTG TAaGTATTAC
 351 CAGCGCACTT CGGCAGCGGC AGCACCTCGG CAGCaCCTCA GCAGCAACAT
 401 GCCCAGCAAG AAGAATGGAA GAAGCGGACC CCAACCACAT AAAAGGTGGG
 451 TGTTACGCT GAATAATCCT TCCGAAGACG AGCGCAAGAA AATACGGGAG
 501 CTCCCaATCT CCCTATTGTA TTATTTTATT GTTGGCGAGG AGGGTwWTGA
 551 gGAAnGACgA ACACCTCACC TCCAGGGGTT CGClAATTTT GTGAAGAAGc
 601 aaACTTtTAA TAAAGTGAAG TGGTATTTGG GTGCCCGCTG CCACATCGAG
 651 AAAGCCaAG GAACTGATCA GCAGAATAAA GAATATTGCA GTAAAgAAGG
 701 CAACTTACTT ATTGAATGTG GAGCTCCTCG ATCTCAAGGA CAACGGAGTG
 751 ACCTGTCTAC TGCTGTGAGT ACCTGTTGG AGAGCGGGAG TCTGGTGACC
 801 GTTGcAGAGC AGCACCTGT AACGTTTGTc AGAAATTTCC GCGGGCTGGC
 851 TGAACTTTtG AAAGTGAGCG GGAAAATGCA GAAGCGTGAT TGGAAGACCA
 901 ATGTACACGT CATTGTGGGG CCACCTGGGT GTGGTAAAAG CAAATGGGCT
 951 GCTAATTTTg CAGACCCGGA AACCACATAC TGGAAACCAC CTAGAAACAA
 1001 GTGGTGGGAT GGTACCATG GTGAAGAAGT GGTTGTTATT GATGACTTTT
 1051 ATGGCTGGCT GCCGTGGGAT GATCTACTGA GACTGTGTGA TCGATATCCA
 1101 TTGACTGTAG AGACTAAAGG TGGAActGTA CNNNNNNGG CCCGcAGTAT
 1151 TCTGATTACC AGCAATCAGA CCCCgttGGA ATGGTACTCC TCAACTGCTG
 1201 TCCCAGctGT AGAAGCTCTC TATCGGAGGA ttACTTCCTT GGTATTTtGG
 1251 AaGAATGCTA CAGAACAATC CACGGAGGAA GGGGGCCAGT TnGTCACCCT

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Figure No. 6 (continuation)

1301 TTCCCCCCCCA TGCCcTGAAT TTCCATtTGA AATAAATTAC TGAGTCtTTT
1351 TTATCACTTC GTAATGGTTT TTATTATTCA TTTAGGGTTT AAGTGGGGGG
1401 TCTTTAAGAT TAAATTCTCT GAATTGTACA TACATGGTTA CACGGATATT
1451 GTAGTCCTGG TCGTATATAC TGTTTTCGAA CGCAGTGCCG AGGCCTACGT
1501 GGTCCACATT TCTAGAGGTT tGTAGCCTCA gCCAAAGCtG ATTcCTTTTG
1551 TTATTtGGTT GGAAGTAATC AATAGTGGAG TCAAGAACAG GTTTGGGTGT
1601 GAAGTAACGG GAGTGGTAGG AGAAGGGTTG GGGGATTGTA TGGCGGGAGG
1651 AGTAGTTTAC ATATGGGTCA TAGGTTAGGG CTGTGGCCTT TGTTACAAAG
1701 TTATCATcTA GAATAACAGC AGTGGAGCCC ACTCCCCTAT CACCCTGGGT
1751 GATGGGGGAG CAGGGCCA

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Figure No. 7

8con.s = sequence clone pGEM-7/8

pcveco = sequence strain PCV PK/15

SCORES Init1: 2517 Initn: 3774 Opt: 4010
 75.8% identity in 1785 bp overlap

	1769	1759	1749	1739	1729	1719
8con.s	GAATTCCTGGCCCTGCTCCCCCATCACCCAGGGTGATAGGGGAGTGGGCTCCACTGCTGTT					
pcveco	GAATTTTACCCAGAGACCCCATCACCTCTAATCAAAGAGGTGTTGGGTCCACTGTTGTT					
	10	20	30	40	50	60
	1709	1699	1689	1679	1669	1659
8con.s	ATTCTAGATGATAACTTTGTAAACAAAGGCCACAGCCCTAACCTATGACCCATATGTAAAC					
pcveco	ATCTTGGATGCCAACTTTGTAAACCCCTCCACCAACTTGGCCTATGACCCCTATATTAAC					
	70	80	90	100	110	120
	1649	1639	1629	1619	1609	1599
8con.s	TACTCCTCCCGCCATACAATCCCCAACCCCTTCTCTACCACTCCCGTTACTTCACACCC					
pcveco	TACTCCTCCCGCCACACCATAAGGCAGCCCTTTACCTACCACTCCAGGTACTTCACCCCC					
	130	140	150	160	170	180
	1589	1579	1569	1559	1549	1539
8con.s	AAACCTGTTCTTGACTCCACTATTGATTACTTCCAACCAAATAACAAAGGAATCAGCTT					
pcveco	AAACCTGAGCTGGACCAACAATTGATTGGTTCCACCCAAATAATAAAGAAACCAGCTG					
	190	200	210	220	230	240
	1529	1519	1509	1499	1489	1479
8con.s	TGGCTGAGGCTACAAACCTCTAGAAATGTGGACCACGTAGGCCTCGGCCTGCGTTTCGAA					
pcveco	TGGCTCCATTTAAATACCCACCAATGTCGAGCACACAGGCCTCGGCTATGCGCTCCAA					
	250	260	270	280	290	300
	1469	1459	1449	1439	1429	1419
8con.s	AACAGTATATAC-GACCAGGACTACATATCCGTGTAACCATGTATGTACAAATTCAGAGA					
pcveco	AA-TGCAGCCACAGCCCAAATTTATGTGGTAAGGCTGACTATTTATGTACAAATTCAGAGA					
	310	320	330	340	350	
	1409	1399	1389	1379	1369	1359
8con.s	ATTTAATCTTAAAGACCCCCCACTTAAACCTAAATGAATAATAAAACCATACGAAGT					
pcveco	ATTTATCTTAAAGACCCCTC----TAAA---TAAAT-AAAAATAAAACCATACGATGT					
	360	370	380	390	400	410
	1349	1339	1329	1319	1309	1299
8con.s	GAT---AAAAAAGACTCAGTAATTTATTTTATATGGAAATTGAGGCATGGGGGGGAAAG					
pcveco	GATAACAAAAAAGACTCAGTAATTTATTTTATATGGGAAAAGGGCACAGGGTGGGTCCAC					
	420	430	440	450	460	470

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Figure No. 7 (continuation)

	1289	1279	1269	1259	1249
8con.s	GGTGACAACTGGCCCC---TTCCTCCGTGGATTGTTCTGTAGCATTCTTCCAAAATAC				
pcveco	TGCTTCAAATCGGCCTTCGGGTACCTCCGTGGATTGTTCTCCAGCAGTCTTCCAAAATTG				
	480	490	500	510	520 530
	1239	1229	1219	1209	1199 1189
8con.s	CAAGGAAGTAATCCTCCGATAGAGAGCTTCTACAGCTGGGACAGCAGTTGAGGAGTACCA				
pcveco	CAAAGTAGTAATCCTCCGATAGAGAGCTTCTACAGCTGGGACAGCAGTTGAGGAGTACCA				
	540	550	560	570	580 590
	1179	1169	1159	1149	1139 1129
8con.s	TTCCAACGGGGTCTGATTGCTGGTAATCAGAACTACTGCGGGCCNNNNNNNGTACAGTTCC				
pcveco	TTCCTGGGGGGCCTGATTGCTGGTAATCAAACTACTGCGGGCCAAAAAAGGAACAGTACC				
	600	610	620	630	640 650
	1119	1109	1099	1089	1079 1069
8con.s	ACCTTTAGTCTCTACAGTCAATGGATATCGATCACACAGTCTCAGTAGATCATCCACGG				
pcveco	CCCTTTAGTCTCTACAGTCAATGGATACCGGTCACACAGTCTCAGTAGATCATCCCAAGG				
	660	670	680	690	700 710
	1059	1049	1039	1029	1019 1009
8con.s	CAGCCAGCCATAAAAGTCATCAATAACAACCACTTCTTCACCATGGTAACCATCCACCA				
pcveco	TAACCAGCCATAAAATCATCCAAAACAACAACCTTCTTCTCCATGATATCCATCCACCA				
	720	730	740	750	760 770
	999	989	979	969	959 949
8con.s	CTTGTTTCTAGGTGGTTTCCAGTATGTGGTTTCCGGGTCTGCAAAATTAGCAGCCCATTT				
pcveco	CTTATTCTACTAGGCTTCCAGTAGGTGTCCCTAGGCTCAGCAAAATTACGGGGCCACTG				
	780	790	800	810	820 830
	939	929	919	909	899 889
8con.s	GCTTTTACCACACCCAGGTGGCCCCACAATGACGTGTACATTGGTCTTCCAATCACGCTT				
pcveco	GCTCTTCCCAACCGGGCGGGCCCACTATGACGTGTACAGCTGTCTTCCAATCACGCTG				
	840	850	860	870	880 890
	879	869	859	849	839 829
8con.s	CTGCATTTTCCCGCTCACTTTCAAAGTTTCAGCCAGCCCGCGGAAATTTCTGACAAACGT				
pcveco	CTGCATCTTCCCGCTCACTTTCAAAGTTTCAGCCAGCCCGCGGAAATTTCTCACATACGT				
	900	910	920	930	940 950
	819	809	799	789	779 769
8con.s	TACAGGGTGCTGCTCTGCAACGGTCACCAGACTCCCGCTCTCCAACAAGGTACTCACAGC				
pcveco	TACAGGGAAGTCTCGGCTACAGTCACCAAGACCCGCTCTCCAAGGGTACTCACAGC				
	960	970	980	990	1000 1010

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Figure No. 7 (continuation)

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      759      749      739      729      719      709
8con.s AGTAGACAGGTCACTCCGTTGCTTGGAGATCGAGGAGCTCCACATTCAATAAGTAAGTT
      |||||
pcveco AGTAGACAGGTCCGCTGCGCTTCCCGTGGTTCGCGGAGCTCCACACTCGATAAGTATGTG
      1020      1030      1040      1050      1060      1070

      699      689      679      669      659      649
8con.s GCCTTCTTTACTGCAATATTCTTTATTCTGCTGATCAGTTCTTTGGCTTTCTCGATGTG
      |||||
pcveco GCCTTCTTTACTGCAATATTCTTTATTCTGCTGATCAGTTCTTTGGCTTTCTCGATGTG
      1080      1090      1100      1110      1120      1130

      639      629      619      609      599      589
8con.s GCAGCGGGCACCACAAATACCACTTCACCTTTATTAAAGTTTGCTTCTTCACAAATTAGC
      |||||
pcveco GCAGCGGGCACCACAAATACCACTTCACCTTTATTAAAGTTTGCTTCTTCACAAATTAGC
      1140      1150      1160      1170      1180      1190

      579      569      559      549      539      529
8con.s GAACCCCTGGAGGTGAGGTGTTCTGCTNTTCTCAWACCTCCTCGCCAACAATAAAATA
      |||||
pcveco AAACCCCTGGAGGTGAGGTGTTCTGCTNTTCTCAWACCTCCTCGCCAACAATAAAATA
      1200      1210      1220      1230      1240      1250

      519      509      499      489      479      469
8con.s ATCAAATAGGGAGATTGGGAGCTCCCGTATTTTCTTGGCGTCTCTTCGGAAGGATTATT
      |||||
pcveco ATCAAATAGGGAGATTGGGAGCTCCCGTATTTTCTTGGCGTCTCTTCGGAAGGATTATT
      1260      1270      1280      1290      1300      1310

      459      449      439      429      419      409
8con.s CAGCGTGAACACCCACCTTTTATGTGGTTGGGGTCCGCTTCTTCCATTCTTCTTGTCTGGG
      |||||
pcveco AAGGGTGAACACCCACCTTTTATGTGGTTGGGGTCCGCTTCTTCCATTCTTCTTGTCTGGG
      1320      1330      1340      1350      1360

      399      389      379      369      359      349
8con.s CATGTTGCTGCTGAGGTGCTGCGGAGGTGCTGCGCTGCCGAAGTGCGTGGTAATACT-
      |||||
pcveco CATTTT--CACTGA--CGCTGCGGAGGTGCTGCGGAGGTGCTGCGCTGCCGAAGTGCGTGGTAATACTA
      1370      1380      1390      1400      1410

      339      329      319      309      299      289
8con.s -TACAGCGCACTTCTTTTCTGCTTATGACGTATCCAAGGAGGCGTTACCGCAGAA
      |||||
pcveco CAGCAGCGCACTTCTTTTCTGCTTATGACGTATCCAAGGAGGCGTTACCGCAGAA
      1420      1430      1440      1450      1460      1470

      279      269      259      249      239      229
8con.s GAAGACACCGCCCCCGCAGCCATCTTGGCCAGATCWTCCGCCCGCCCCGTGGNTRGTCC
      |||||
pcveco GAAGGACCGCCCCCGCAGCCATCTTGGAAACATCTTCCGGAAGACCATATTTGGCAC
      1480      1490      1500      1510      1520      1530

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Figure No. 7 (continuation and end)

	219		209		199		189		179	
8con.s	ACCCCCGCC-----ACCGCTACCGTTGGAGAAGGAAAAATGGCATTTCACACCCGC									
pcveco	A-CCCCGCCCTTCAGAAACCGTTACAGATGGCGCCGAAAGACGGGTATCTTCAATTCGCCGC									
	1540	1550	1560	1570	1580	1590				

	169		159		149		139		129		119	
8con.s	YTCTCCCGCACCTTCGGATATACTGTCAAGGCTACCACAGTCAGAACGCCCTCCTGGGCG											
pcveco	CTTCTACAGAATTTGTACTCACCATAAAAG-GAGGATACTCGCA--GCCATCTTGAAT											
	1600	1610	1620	1630	1640	1650						

	109		99		89		79		69		59	
8con.s	GTGGACATGATGAGATTTAATATTGACGACTTTGTTCCCCCGGGAGGGGGGACCAACAAA											
pcveco	GTTAACTACCTCAAATTCACATCGGCCAGTTCCTCCCCCCTCAGGCGGCACCAACCCC											
	1660	1670	1680	1690	1700	1710						

	49		39		29		19		9	
8con.s	ATCTTTATACCCTTTGAATACTACAGAATAAAAAAGGTTAAGGTT									
pcveco	CTACCCCTACCTTTCCAATACTACCGTATTAGAAAGGCTAAATAT									
	1720	1730	1740	1750						

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PORCINE CIRCOVIRUS VACCINE AND DIAGNOSTICS REAGENTS

The present invention relates to new porcine circovirus (PCV for Porcine CircoVirus) strains responsible for the PMWS syndrome (Porcine Multisystemic Wasting Syndrome also called Post-Weaning Multisystemic Wasting Syndrome) to reagents and methods allowing their detection, to methods of vaccination and to vaccines, as well as to methods of producing these reagents and vaccines.

PCV was originally detected as a noncytopathogenic contaminant in pig kidney cell lines PK/15. This virus was classified among the Circoviridae with the chicken anaemia virus (CAV for Chicken Anaemia Virus) and the PBFDV virus (Pscittacine Beak and Feather Disease Virus). It is a small nonenveloped virus (from 15 to 24 nm) whose common characteristic is to contain a genome in the form of a circular single-stranded DNA of 1.76 to 2.31 kb. It was first thought that this genome encoded a polypeptide of about 30 kDa (Todd et al., Arch Virol 1991, 117; 129-135). Recent work has however shown a more complex transcription (Meehan B. M. et al., 1997, 78; 221-227). Moreover, no significant homologies in nucleotide sequence or in common antigenic determinants are known between the three types of circoviruses known.

The PCV derived from the PK/15 cells is considered not to be pathogenic. Its sequence is known from B. M. Meehan et al., J. Gen. Virol 1997 (78) 221-227. It is only very recently that some authors have thought that strains of PCV could be pathogenic and associated with the PMWS syndrome (Gupi P. S. Nayar et al., Can. Vet. J, vol. 38, 1997: 385-387 and Clark E. G., Proc. Am. Assoc. Swine Prac. 1997; 499-501). Nayar et al. have detected PCV DNA in pigs having the PMWS syndrome using PCR techniques. No wild-type PCV strain has however been isolated and purified so far.

The PMWS syndrome detected in Canada, the United States and France is clinically characterized by a gradual loss of weight and by manifestations such as tachypnea, dyspnea and jaundice. From the pathological point of view, it is manifested by lymphocytic or granulomateous infiltrations, lymphadenopathies and, more rarely, by hepatitis and lymphocytic or granulomateous nephritis (Clark E. G., Proc. Am. Assoc. Swine Prac. 1997; 499-501; La Semaine Vétérinaire No. 26, supplement to La Semaine Vétérinaire 1996 (834); La Semaine Vétérinaire 1997 (857): 54; Gupi P. S. Nayar et al., Can. Vet. J, vol. 38, 1997; 385-387).

The applicant has succeeded in isolating five new PCV strains from pulmonary or ganglionic samples obtained from farms situated in Canada, the United States (California) and France (Brittany), hereinafter called circoviruses according to the invention. These viruses have been detected in lesions in pigs with the PMWS syndrome, but not in healthy pigs.

The applicant has, in addition, sequenced the genome of four of these strains, namely the strains obtained from Canada and the United States as well as two French strains. The strains exhibit a very strong homology with each other at the nucleotide level, exceeding 96% and much weaker with the PK/15 strain, about 76%. The new strains can thus be considered as being representative of a new type of porcine circovirus, called here type II, type I being represented by PK/15.

The subject of the present invention is therefore the group II porcine circovirus, as defined above, isolated or in the form of a purified preparation.

The invention relates to any porcine circovirus capable of being isolated from a physiological sample or from a tissue

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sample, especially lesions, from a diseased pig having the PMWS syndrome, especially following the method described in the examples, in particular type II circovirus.

The subject of the present invention is more particularly purified preparations of five strains, which were deposited at the ECACC (European Collection of Cell Cultures, Centre for Applied Microbiology & Research, Porton Down, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 0JG, United Kingdom) on Thursday Oct. 2, 1997:

provisional accession No. V97100219 (called here Imp. 1008PCV)

provisional accession No. V9700218 (called here Imp. 1010PCV)

provisional accession No. V97100217 (called here Imp. 999PCV), and, on Friday Jan. 16 1998:

provisional accession No. V98011608 (called here Imp. 1011-48285)

provisional accession No. V98011609 (called here Imp. 1011-48121).

The invention aims to consider the porcine circoviruses isolated from a diseased pig and/or the circoviruses having a significant serological similarity with the strains of the invention and/or the circoviruses having cross-hybridization with the strains of the invention under stringency conditions such that there is no hybridization with the PCV PK/15 strain.

The viral strains isolated from a physiological sample or from a tissue sample, especially a lesion, from a pig having the PMWS syndrome can be advantageously propagated on cell lines such as especially pig kidney cell lines, in particular PK/15 cells free from contamination (in particular for PCV, as well as for pestiviruses, porcine adenoviruses and porcine parvoviruses) for their multiplication or specifically for the production of antigen, whole (e.g. virus) and/or subunits (e.g. polypeptides).

Very remarkably and unexpectedly, these isolates have proved very productive in culture on PK/15 cells, which have undeniable advantages for the production of virus or antigen, in particular for the production of inactivated vaccine.

The subject of the present invention is also the preparations of circoviruses isolated after passages on cells, especially cell lines, e.g. PK/15 cells, cultured in vitro while being infected with at least one of the circoviruses according to the invention or of any porcine circovirus capable of being isolated from a physiological sample or from a tissue sample, especially lesions, from a pig having the PMWS syndrome. Its subject is also the culture extract or supernatant, optionally purified by standard techniques, and in general any antigenic preparation obtained from in vitro cultures.

The subject of the invention is also the immunogenic active ingredients and the vaccines containing at least one antigen as defined above.

They may be immunogenic active ingredients based on attenuated live whole viruses, or vaccines prepared with these active ingredients, the attenuation being carried out according to the customary methods, e.g. by passage on cells, preferably by passage on pig cells, especially lines, such as PK/15 cells (for example from 50 to 150, especially of the order of 100, passages). These vaccines comprise in general a vehicle or diluent acceptable from the veterinary point of view, optionally an adjuvant acceptable from the veterinary point of view, as well as optionally a freeze-drying stabilizer.

These vaccines will preferably comprise from 10^3 to 10^6 TCID₅₀.

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They may be immunogenic active ingredients or vaccines based on circovirus antigen according to the invention, in an inactivated state. The vaccine comprises, in addition, a vehicle or a diluent acceptable from the veterinary point of view, with optionally in addition an adjuvant acceptable from the veterinary point of view.

The circoviruses according to the invention, with the fractions which may be present, are inactivated according to techniques known to persons skilled in the art. The inactivation will be preferably carried out by the chemical route, e.g. by exposing the antigen to a chemical agent such as formaldehyde (formalin), paraformaldehyde, β -propiolactone or ethyleneimine or its derivatives. The preferred method of inactivation will be herein the exposure to a chemical agent and in particular to ethyleneimine or to β -propiolactone.

Preferably, the inactivated vaccines according to the invention will be supplemented with adjuvant, advantageously by being provided in the form of emulsions, for example water-in-oil or oil-in-water, according to techniques well known to persons skilled in the art. It will be possible for the adjuvant character to also come from the incorporation of a customary adjuvant compound into the active ingredient.

Among the adjuvants which may be used, there may be mentioned by way of example aluminium hydroxide, the saponines (e.g. Quillaja saponin or Quil A; see Vaccine Design, The Subunit and Adjuvant Approach, 1995, edited by Michael F. Powel and Mark J. Newman, Plenum Press, New-York and London, p.210), Avridine® (Vaccine Design p. 148), DDA (Dimethyldioctadecylammonium bromide, Vaccine Design p. 157), Polyphosphazene (Vaccine Design p. 204), or alternatively oil-in-water emulsions based on mineral oil, squalene (e.g. SPT emulsion, Vaccine Design p. 147), squalene (e.g. MF59, Vaccine Design p. 183), or water-in-oil emulsions based on metabolizable oil (preferably according to WO-A-94 20071) as well as the emulsions described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,422,109. It is also possible to choose combinations of adjuvants, for example Avridine® or DDA combined with an emulsion.

These vaccines will preferably comprise from 10^6 to 10^8 TCID₅₀.

The live vaccine adjuvants can be selected from those given for the inactivated vaccine. The emulsions are preferred. To those indicated for the inactivated vaccine, there may be added those described in WO-A-9416681.

As freeze-drying stabilizer, there may be mentioned by way of example SPGA (Bovarnik et al., J. Bacteriology 59, 509, 950), carbohydrates such as sorbitol, mannitol, starch, sucrose, dextran or glucose, proteins such as albumin or casein, derivatives of these compounds, or buffers such as alkali metal phosphates.

The vaccines according to the invention may comprise one or more active ingredients (antigens) of one or more (2 or 3) of the circoviruses according to the invention.

The invention also provides for combining vaccination against the porcine circovirus with a vaccination against other pig pathogens, in particular those which can be associated with the PMWS syndrome. The vaccine according to the invention may therefore comprise another valency corresponding to another pig pathogen.

The applicant has, in addition, obtained the genome of four of the isolates, identified SEQ ID NO: 1 to 4 and optionally 6.

The subject of the present invention is therefore a DNA fragment containing all or part of one of these sequences. It goes without saying that the invention automatically covers

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the equivalent sequences, that is to say the sequences which do not change the functionality or the strain-specificity of the sequence described or of the polypeptides encoded by this sequence. There will of course be included the sequences differing by degeneracy of the code.

The invention also covers the equivalent sequences in the sense that they are capable of hybridizing with the above sequence under high stringency conditions and/or have a high homology with the strains of the invention and belong to group II defined above.

These sequences and their fragments can be advantageously used for the in vitro or in vivo expression of polypeptides with the aid of appropriate vectors.

In particular, the open reading frames, forming DNA fragments according to the invention, which can be used to this effect have been identified on the genomic sequence of the type II circoviruses. The invention relates to any polypeptide containing at least one of these open reading frames (corresponding amino acid sequence). Preferably, the invention relates to a protein essentially consisting of ORF4, ORF7, ORF10 or ORF13.

For the expression of subunits in vitro, as a means of expression, *E. coli* or a baculovirus will be preferably used (U.S. Pat. No. 4,745,051). The coding sequence(s) or their fragments are integrated into the baculovirus genome (e.g. the baculovirus Autographa californica Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus AcNPV) and the latter is then propagated on insect cells, e.g. *Spodoptera frugiperda* Sf9 (deposit ATCC CRL 1711). The subunits can also be produced in eukaryotic cells such as yeasts (e.g. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) or mammalian cells (e.g. CHO, BHK).

The subject of the invention is also the polypeptides which will be produced in vitro by these expression means, and then optionally purified according to conventional techniques. Its subject is also a subunit vaccine comprising at least one polypeptide as thus obtained, or fragment, in a vehicle or diluent acceptable from the veterinary point of view and optionally an adjuvant acceptable from the veterinary point of view.

For the expression in vivo for the purpose of producing recombinant live vaccines, the coding sequence(s) or their fragments are inserted into an appropriate expression vector under conditions allowing the expression of the polypeptide (s). As appropriate vectors, there may be used live viruses, preferably capable of multiplying in pigs, nonpathogenic for pigs (naturally nonpathogenic or rendered as such), according to techniques well known to persons skilled in the art. There may be used in particular pig herpesviruses such as Aujeszky's disease virus, porcine adenovirus, poxviruses, especially vaccinia virus, avipox virus, canarypox virus, swinepox virus. Plasmid DNAs can also be used as vectors (WO-A-90 11092, WO-A-93 19813, WO-A-94 21797, WO-A-95 20660).

The subject of the invention is therefore also the vectors and the recombinant live vaccines or plasmid vaccines (polynucleotide or DNA vaccines) thus prepared, the vaccines comprising, in addition, a vehicle or diluent acceptable from the veterinary point of view.

The subject of the present invention is also a method which makes it possible to induce an immune response in pigs towards circoviruses according to the invention. Its subject is in particular a method of vaccination which is effective in pigs.

This method provides for the administration to pigs, in one or more portions, of a vaccine above. It is also possible to combine several types of the above vaccines in the same vaccination protocol.

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This method provides not only for administration to adult pigs, but also to young pigs or to pregnant females. The vaccination of the latter makes it possible to confer passive immunity to the newborns (maternal antibodies).

The invention also offers the possibility of diagnosing the presence of the circoviruses according to the invention in pigs. Its subject is therefore diagnostic tests and methods relating thereto using reagents which will be described below.

Knowledge of the sequences of the different circoviruses makes it possible to define common sequences which make it possible to produce reagents capable of recognizing all the porcine circoviruses known.

Persons skilled in the art will also be able to select fragments of the sequences corresponding to regions exhibiting little or no homology with the corresponding PK/15 circovirus sequence in order to carry out a specific diagnosis.

Sequence alignments make it possible for persons skilled in the art to select a reagent in accordance with their wishes.

A first reagent consists in the DNA sequences disclosed here and their fragments, which will in particular be used as probes or primers in well-known hybridization or PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) techniques.

A second reagent consists in the polypeptides encoded by these sequences from the virus or expressed with the aid of a vector (see above), or synthesized by the chemical route according to conventional techniques for peptide synthesis.

A third and fourth reagent consists in respectively polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies which may be produced according to the customary techniques from the virus, the polypeptides or fragments, extracted or encoded by the DNA sequences.

These second, third and fourth reagents may be used in a diagnostic method, a subject of the invention, in which a test is carried out, on a sample of physiological fluid (blood, plasma, serum and the like) or a sample of tissue (ganglia, liver, lungs, kidneys and the like) obtained from a pig to be tested, for the presence of an antigen specific for a circovirus according to the invention, by seeking to detect either the antigen itself, or antibodies directed against this antigen.

The antigens and antibodies according to the invention may be used in any known laboratory diagnostic technique.

However, it will be preferable to use them in techniques which can be used directly in the field by the veterinary doctor, the breeder or the owner of the animal. Persons skilled in the art have available a range of laboratory and field techniques and are therefore in the perfect position to adapt the use of this antigen and/or antibodies as diagnostic reagent(s).

The diagnostic techniques which will be preferably used within the framework of the present invention are Western blotting, immunofluorescence, ELISA and immunochromatography.

As regards the use of immunochromatography methods, specialists can refer in particular to Robert F. Zurk et al., Clin. Chem. 31/7, 1144-1150 (1985) as well as to patents or patent applications WO-A-88/08 534, WO-A-91/12528, EP-A-291 176, EP-A-299 428, EP-A-291 194, EP-A-284 232, U.S. Pat. No. 5,120,643, U.S. Pat. No. 5,030,558, U.S. Pat. No. 5,266,497, U.S. Pat. No. 4,740,468, U.S. Pat. No. 5,266,497, U.S. Pat. No. 4,855,240, U.S. Pat. No. 5,451,504, U.S. Pat. No. 5,141,850, U.S. Pat. No. 5,232,835 and U.S. Pat. No. 5,238,652.

Accordingly, it is preferably sought to detect specific antibodies in the sample by an indirect test, by competition or by displacement. To do this, the antigen itself is used as diagnostic reagent, or a fragment of this antigen, conserving

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recognition of the antibodies. The labelling may be advantageously a labelling with peroxidase or a special labelling, preferably with colloidal gold.

It may also be desired to detect the antigen itself in the sample with the aid of a labelled antibody specific for this antigen. The labelling is advantageously as described above.

By antibody specific for the antigen which can be used in particular in competition or displacement or for the detection of the antigen itself, there is understood monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies specific for the antigen, fragments of these antibodies, preferably Fab or F(ab)₂ fragments.

Another feature of the invention is the reduction of polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies specific for the antigen in accordance with the invention, it being possible for these antibodies to then be used in particular as diagnostic reagent for the detection of the antigen in a sample of physiological fluid or in a tissue sample, or even for the detection of antibodies present in such a sample or specimen. The invention also includes the immunologically functional fragments of these antibodies, in particular the F(ab) and F(ab)₂ fragments.

Antibodies can be prepared by the customary techniques. Reference may be made in particular to Antibodies, A Laboratory Manual, 1988, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, USA or to J. W. Goding, Monoclonal Antibodies: Principles and Practice, Academic Press Inc., whose contents are incorporated herein by reference.

It will be possible in particular, as is known per se, to carry out the fusion of spleen cells of mice, immunized with the antigen or with at least one of its fragments, with suitable myelomatous cells.

The subject of the invention is also a preparation, preferably pure or partially pure, or even crude, of monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies specific for the antigen, especially mouse or rabbit antibodies.

The present invention also makes it possible to determine epitopes of interest especially on the basis of the DNA sequences described here, whether epitopes of vaccinal interest or epitopes of interest in diagnosis. From the DNA sequence of the genome of the circovirus according to the invention, persons skilled in the art are in a position to determine epitopes according to known methods, for example an appropriate computer program or PEPSCAN. Epitopes are immunodominant regions of proteins and are as such regions exposed at the surface of the proteins. They can therefore be recognized by antibodies and thus be particularly used in the field of diagnosis either for the preparation of antibodies for diagnostic purposes or for the production of corresponding peptides which can be used as diagnostic reagents.

At the very least, an epitope is a peptide having from 8 to 9 amino acids. A minimum of 13 to 25 amino acids is generally preferred.

Persons skilled in the art are therefore in a position, using one or more of these techniques as well as the other available techniques, to find epitopes for using peptides or antibodies for diagnostic purposes.

The subject of the invention is also a diagnostic kit comprising this antigen and/or polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies specific for this antigen. These are in particular diagnostic kits corresponding to the diagnostic techniques described above.

The invention will now be described in greater detail with the aid of nonlimiting exemplary embodiments, taken with reference to the drawing, in which:

FIG. 1: DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 1011-48121 strain

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FIG. 2: DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 1011-48285 strain

FIG. 3: DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 999 strain

FIG. 4: DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 1010 strain

FIG. 5: Alignment of the 4 sequences according to FIGS. 1 to 4 with the sequence of the PCV PK/15 strain

FIG. 6: DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 999 strain as defined in the first filing in France on Oct. 3, 1997

FIG. 7: Alignments of the sequence of FIG. 6 with the sequence of the PK/15 strain

Sequence listing SEQ ID

SEQ ID No: 1 DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 1011-48121 strain

SEQ ID No: 2 DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 1011-48285 strain

SEQ ID No: 3 DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 999 strain

SEQ ID No: 4 DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 1010 strain

SEQ ID No: 5 DNA sequence of the genome of the PK/15 strain

SEQ ID No: 6 DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 999 strain as defined in the first filing in France on Oct. 3, 1997.

EXAMPLES

Example 1

Culture and isolation of the porcine circovirus strains

Tissue samples were collected in France, Canada and the USA from lung and lymph nodes of piglets. These piglets exhibited clinical signs typical of the post-weaning multi-systemic wasting syndrome. To facilitate the isolation of the viruses, the tissue samples were frozen at -70°C . immediately after autopsy.

For the viral isolation, suspensions containing about 15% tissue sample were prepared in a minimum medium containing Earle's salts (EMEM, BioWhittaker UK Ltd., Wokingham, UK), penicillin (100 IU/ml) and streptomycin (100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$) (MEM-SA medium), by grinding tissues with sterile sand using a sterile mortar and pestle. This ground preparation was then taken up in MEM-SA, and then centrifuged at 3000 g for 30 minutes at $+4^{\circ}\text{C}$. in order to harvest the supernatant.

Prior to the inoculation of the cell cultures, a volume of 100 μl of chloroform was added to 2 ml of each supernatant and mixed continuously for 10 minutes at room temperature. This mixture was then transferred to a microcentrifuge tube, centrifuged at 3000 g for 10 minutes, and then the supernatant was harvested. This supernatant was then used as inoculum for the viral isolation experiments.

All the viral isolation studies were carried out on PK/15 cell cultures, known to be uncontaminated with the porcine circovirus (PCV), pestiviruses, porcine adenoviruses and porcine parvoviruses (Allan G. et al Pathogenesis of porcine circovirus experimental infections of colostrum-deprived piglets and examination of pig foetal material. *Vet. Microbiol.* 1995, 44, 49-64).

The isolation of the porcine circoviruses was carried out according to the following technique:

Monolayers of PK/15 cells were dissociated by trypsinization (with a trypsin-versene mixture) from confluent cultures, and taken up in MEM-SA medium containing 15% foetal calf serum not contaminated by pestivirus (=MEM-G medium) in a final concentration of about 400,000 cells per ml. 10 ml aliquot fractions of this cell suspen-

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sion were then mixed with 2 ml aliquot fractions of the inocula described above, and the final mixtures were aliquoted in 6 ml volumes in two Falcon flasks of 25 cm^2 . These cultures were then incubated at $+37^{\circ}\text{C}$. for 18 hours under an atmosphere containing 10% CO_2 .

After incubation, the culture medium of the semi-confluent monolayers were treated with 300 mM D-glucosamine (Cat # G48175, Sigma-Aldrich Company Limited, Poole, UK) (Tischr I. et al., *Arch. Virol.*, 1987 96 39-57), then incubation was continued for an additional period of 48-72 hours at $+37^{\circ}\text{C}$. Following this last incubation, one of the two Falcons of each inoculum was subjected to 3 successive freeze/thaw cycles. The PK/15 cells of the remaining Falcon were treated with a trypsin-versene solution, resuspended in 20 ml of MEM-G medium, and then inoculated into 75 cm^2 Falcons at a concentration of 400,000 cells/ml. The freshly inoculated flasks were then "superinfected" by addition of 5 ml of the corresponding lysate obtained after the freeze/thaw cycles.

Example 2

Preparation of the samples of cell culture for the detection of porcine circoviruses by immunofluorescence or by in situ hybridization

A volume of 5 ml of the "superinfected" suspension was collected and inoculated into a Petri dish 55 mm in diameter containing a sterile and fat-free glass coverslip. The cultures in the flasks and on glass coverslips were incubated at $+37^{\circ}\text{C}$. and treated with glucosamine as described in Example 1. The cultures on glass coverslips were harvested from 24 to 48 hours after the treatment with glucosamine and fixed, either with acetone for 10 minutes at room temperature, or with 10% buffered formaldehyde for 4 hours. Following this fixing, all the glass coverslips were stored at -70°C ., on silica gel, before their use for the in situ hybridization studies and the immunocytochemical labelling studies.

Example 3

Techniques for the detection of PCV sequences by in situ hybridization

In situ hybridization was carried out on tissues collected from diseased pigs and fixed with formaldehyde and also on the preparations of cell cultures inoculated for the viral isolation (see Example 2) and fixed on glass coverslips.

Complete genomic probes corresponding to the PK/15 porcine circoviruses (PCV) and to the infectious chicken anaemia virus (CAV) were used. The plasmid pPCV1, containing the replicative form of the PCV genome, cloned in the form of a single 1.7 kilo base pair (kbp) insert (Meehan B. et al. Sequence of porcine circovirus DNA: affinities with plant circoviruses, *J. Gen. Virol.* 1997, 78, 221-227), was used as specific viral DNA source for PCV. An analogous plasmid, pCAA1, containing the 2.3 kbp replicative form of the avian circovirus CAV was used as negative control. The respective glycerol stocks of the two plasmids were used for the production and purification of the plasmids according to the alkaline lysis technique (Sambrook J. et al. *Molecular cloning: A Laboratory Manual*. 2nd Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., 1989) so that they are then used as templates for the preparation of the probes. The circovirus probes representative of the complete genomes of PCV and of CAV were produced from the purified plasmids described above (1 μg for each probe) and from hexanucleotide primers at random using a commercial nonradioactive labelling kit ("DIG DNA labelling kit", Boehringer Mannheim, Lewes, UK) according to the supplier's recommendations.

The digoxigenin-labelled probes were taken up in a volume of 50-100 μl of sterile water before being used for the in situ hybridization.

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The diseased pig tissue samples, enclosed in paraffin and fixed with formaldehyde, as well as the preparations of infected cell cultures, fixed with formaldehyde, were prepared for the detection of the PCV nucleic acids according to the following technique:

Sections 5 μ m thick were cut from tissue blocks enclosed in paraffin, rendered paraffin free, and then rehydrated in successive solutions of alcohol in decreasing concentrations. The tissue sections and the cell cultures fixed with formaldehyde were incubated for 15 minutes and 5 minutes respectively at +37° C. in a 0.5% proteinase K solution in 0.05 M Tris-HCl buffer containing 5 mM EDTA (pH 7.6). The slides were then placed in a 1% glycine solution in autoclaved distilled water, for 30 seconds, washed twice with 0.01 M PBS buffer (phosphate buffered saline) (pH 7.2), and finally washed for 5 minutes in sterile distilled water. They were finally dried in the open air and placed in contact with the probes.

Each tissue/probe preparation was covered with a clean and fat-free glass coverslip, and then placed in an oven at +90° C. for 10 minutes, and then placed in contact with an ice block for 1 minute, and finally incubated for 18 hours at +37° C. The preparations were then briefly immersed in a 2x sodium citrate salt (SSC) buffer (pH 7.0) in order to remove the protective glass coverslips, and then washed twice for 5 minutes in 2xSSC buffer and finally washed twice for 5 minutes in PBS buffer.

After these washes, the preparations were immersed in a solution of 0.1 M maleic acid, 0.15 M NaCl (pH 7.5) (maleic buffer) for 10 minutes, and then incubated in a 1% solution of blocking reagent (Cat #1096176, Boehringer Mannheim UK, Lewis, East Sussex, UK) in maleic buffer for 20 minutes at +37° C.

The preparations were then incubated with a 1/250 solution of an anti-digoxigenin monoclonal antibody (Boehringer Mannheim), diluted in blocking buffer, for 1 hour at +37° C., washed in PBS and finally incubated with a biotinylated anti-mouse immunoglobulin antibody for 30 minutes at +37° C. The preparations were washed in PBS and the endogenous peroxidase activity was blocked by treatment with a 0.5% hydrogen peroxide solution in PBS for 20 minutes at room temperature. The preparations were again washed in PBS and treated with a 3-amino-9-diethylcarbazole (AEC) substrate (Cambridge Bioscience, Cambridge, UK) prepared immediately before use.

After a final wash with tap water, the preparations were counterstained with hematoxylin, "blued" under tap water, and mounted on microscope glass coverslips with a mounting fluid (GVA Mount, Cambridge Bioscience, Cambridge, UK). The experimental controls included the use of a nonpertinent negative probe (CAV) and of a positive probe (PCV) on samples obtained from diseased pigs and from nondiseased pigs.

Example 4

Technique for the detection of PCV by immunofluorescence

The initial screening of all the cell culture preparations fixed with acetone was carried out by an indirect immunofluorescence technique (IIF) using a 1/100 dilution of a pool of adult pig sera. This pool of sera comprises sera from 25 adult sows from Northern Ireland and is known to contain antibodies against a wide variety of porcine viruses, including PCV: porcine parvovirus, porcine adenovirus, and PRRS virus. The IIF technique was carried out by bringing the serum (diluted in PBS) into contact with the cell cultures for one hour at +37° C., followed by two washes in PBS. The cell cultures were then stained with a 1/80 dilution in PBS of a rabbit anti-pig immunoglobulin antibody conjugated

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with fluorescein isothiocyanate for one hour, and then washed with PBS and mounted in glycerol buffer prior to the microscopic observation under ultraviolet light.

Example 5

Results of the in situ hybridization on diseased pig tissues

The in situ hybridization, using a PCV genomic probe, prepared from tissues collected from French, Canadian and Californian piglets having multisystemic wasting lesions and fixed with formaldehyde, showed the presence of PCV nucleic acids associated with the lesions, in several of the lesions studied. No signal was observed when the PCV genomic probe was used on tissues collected from nondiseased pigs or when the CAV probe was used on the diseased pig tissues. The presence of PCV nucleic acid was identified in the cytoplasm and the nucleus of numerous mononuclear cells infiltrating the lesions in the lungs of the Californian piglets. The presence of PCV nucleic acid was also demonstrated in the pneumocytes, the bronchial and bronchiolar epithelial cells, and in the endothelial cells of the arterioles, the veinlets and lymphatic vessels.

In diseased French pigs, the presence of PCV nucleic acid was detected in the cytoplasm of numerous follicular lymphocytes and in the intrasinusoidal mononuclear cells of the lymph nodes. The PCV nucleic acid was also detected in occasional syncytia. Depending on these detection results, samples of Californian pig lungs, French pig mesenteric lymph nodes, and Canadian pig organs were selected for the purpose of isolating new porcine circovirus strains.

Example 6

Results of the cell culture of the new porcine circovirus strains and detection by immunofluorescence

No cytopathic effect (CPE) was observed in the cell cultures inoculated with the samples collected from French piglets (Imp.1008 strain), Californian piglets (Imp.999 strain) and Canadian piglets (Imp.1010 strain) showing clinical signs of multisystemic wasting syndrome. However, immunolabelling of the preparations obtained from the inoculated cell cultures, after fixing using acetone and with a pool of pig polyclonal sera, revealed nuclear fluorescence in numerous cells in the cultures inoculated using the lungs of Californian piglets (Imp.999 strain), using the mediastinal lymph nodes of French piglets (Imp.1008 strain), and using organs of Canadian piglets (Imp.1010 strain).

Example 7

Extraction of the genomic DNA of the porcine circoviruses

The replicative forms of the new strains of porcine circoviruses (PCV) were prepared using infected PK/15 cell cultures (see Example 1) (10 Falcons of 75 cm²) harvested after 72–76 hours of incubation and treated with glucosamine, as described for the cloning of the replicative form of CAV (Todd, D. et al. Dot blot hybridization assay for chicken anaemia agent using a cloned DNA probe. J. Clin. Microbiol. 1991, 29, 933–939). The double-stranded DNA of these replicative forms was extracted according to a modification of the Hirt technique (Hirt B. Selective extraction of polyoma virus DNA from infected cell cultures, J. Mol. Biol. 1967, 36, 365–369), as described by Molitor (Molitor T. W. et al. Porcine parvovirus DNA: characterization of the genomic and replicative form DNA of two virus isolates, Virology, 1984, 137, 241–254).

Example 8

Restriction map of the replicative form of the genome of the porcine circovirus Imp.999 strain.

The DNA (1–5 μ g) extracted according to the Hirt technique was treated with S1 nuclease (Amersham801 am) accord-

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ing to the supplier's recommendations, and then this DNA was digested with various restriction enzymes (Boehringer Mannheim, Lewis, East Sussex, UK) and the products of digestion were separated by electrophoresis on a 1.5% agarose gel in the presence of ethidium bromide as described by Todd et al. (Purification and biochemical characterization of chicken anemia agent. J. Gen. Virol. 1990, 71, 819-823). The DNA extracted from the cultures of the Imp.999 strain possess a unique EcoRI site, 2 SacI sites and do not possess any PstI site. This restriction profile is therefore different from the restriction profile shown by the PCV PK/15 strain (Meehan B. et al. Sequence of porcine circovirus DNA; affinities with plant circoviruses, 1997 78, 221-227) which possess in contrast a PstI site and do not possess any EcoRI site.

Example 9

Cloning of the genome of the porcine circovirus Imp.999 strain

The restriction fragment of about 1.8 kbp generated by digestion of the double-stranded replicative form of the PCV Imp.999 strain with the restriction enzyme EcoRI was isolated after electrophoresis on a 1.5% agarose gel (see Example 3) using a Qiagen commercial kit (QIAEXII Gel Extraction Kit, Cat #20021, QIAGEN Ltd., Crawley, West Sussex, UK). This EcoRI-EcoRI restriction fragment was then ligated with the vector pGEM-7 (Promega, Medical Supply Company, Dublin, Ireland), previously digested with the same restriction enzymes and dephosphorylated, according to standard cloning techniques (Sambrook J. et al. Molecular cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2nd Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., 1989). The plasmids obtained were transformed into an *Escherichia coli* JM109 host strain (Stratagene, La Jolla, USA) according to standard techniques. The EcoRI-EcoRI restriction fragment of the PCV Imp.999 strain was also cloned into the EcoRI site of the vector pBlueScript SK+ (Stratagene Inc. La Jolla, USA). Among the clones obtained for each host strain, at least 2 clones containing the fragments of the expected size were selected. The clones obtained were then cultured and the plasmids containing the complete genome of the Imp.999 strain were purified in a small volume (2 ml) or in a large volume (250 ml) according to standard plasmid preparation and purification techniques.

Example 10

Sequencing of a genomic DNA (doublestranded replicative form) of the PCV Imp.999 strain.

The nucleotide sequence of 2 EcoRI Imp.999 clones (clones pGEM-7/2 and pGEM-7/8) was determined according to Sanger's dideoxynucleotide technique using the sequencing kit "AmpliTaq DNA polymerase FS" (Cat #402079 PE Applied Biosystems, Warrington, UK) and an Applied BioSystems AB1373A automatic sequencing apparatus according to the supplier's recommendations. The initial sequencing reactions were carried out with the M13 "forward" and "reverse" universal primers. The following sequencing reactions were generated according to the "DNA walking" technique. The oligonucleotides necessary for these subsequent sequencings were synthesized by Life Technologies (Inchinnan Business Park, Paisley, UK).

The sequences generated were assembled and analysed by means of the MacDNASIS version 3.2 software (Cat #22020101, Appligene, Durham, UK). The various open reading frames were analysed by means of the BLAST algorithm available on the "National Center for Biotechnology Information" (NCBI, Bethesda, MD, USA) server.

The complete sequence (EcoRI-EcoRI fragment) obtained initially from the clone pGEM-7/8 (SEQ ID No: 6)

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is presented in FIG. No. 6. It starts arbitrarily after the G of the EcoRI site and exhibits a few uncertainties from the point of view of the nucleotides.

The sequencing was then optimized and the SEQ ID No: 3 (FIG. 3) gives the total sequence of this strain, which was made to start arbitrarily at the beginning of the EcoRI site, that is to say the G as the first nucleotide.

The procedure was carried out in a similar manner for obtaining the sequence of the other three isolates according to the invention (see SEQ ID Nos: 1, 2 and 4 and FIGS. 1, 2 and 4).

The size of the genome of these four strains is:

Imp. 1011-48121	1767 nucleotides
Imp. 1011-48285	1767 nucleotides
Imp. 999	1768 nucleotides
Imp. 1010	1768 nucleotides

Example 11

Analysis of the sequence of the PCV Imp.999 strain.

When the sequence generated from the Imp.999 strain was used to test for homology with respect to the sequences contained in the GenBank databank, the only significant homology which was detected is a homology of about 76% (at nucleic acid level) with the sequence of the PK/15 strain (accession numbers Y09921 and U49186) (see FIG. No. 5).

At amino acid level, the test for homology in the translation of the sequences in the 6 phases with the databanks (BLAST X algorithm on the NCBI server) made it possible to demonstrate a 94% homology with the open reading frame corresponding to the theoretical replicase of the BBTV virus similar to the circoviruses of plants (GenBank identification number 1841515) encoded by the GenBank U49186 sequence.

No other sequence contained in the databanks show significant homology with the sequence generated from the PCV Imp.999 strain.

Analysis of the sequences obtained from the Imp.999 strain cultured using lesions collected from Californian piglets having clinical signs of the multisystemic wasting syndrome shows clearly that this viral isolate is a new porcine circovirus strain.

Example 12

Comparative analysis of the sequences

The alignment of the nucleotide sequences of the 4 new PCV strains was made with the sequence of the PCV PK/15 strain (FIG. 5). A homology matrix taking into account the four new strains and the previous PK/15 strain was established. The results are the following:

	1	2	3	4	5
1	1.0000	0.9977	0.9615	0.9621	0.7600
2		1.0000	0.9621	0.9632	0.7594
3			1.0000	0.9949	0.7560
4				1.0000	0.7566
5					1.0000

- 1: Imp. 1011-48121
- 2: Imp. 1011-48285
- 3: Imp. 999
- 4: Imp. 1010
- 5: PK/15

The homology between the two French strains Imp. 1011-48121 and Imp. 1011-48285 is greater than 99% (0.9977).

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The homology between the two North American strains Imp. 999 and Imp. 1010 is also greater than 99% (0.9949). The homology between the French strains and the North American strains is slightly greater than 96%.

The homology between all these strains and PK/15 falls at a value between 75 and 76%.

It is deduced therefrom that the strains according to the invention are representative of a new type of porcine circovirus, distinct from the type represented by the PK/15 strain. This new type, isolated from pigs exhibiting the PMWS syndrome, is called type II porcine circovirus, PK/15 representing type I. The strains belonging to this type II exhibit remarkable nucleotide sequence homogeneity, although they have in fact been isolated from very distant geographical regions.

Example 13

Analysis of the proteins encoded by the genome of the new PCV strains.

The nucleotide sequence of the Imp. 1010 isolate was considered to be representative of the other circovirus strains associated with the multi-systemic wasting syndrome. This sequence was analysed in greater detail with the aid of the BLASTX algorithm (Altschul et al. J. Mol. Biol. 1990. 215. 403-410) and of a combination of programs from the set of MacVector 6.0 software (Oxford Molecular Group, Oxford OX4 4GA, UK). It was possible to detect 13 open reading frames (or ORFs) of a size greater than 20 amino acids on this sequence (circular genome). These 13 ORFs are the following:

Name	Start	End	Strand	Size of the ORF (nucleotides (nt))	Protein size (amino acids (aa))
ORF1	103	210	sense	108 nt	35 aa
ORF2	1180	1317	sense	138 nt	45 aa
ORF3	1363	1524	sense	162 nt	53 aa
ORF4	398	1342	sense	945 nt	314 aa
ORF5	900	1079	sense	180 nt	59 aa
ORF6	1254	1334	sense	81 nt	26 aa
ORF7	1018	704	antisense	315 nt	104 aa
ORF8	439	311	antisense	129 nt	42 aa
ORF9	190	101	antisense	90 nt	29 aa
ORF10	912	733	antisense	180 nt	59 aa
ORF11	645	565	antisense	81 nt	26 aa
ORF12	1100	1035	antisense	66 nt	21 aa
ORF13	314	1381	antisense	702 nt	213 aa

The positions of the start and end of each ORF refer to the sequence presented in FIG. No. 4 (SEQ ID No. 4), of the genome of strain 1010. The limits of ORFs 1 to 13 are identical for strain 999. They are also identical for strains 1011-48121 and 1011-48285, except for the ORFs 3 and 13:

ORF3 1432-1539, sense, 108 nt, 35aa

ORF1,3 314-1377, antisense, 705 nt, 234 aa.

Among these 13 ORFs, 4 have a significant homology with analogous ORFs situated on the genome of the cloned virus PCV PK-15. Each of the open reading frames present on the genome of all the circovirus isolates associated with the multisystemic wasting syndrome was analysed. These 4 ORFs are the following:

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Name	Start	End	Strand	Size of the ORF (nt)	Protein size (aa)	Molecular mass
ORF4	398	1342	sense	945 nt	314 aa	37.7 kDa
ORF7	1018	704	antisense	315 nt	104 aa	11.8 kDa
ORF10	912	733	antisense	180 nt	59 aa	6.5 kDa
ORF13	314	1381	antisense	702 nt	233 aa	27.8 kDa

The positions of the start and end of each ORF refer to the sequence presented in FIG. No. 4 (SEQ ID No. 4). The size of the ORF (in nucleotides=nt) includes the stop codon.

The comparison between the genomic organization of the PCV Imp. 1010 and PCV PK-15 isolates allowed the identification of 4 ORFs preserved in the genome of the two viruses. The table below presents the degrees of homology observed:

ORF Imp. 1010/ORF PVC PK-15	Percentage homology
ORF4/ORF1	86%
ORF13/ORF2	66.4%
ORF7/ORF3	61.5% (at the level of the overlap (104 aa))
ORF10/ORF4	83% (at the level of the overlap (59 aa))

The greatest sequence identity was observed between ORF4 Imp. 1010 and ORF1 PK-15 (86% homology). This was expected since this protein is probably involved in the replication of the viral DNA and is essential for the viral replication (Meehan et al. J. Gen. Virol. 1997. 78. 221-227; Mankertz et al. J. Gen. Virol. 1998. 79. 381-384).

The sequence identity between ORF13 Imp. 1010 and ORF2 PK-15 is less strong (66.4% homology), but each of these two ORFs indeed exhibits a highly conserved N-terminal basic region which is identical to the N-terminal region of the major structural protein of the CAV avian circovirus (Meehan et al. Arch. Virol. 1992. 124. 301-319). Furthermore, large differences are observed between ORF7 Imp. 1010 and ORF3 PK-15 and between ORF10 Imp. 1010 and ORF4 PK-15. In each case, there is a deletion of the C-terminal region of the ORF7 and ORF10 of the Imp. 1010 isolate when they are compared with ORF3 and ORF4 of PCV PK-15. The greatest sequence homology is observed at the level of the N-terminal regions of ORF7/ORF3 (61.5% homology at the level of the overlap) and of ORF10/ORF4 (83% homology at the level of the overlap).

It appears that the genomic organization of the porcine circovirus is quite complex as a consequence of the extreme compactness of its genome. The major structural protein is probably derived from splicing between several reading frames situated on the same strand of the porcine circovirus genome. It can therefore be considered that any open reading frame (ORF1 to ORF13) as described in the table above can represent all or part of an antigenic protein encoded by the type II porcine circovirus and is therefore potentially an antigen which can be used for specific diagnosis and/or for vaccination. The invention therefore relates to any protein comprising at least one of these ORFs. Preferably, the invention relates to a protein essentially consisting of ORF4, ORF7, ORF10 or ORF13.

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Example 14

Infectious character of the PCV genome cloned from the new strains.

The plasmid pGEM-7/8 containing the complete genome (replicative form) of the Imp.999 isolate was transfected into PK/15 cells according to the technique described by Meehan B. et al. (Characterization of viral DNAs from cells infected with chicken anemia agent: sequence analysis of the cloned replicative form and transfection capabilities of cloned genome fragments. Arch. Virol. 1992, 124, 301-319). Immunofluorescence analysis (see Example 4) carried out on the first passage after transfection on noncontaminated PK/15 cells have shown that the plasmid of the clone pGEM7/8 was capable of inducing the production of infectious PCV virus. The availability of a clone containing an infectious PCV genetic material allows any useful manipulation on the viral genome in order to produce modified PCV viruses (either attenuated in pigs, or defective) which can be used for the production of attenuated or recombinant vaccines, or for the production of antigens for diagnostic kits.

Example 15

Production of PCV antigens by in vitro culture

The culture of the noncontaminated PK/15 cells and the viral multiplication were carried out according to the same methods as in Example 1. The infected cells are harvested after trypsinization after 4 days of incubation at 37° C. and enumerated. The next passage is inoculated with 400,000 infected cells per ml.

Example 16

Inactivation of the viral antigens

At the end of the viral culture, the infected cells are harvested and lysed using ultrasound (Branson Sonifier) or with the aid of a rotor-stator type colloid mill (UltraTurrax, IKA). The suspension is then centrifuged at 3700 g for 30 minutes. The viral suspension is inactivated with 0.1% ethyleneimine for 18 hours at +37° C. or with 0.5% beta-propiolactone for 24 hours at +28° C. If the virus titre before inactivation is inadequate, the viral suspension is concentrated by ultrafiltration using a membrane with a 300 kDa cut-off (Millipore PTMK300). The inactivated viral suspension is stored at +50° C.

Example 17

Preparation of the vaccine in the form of an emulsion based on mineral oil.

The vaccine is prepared according to the following formula:

suspension of inactivated porcine circovirus: 250 ml
Montanide® ISA 70 (SEPPIC): 750 ml

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The aqueous phase and the oily phase are sterilized separately by filtration. The emulsion is prepared by mixing and homogenizing the ingredients with the aid of a Silverson turbine emulsifier.

One vaccine dose contains about $10^{7.5}$ TCID₅₀. The volume of one vaccine dose is 0.5 ml for administration by the intradermal route, and 2 ml for administration by the intramuscular route.

Example 18

Preparation of the vaccine in the form of a metabolizable oil-based emulsion.

The vaccine is prepared according to the following formula:

suspension of inactivated porcine circovirus: 200 ml
Dehymuls HRE 7 (Henkel): 60 ml
Radia 7204 (Oleofina): 740 ml

The aqueous phase and the oily phase are sterilized separately by filtration. The emulsion is prepared by mixing and homogenizing the ingredients with the aid of a Silverson turbine emulsifier.

One vaccine dose contains about $10^{7.5}$ TCID₅₀. The volume of one vaccine dose is 2 ml for administration by the intramuscular route.

Example 19

The indirect immunofluorescence results in relation to the US and French PCV virus strains and to the PK/15 contaminant with a hyperimmune serum (PCV-T), a panel of monoclonal antibodies F99 prepared from PK/15 and a hyperimmune serum prepared from the Canadian strain (PCV-C)

	VIRUS		
	PK/15	USA	France
PCV-T antiserum	≥6400	200	800
PCV-C antiserum	200	≥6,400	≥6,400
F99 1H4	≥10000	<100	100
F99 4B10	≥10000	<100	<100
F99 2B7	≥10000	100	<100
F99 2E12	≥10000	<100	<100
F99 1C9	≥10000	<100	100
F99 2E1	≥10000	<100	<100
F99 1H4	≥10000	100	<100

Reciprocal of the last dilution of the serum or of the monoclonal antibody which gives a positive reaction in indirect immunofluorescence.

SEQUENCE LISTING

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<211> LENGTH: 1767

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Porcine circovirus

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18

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<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Porcine circovirus

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What is claimed is:

1. A vector comprising an isolated DNA molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1,2,3,4 and 6.

2. The vector of claim 1 wherein the DNA molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

3. The vector of claim 1 wherein the DNA molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

4. The vector of claim 1 wherein the DNA molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 3.

5. The vector of claim 1 wherein the DNA molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 4.

6. The vector of claim 1 wherein the DNA molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 6.

7. The vector of claim 1 wherein the isolated DNA molecule is expressed by the vector in vivo.

8. The vector of claim 1 wherein the isolated DNA molecule is expressed by the vector in vitro.

9. A vector comprising an isolated DNA molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of ORFs 1 to 13 of porcine circovirus type II.

10. The vector of claim 9 wherein in the ORF comprises ORF 4.

11. The vector of claim 9 wherein in the ORF comprises ORF 7.

12. The vector of claim 9 wherein in the ORF comprises ORF 10.

13. The vector of claim 9 wherein in the ORF comprises ORF 13.

14. The vector of claim 9, wherein the isolated DNA molecule is expressed by the vector in vivo.

15. The vector of claim 9, wherein the isolated DNA molecule is expressed by the vector in vitro.

16. The vector of any one claims 38-48 wherein the vector is a virus.

17. The vector of claim 16 wherein the virus is selected from the group consisting of pig herpes virus, porcine adenovirus, and poxvirus.

18. An immunogenic composition comprising a vector as claimed in claim 17.

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19. The vector of claim 17 wherein the virus is selected from the group consisting of Aujeszky's disease virus, vaccinia virus, avipox virus, and swinepox virus.

20. An immunogenic composition comprising a vector as claimed in claim 19.

21. The vector of claim 19 wherein the virus is a canarypox virus.

22. An immunogenic composition comprising a vector as claimed in claim 21.

23. The vector of any one of claims 1,9,2-6, and 10-13 wherein the vector comprises a DNA plasmid.

24. An immunogenic composition comprising a vector as claimed in claim 23.

25. An immunogenic composition comprising a vector as claimed in any one of claims 1,9,2-6, and 10-13.

26. An isolated DNA molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1,2,3,4 and 6.

27. The isolated DNA molecule of claim 26 wherein the DNA molecule comprising SEQ ID NO: 1.

28. The isolated DNA molecule of claim 26 wherein the DNA molecule comprising SEQ ID NO: 2.

29. The isolated DNA molecule of claim 26 wherein the DNA molecule comprising SEQ ID NO: 3.

30. The isolated DNA molecule of claim 26 wherein the DNA molecule comprising SEQ ID NO: 4.

31. The isolated DNA molecule of claim 26 wherein the DNA molecule comprising SEQ ID NO: 6.

32. An isolated DNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an epitope which is specific to PCV-2 and not specific to PCV-1.

33. A vector comprising an isolated DNA molecule as claimed in claim 1.

34. The vector according to claim 33, wherein the isolated DNA molecule is expressed in vivo.

35. The vector according to claim 33, wherein the isolated DNA molecule is expressed in vitro.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,368,601 B1
DATED : April 9, 2002
INVENTOR(S) : Gordon Allan et al.

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Title page.

Item [73], Assignee: change "Lyons" to -- Lyon --

Column 27.

Line 44, change "claims 38-49" to -- claims 1-6 and 9-13 --

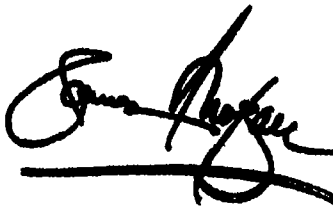
Column 28.

Line 43, change "1" to -- 32 --

Signed and Sealed this

Eighth Day of October, 2002

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Rogan", with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Attesting Officer

JAMES E. ROGAN
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

EXHIBIT B

FILED IN CLERK'S OFFICE
U.S.D.C. Atlanta

DEC 15 2005

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

LUTHER D. THOMAS, Clerk
By: *LDW* Deputy Clerk

MERIAL LIMITED,

Plaintiff,

v.

INTERVET, INC.,

Defendant.

Civil Case No.

1:05-CV-3168

**COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT
AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff Merial Limited ("Merial"), for its Complaint for Patent Infringement against Defendant Intervet, Inc. ("Intervet"), alleges as follows:

NATURE OF ACTION

1. This is an action in which Plaintiff Merial seeks damages and injunctive relief under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 1 et seq., from Defendant Intervet's infringement of Merial's U.S. Patent No. 6,368,601, entitled Porcine Circovirus Vaccine and Diagnostic Reagents ("the '601 patent"). A true and correct copy of the '601 patent is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

PARTIES

2. Plaintiff Merial is one of the world's leading animal healthcare companies. Merial develops, produces and sells veterinary pharmaceuticals and

vaccines for livestock, pets and wildlife. Of particular relevance here, Merial has contributed to and continues to contribute to research in the Swine Health field. Merial has products for treating diseases in pigs, products for preventing diseases in pigs, and other products for controlling and preventing diseases in pigs and for alleviating pain and inflammation in pigs. Merial is a company limited by shares registered in England and Wales with a registered office in England, and domesticated in the state of Delaware as Merial LLC. Merial's North American Operational Headquarters is located in Duluth, Georgia.

3. Upon information and belief, Defendant Intervet is a corporation, having its principal place of business located at 29160 Intervet Lane, in Millsboro, Delaware.

JURISDICTION VENUE

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Sections 1331 and 1338(a).

5. On information and belief Intervet sells or causes to be sold veterinary pharmaceuticals or vaccines in this judicial district and is thereby doing business in this judicial district.

6. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant Intervet by virtue of its actions and those of its agents which directly infringe or which induce or

knowingly contribute in the infringement of the '601 patent within this state and/or its systematic and continuous contact with this state.

7. Venue is proper in this District under Title 28, United States Code, Sections 1391 and 1400(b).

COUNT 1

CLAIM FOR INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 6,368,601

8. The allegations in Paragraphs 1 through 7 of this Complaint are incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in their entirety.

9. The United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued the '601 patent on April 9, 2002.

10. The '601 patent is assigned to Merial SAS, Lyon, France, the Queen's University of Belfast, and the University of Saskatchewan. Merial SAS is wholly-owned by Plaintiff Merial, and Plaintiff Merial is exclusively licensed under the '601 patent.

11. The '601 patent generally relates to Porcine Circovirus vaccines. Porcine Circovirus is a causative agent of post-weaning multisystemic wasting syndrome (PMWS) in pigs. PMWS is an infection of young pigs (usually 8-16 weeks old). PMWS tends to be a slow and progressive disease with a high fatality in affected pigs. PMWS or Porcine Circovirus infection can have devastating

economic consequences. Mortality in acutely infected herds varies from 5 to 50%, and chronically infected herds may sustain losses of 15% from weaning to slaughter, on average.

12. Merial's business activities include Porcine Circovirus vaccines. Indeed, Merial has been and continues to be involved in research involving Porcine Circovirus and PMWS. Merial publishes a quarterly Swine Bibliographical Bulletin and has also sponsored the publication of a book on Porcine Circovirus and PMWS. Furthermore, Merial owns or has the exclusive rights under numerous patents worldwide in the field of Porcine Circovirus and PMWS. Through its wholly owned company Merial SAS, Merial makes a Porcine Circovirus vaccine called CIRCOVAC®. CIRCOVAC® is approved for use in sows in Europe; and Merial is seeking authorization to market CIRCOVAC® in the United States. It is reported that there have been 35,000 sows in Germany vaccinated with CIRCOVAC® and 40,000 sows in France vaccinated with CIRCOVAC®. CIRCOVAC® has been reported to be effective. CIRCOVAC® is believed to be the first approved Porcine Circovirus vaccine. Thus, Merial develops, has developed, makes, has made, uses, has used, sells, or has sold, or causes to be developed, made, used, or sold, Porcine Circovirus vaccines.

13. Upon information and belief, Intervet has infringed, contributed to the infringement of, and/or actively induced the infringement of claims of the '601 patent by making, using, selling, and/or offering for sale products, including, but not limited, to a Porcine Circovirus vaccine, in the United States (Intervet's "infringing acts").

14. Upon information and belief, Intervet has had notice of the '601 patent, and its infringement of the '601 patent has been deliberate and willful.

15. Intervet's infringing acts have not been authorized by Merial, and are in violation of Merial's patent rights.

16. As a direct result of Intervet's infringing acts, Merial has suffered and continues to suffer damage and irreparable harm.

17. Merial has no adequate remedy at law for Intervet's infringing acts. Unless and until Intervet's infringing acts are enjoined by this Court, Merial will continue to be damaged and irreparably harmed.

WHEREFORE, Merial prays that the Court:

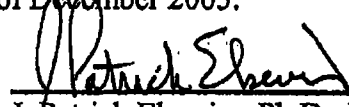
- (a) Enter a judgment that Intervet has infringed, either directly, by contribution or inducement, one or more claims of the '601 patent;

- (b) Preliminarily and permanently enjoin Intervet and those in privity with it from further acts of direct infringement, contributory infringement and inducement of infringement of the '601 patent;
- (c) Award Merial damages adequate to compensate it for Intervet's infringement of the '601 patent;
- (d) Declare that Intervet's infringement of the '601 patent has been knowing and willful;
- (e) Treble the award of damages pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284 and in view of the willful nature of Intervet's infringement;
- (f) Declare this to be an exceptional case pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285;
- (g) Award Merial its attorneys' fees, costs and expenses in this action; and
- (h) Award Merial prejudgment interest, and such further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURY TRIAL DEMAND

Plaintiff Merial demands a trial by jury of all issues so triable in this action.

Respectfully submitted this 15th day of December 2005.



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Counsel for Plaintiff Merial Limited



US006368601B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Allan et al.

(10) Patent No.: **US 6,368,601 B1**
(45) Date of Patent: **Apr. 9, 2002**

(54) **PORCINE CIRCOVIRUS VACCINE AND
DIAGNOSTICS REAGENTS**

(75) Inventors: Gordon Allan; Brian Meehan, both of
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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 09/082,558

(22) Filed: May 21, 1998

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

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(51) Int. Cl.⁷ A61K 39/12; A61K 31/70;
C12Q 1/70; C12H 15/00; C12N 7/00
(52) U.S. Cl. 424/204.1; 514/44; 435/5;
435/235.1; 435/320.1; 536/23.1; 536/23.4
(58) Field of Search 536/23.1, 23.4;
435/5, 320.1, 235.1; 514/44; 424/204.1

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to new porcine circovirus strains
isolated from pulmonary or ganglionic samples obtained
from farms affected by the post-weaning multisystemic
wasting syndrome (PMWS). It relates to purified prepara-
tions of these strains, conventional attenuated or inactivated
vaccines, recombinant live vaccines, plasmid vaccines and
subunit vaccines, as well as reagents and diagnostic meth-
ods. It also relates to the DNA fragments which can be used
for the production of subunits in an in vitro expression
vector or as sequences to be integrated into a virus or
plasmid type in vivo expression vector.

35 Claims, 18 Drawing Sheets

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Figure No. 1

Sequence of the PCV Imp1011-48121 isolate (SEQ ID No. 1)

```

1  AATTCAACTT TAACCTTTCT TATTCTGTAG TATTCAAAGG GCACAGAGCG
51  GGGGTTTGGG CCCCCTCCTG GGGGAAGAAA GTCATTATA TTGAATCTCA
101 TCATGTCCAC CCCCCAGGAG GGCCTTCTGA CTGTGGTTCC CTTGACAGTA
151 TATCCGAAGG TGCGGGAGAG GCGGGTGTTC AAGATGCCAT TTTTCTTCT
201 CCAGCGGTAA CGGTGGCGGG GGTGGACGAG CCAGGGGCGG CCGCGGAGGA
251 TCTGGCCAAG ATGGCTGCGG GGGCGGTGTC TTCTTCTCCG GTAACGCTC
301 CTTGATACG TCATATCTGA AAACGAAAGA AGTGCCTGT AGTATTACC
351 AGCGCACTTC GGCAGCGGCA GCACCTCGGC AGCACCTCAG CAGCAACATG
401 CCGAGCAAGA AGAATGGAAG AAGCGGACCC CAACCCATA AAAGGTGGGT
451 GTTCACTCTG AATAATCCTT CCGAAGACGA GCGCAAGAAA ATACGGGATC
501 TTCCAATATC CCTATTGAT TATTTTATTG TTGGCGAGGA GGGTAATGAG
551 GAAGGACGAA CACCTCACCT CCAGGGGTTT GCTAATTTTG TGAAGAAGCA
601 GACTTTTAAAT AAAGTGAAGT GGTATTTGGG TGCCCGCTGC CACATCGAGA
651 AAGCGAAAGG AACAGATCAG CAGAATAAAG AATACTGCAG TAAAGAAGGC
701 AACTTACTGA TGGAGTGTTG AGCTCTAGA TCTCAGGGAC AACGGAGTGA
751 CCTGTCTACT GCTGTGAGTA CCTTGTGGA GAGCGGAGT CTGGTGACCG
801 TTGCAGAGCA GCACCTGTA ACCTTTGTCA GAAATTTCCG CCGGCTGGCT
851 GAACTTTTGA AAGTGAGCGG GAAAATGCAG AAGCGTGATT GGAAGACTAA
901 TGTACACGTC ATTGTGGGGC CACCTGGGTG TGGTAAAAGC AAATGGGCTG
951 CTAATTTTGC AGACCCGGAA ACTACATACT GGAAACCACC TAGAAACAAG
1001 TGGTGGGATG GTTACCATGG TGAAGAAGTG GTTGTATTG ATGACTTTTA
1051 TGGCTGGCTG CCCTGGGATG ATCTACTGAG ACTGTGTGAT CGATATCCAT
1101 TGACTGTAGA GACTAAAGGT GGAAGTGTAC CTTTTTTGGC CCUCAGTATT
1151 CTGATTACCA GCAATCAGAC CCCGTTGGAA TGGTACTCCT CAACTGCTGT
1201 CCCAGCTGTA GAAGCTCTTT ATCGGAGGAT TACTTCCTTG GTATTTTGA

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Figure No. 1 (continuation and end)

1251 AGAATGCTAC AGAACAATCC ACGGAGGAAG GGGGCCAGTT COTCACCCTT
1301 TCCCCCCCAT GCCCTGAATT TCCATATGAA ATAAATTACT GAGTCTTTTT
1351 TATCACTTCG TAATGGTTTT TATTATTCAI TAAGGGTTAA GTGGGGGGTC
1401 TTTAAGATTA AATTCTCTGA ATTGTACATA CATGGTTACA CGGATATTGT
1451 ATTCTGGTC GTATATACTG TTTTCGAACG CAGTGCCGAG GCCTACGTGG
1501 TCTACATTC CAGCAGTTG TAGTCTCAGC CACAGCTGGT TTCTTTTGT
1551 GTTTGGTTGG AAGTAATCAA TAGTGAATC TAGGACAGGT TTGGGGGTAA
1601 AGTAGCGGGA GTGGTAGGAG AAGGGCTGGG TTATGGTATG GCGGGAGGAG
1651 TAGTTTACAT AGGGGTCATA GGTGAGGGCT GTGGCCTTTG TTACAAAGTT
1701 ATCATCTAGA ATAACAGCAC TGGAGCCAC TCCCCTGTCA CCCTGGGTGA
1751 TCGGGGAGCA GGGCCAG

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Sequence of the PCV Impl011-48285 isolate (SEQ ID No. 2)

```

1  AATTCACCT TAACCTTCT TATTCTGTAG TATTCAAAGG GCACAGAGCG
51  GGGGTTTGA GGGGCTCTG GGGGAAGAA GTCATTAAAT TTGAATCTCA
101 TCATGTCCAC CCCCCAGGAG GCGGTTTGA CTGTGTTCCG CTTGACAGTA
151 TATCCGAAGG TGCGGAGAG GCGGGTGTG AAGATGCCAT TTTTCTTCT
201 CCAGCGGTAA CGGTGGCGGG GGTGGACGAG CCAGGGGCGG CCGCGGAGGA
251 TCTGGCCAAG ATGGCTGCGG GGGCGGTGT TCTTCTCCG GTACGCTTC
301 CTGGATACG TCATATCTGA AAACGAAGA AGTGGCTGT AATATTACC
351 AGCGCACTTC GGCAGCGGCA GCACCTCGG AGCACCTCAG CAGCAACATG
401 CCCAGCAAGA AGAATGGAG AAGCGGACCC CAACCCATA AAAGTGGGT
451 GTTCACTCTG AATAATCCT CCGAAGACGA GCGCAAGAA ATACGGGATC
501 TTCCAATATC CCTATTGAT TATTTAATG TTGGCGAGGA GGGTAATGAG
551 GAAGGACGAA CACCTCACC CCAGGGGTC GCTAATTTC TGAAGAAGCA
601 GACTTTTAAT AAAGTGAAGT GGTATTGGG TGCCGCTGC CACATCGAGA
651 AAGCGAAAGG AACAGATCAG CAGAATAAG AATACTGAG TAAAGAAGGC
701 AACTTACTGA TGGAGTGTG AGCTCCTAG TCTCAGGAC AACGGAGTGA
751 CCTGTCTACT GCTGTGAGTA CCTTGTGGA GAGCGGAGT CTGGTGACCG
801 TTGCAGAGCA GCACCTGTA AGTTTGTCA GAAATTTCC CCGGCTGGCT
851 GAACTTTGA AAGTGAGCG GAAATGCAG AAGCGTGAT GGAAGACTAA
901 TGTACAGTC ATTGTGGGC CACCTGGTG TGGTAAAGC AAATGGGCTG
951 CTAATTTTC AGACCCGAA ACCACATACT GGAACTACC TAGAAACAG
1001 TGGTGGATG GTTACCATG TGAAGAAGT GTTGTATTG ATGACTTTA
1051 TGGCTGGCTG CCTGGGATG ATCTACTGAG ACTGTGTGAT CGATATCCAT
1101 TGACTGTAGA GACTAAAGT GGAAGTGTAC CTTTTTGGC CCGCAGTATT
1151 CTGATTACCA GCAATCAGAC CCCGTTGAA TGGTACTCCT CAACTGCTGT
1201 CCCAGCTGTA GAAGCTCTT ATCGGAGGAT TACTTCCTG GTATTTTGA

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Figure No. 2 (continuation and end)

1251 AGAATGCTAC AGAACAATCC ACGGAGGAAG GGGGCCAGTT CGTCACCCCTT
1301 TCCCCCCCAT GCCCTGAATT TCCATATGAA ATAAATTACT GAGTCTTTTT
1351 TATCACTTCG TAATGGTTTT TATTATTCAT TAAGGGTTAA GTGGGGGGTC
1401 TTTAAGATTA AATTCTCTGA ATTGTACATA CATGGTTACA CGGATATTGT
1451 ATTCCTGGTC GTATATACTG TTTTCCAACG CAGTCCCGAG GCCTACGTGG
1501 TCTACATTTC CAGTAGTTTG TAGTCTCAGC CACAGCTGAT TTCTTTTGTT
1551 GTTTGGTTGG AAGTAATCAA TAGTGGAATC TAGGACAGGT TTGGGGGTAA
1601 AGTAGCGGGA GTGGTAGGAG AAGGGCTGGG TTATGGTATG GCGGGAGGAG
1651 TAGTTTACAT AGGGGTCATA GGTGAGGGCT GTGGCCTTGG TTACAAAGTT
1701 ATCATCTAGA ATAACAGCAC TGGAGCCAC TCCCCTGTCA CCCTGGGTGA
1751 TCGGGGAGCA GGGCCAG

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Figure No. 3

Sequence of the PCV Imp999 isolate (SEQ ID No. 3)

```

1  AATTCAACT TAACCTTTT TATTCTGTAG TATTCAAAAG GTATAGAGAT
51  TTTGTTGGTC CCCCCTCCCG GGGGAACAAA GTCGTCAATA TTAATCTCA
101 TCATGTCCAC CGCCCAAGAG GCGTTCTGA CTGTGGTAGC CTTGACAGTA
151 TATCCGAAGG TCGCGGAGAG GCGGGTGTG AAGATGCCAT TTTTCTTCT
201 CCAACGGTAG CGGTGGCGGG GGTGGACGAG CCAGGGCGCG CGGCGGAGGA
251 TCTGGCCAAG ATGGCTGCGG GGGCGGTGTC TTCTTCTGCG GTAACTGCTC
301 CTTGGATACG TCATAGCTGA AAACGAAGA AGTGCGCTGT AAGTATTACC
351 AGCGCACTTC GGCAGCGGCA GCACCTCGGC AGCACTCAG CAGCAACATG
401 CCCAGCAAGA AGAATGGAAG AAGCGGACCC CAACACATA AAAGGTGGT
451 GTTCACGCTG AATAATCTT CCGAAGACGA GCGCAAGAAA ATACGGGAGC
501 TCCCAATCTC CCTATTGAT TATTTATTG TTGGCGAGGA GGGTAATGAG
551 GAAGGACGAA CACCTCACCT CCAGGGGTTT GCTAATTTTG TGAAGAAGCA
601 AACTTTTAAT AAGTGAAGT GGTATTGGG TGCCCGCTGC CACATCGAGA
651 AAGCCAAAGG AACTGATCAG CAGAATAAG AATATTGCG TAAAGAAGGC
701 AACTTACTTA TTGAATGTGG AGCTCCTCGA TCTCAAGGAC AACGGAGTGA
751 CCTGTCTACT GCTGTGAGTA CTTGTGTGGA GAGCGGAGT CTGTTGACCG
801 TTGCAGAGCA GCACCTGTA ACCTTTGTCA GAAATTTCCG CGGGCTGGCT
851 GAACTTTTGA AAGTGAGCGG GAAATGCGA AAGCGTGATT GGAAGACCA
901 TGTACACGTC ATTGTGGGCG CACCTGGGTG TGGTAAAGC AAATGGGCTG
951 CTAATTTTGC AGACCCGGAA ACCACATACT GGAACCACC TAGAACAAG
1001 TGGTGGGATG GTTACCATGG TGAAGAAGTG GTTGTATTG ATGACTTTTA
1051 TGGCTGGCTG CCGTGGGATG ATCTACTGAG ACTGTGTGAT CGATATCCAT
1101 TGACTGTAGA GACTAAAGGT GGAAGTGTAC CTTTTTGGC CCGCAGTATT
1151 CTGATTACCA GCAATCAGAC CCCGTTGGAA TGTACTCTT CAACTGCTGT
1201 CCCAGCTGTA GAAGCTCTCT ATCGGAGGAT TACTTCCTTG GTATTTTGA

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Figure No. 3 (continuation and end)

1251 AGAATGCTAC AGRACATCC ACGGAGGAAG GGGGCCAGTT CGTCACCCCT
1301 TCCCCCCEAT GCGCTGAATT TCCATATGAA ATAAATTAAT GAGTCTTTTT
1351 TATCACTTCG TAATGGTTTT TATTATTCAT TTAGGGTTTA AGTGGGGGGT
1401 CTTTAAGATT AAATTCTCTG AATTGTACAT ACATGGTTAC ACGGATATTG
1451 TAGTCCTGGT CGTATATACT GTTTTCGAAC GCAGTGCCGA GGCCTACGTG
1501 GTCCACATTT CTAGAGGTTT GTAGCCTCAG CCAAAGCTGA TTCCTTTTGT
1551 TATTTGGTTG GAAGTAATCA ATAGTGGAGT CAAGAACAGG TTTGGGTGTG
1601 AAGTAACGGG AGTGGTAGGA GAAGGGTTGG GGGATTGTAT GCGGGGAGGA
1651 GTAGTTTACA TATGGTTCAT AGTTTAGGCC TGTGGCCTTT GTTACAAAGT
1701 TATCATCTAG AATAACAGCA GTGGAGCCCA CTCCCCTATC ACCCTGGGTG
1751 ATGGGGGAGC AGGCCAG

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Figure No. 4

Sequence of the PCV Imp1010 isolate (SEQ ID No. 4)

```

1  AATTC AACCT TAACCTTTCT TATTCTGTAG TATTCAAAGG GTATAGAGAT
51  TTGTGTCGTC CCCCCCTCCCG GGGGAACAAA GTCGTCAATT TTAATCTCA
101 TCATGTCCAC CGCCGAGGAG GCGGTGTGTA CTGTGTACG CTTGACAGTA
151 TATCCGAAGG TGCGGGAGAG GCGGGTGTG AAGATGCCAT TTTTCCTTCT
201 CCAACGGTAG CGGTGGCGGG GGTGGACGAG CCAAGGGCGG CGGCGAGGA
251 TCTGGCCAAG ATGGCTGCCG GGGCGGTGTC TTCTTCTGCG GTAACGCTC
301 CTTGGATACG TCATAGCTGA AAACGAAGA AGTGCGCTGT AAGTATTACC
351 AGCGCACTTC GGCAGCGGCA GCACCTCGGC AGCACCTCAG CAGCAACATG
401 CCCAGCAAGA AGAATGGAAG AAGCGGACCC CAACCACATA AAAGTGGGT
451 GTTCACGCTG AATAATCCTT CCGAAGACGA GCGCAAGAA ATACGGGAGC
501 TCCCAATCTC CCTATTGAT TATTTTATTT TGGCGAGGA GGTAAATGAG
551 GAAGGACGAA CACCTCACCT CCAGGGGTTT GCTAATTTTG TGAAGAAGCA
601 AACTTTTAAAT AAAGTGAAGT GGTATTTGGG TGCCCGCTGC CACATCGAGA
651 AAGCCAAAGG AACTGATCAG CAGAATAAAG AATATTGCAG TAAGAAGGC
701 AACTTACTTA TTGAATGTGG AGCTCCTCGA TCTCAAGGAC AACGGAGTGA
751 CCTGTCTACT GCTGTGAGTA CCTTGTGGA GAGCGGGAGT CTGTGACCG
801 TTGCAGAGCA GCACCTGTA ACGTTTGTCA GAAATTTCCG CGGGCTGGCT
851 GAACTTTTGA AAGTGAGCGG GAAATGCAG AAGCGTGATT GGAAGACCAA
901 TGTACACGTC ATTGTGGGGC CACCTGGGTG TGGTAAAGC AAATGGGCTG
951 CTAATTTTGC AGACCCGGAA ACCACTACT GGAAACCACC TAGAAACAAG
1001 TGGTGGGATG GTTACCATGG TGAAGAAGTG GTTGTATTG ATGACTTTTA
1051 TGGCTGGCTG CCGTGGGATG ATCTACTGAG ACTGTGTGAT CGATATCCAT
1101 TGACTGTAGA GACTAAAGGT GGAAGTGTAC CTTTTTTGGC CGGCAGTATT
1151 CTGATTACCA GCAATCAGAC CCCGTTGGAA TGGTACTCCT CAACTGCTGT
1201 CCCAGCTGTA GAAGCTCTCT ATCGGAGGAT TACTTCCTTG GTATTTTGGG

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Figure No. 4 (continuation and end)

1251 AGAATGCTAC AGAACAATCC ACGGAGGAAG GGGGCCAGTT CGTCACCCCTT
1301 TCCCCCCCAT GCCCTGAATT TCCATATGAA ATAAATTACT GAGTCTTTTTT
1351 TATCACITCG TAATGGTTTT TATTATTCAT TTAGGGTTTA AGTGGGGGGT
1401 CTTTAAGATT AAATTCTCTG AATTGTACAT ACATGGTTAC ACGGATATTG
1451 TAGTCCTGGT CGTATTTACT GTTTTCGAAC GCAGCGCCGA GGCCTACGTG
1501 GTCCACATTT CCAGAGGTTT GTAGTCTCAG CCAAAGCTGA TTCCTTTTGT
1551 TATTTGGTTG GAAGTAATCA ATAGTGGAGT CAAGAACAGG TTTGGGTGTG
1601 AAGTAACGGG AGTGGTAGGA GAAGGGTTGG GGGATTGTAT GGCGGGAGGA
1651 GTAGTTTACA TATGGGTCAT AGGTTAGGGC TGTGGCCTTT GTTACAAAGT
1701 TATCATCTAG AATACAGCA GTGGAGCCCA CTCCTTATC ACCCTGGGTG
1751 ATGGGGGAGC AGGGCCAG

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Figure No. 5

CLUSTAL W multiple sequence alignment

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PCVPK-15      AATTCATATTAGCTTTCTAATACGGTAGTATTGGAAGGTAGGGGTAGGGGTTGGTG
IMP999-ECO    AATTCACCTTAACCTTTTATTCTGTAGTATTGGAAGGTATAGAGATTTTGTGTC
IMP1010-ST    AATTCACCTTAACCTTTCTATTCTGTAGTATTGGAAGGTATAGAGATTTTGTGTC
IMP1011-48    AATTCACCTTAACCTTTCTATTCTGTAGTATTGGAAGGTACAGAGCGGGGTTTGAG
IMP1011-48    AATTCACCTTAACCTTTCTATTCTGTAGTATTGGAAGGTACAGAGCGGGGTTTGAG
*****      ***      * * * * *      * * * * *

PCVPK-15      CCGCTGAGGGGGGAGGAAGTGGCGGATGTTGAATTGAGGTAGTTAACATTCCAGAT
IMP999-ECO    CCGCTCCCGGGGAGCAAGTGGTCAATATTAAATCTCATCATGTCACCGCCAGGAG
IMP1010-ST    CCGCTCCCGGGGAGCAAGTGGTCAATTTTAAATCTCATCATGTCACCGCCAGGAG
IMP1011-48    CCGCTCCCGGGGAGCAAGTCAATAATTTGAATCTCATCATGTCACCGCCAGGAG
IMP1011-48    CCGCTCCCGGGGAGCAAGTCAATAATTTGAATCTCATCATGTCACCGCCAGGAG
** ***      * * * * *      * * * * *      * * * * *

PCVPK-15      GGC--TGCAGTATCCTCCTTT-ATGGTGAATACAAATTCGTAGAAAGCGGGGAATG
IMP999-ECO    GGCCTTCTGACTGTGGTAGCCTTGACAGTATATCCGAAGGTGCGGAGAGCGGGTGTG
IMP1010-ST    GGCCTTCTGACTGTGGTAGCCTTGACAGTATATCCGAAGGTGCGGAGAGCGGGTGTG
IMP1011-48    GGCCTTCTGACTGTGGTTGCTTGACAGTATATCCGAAGGTGCGGAGAGCGGGTGTG
IMP1011-48    GGCCTTTTGAATGTGGTTGCTTGACAGTATATCCGAAGGTGCGGAGAGCGGGTGTG
*** * * * *      * * * * *      * * * * *      * * * * *

PCVPK-15      AAGATACCCGTCCTTCGGCCCATCTGTAAAGGTTTCTGAAGGCGGGGTGTGCCAATAT
IMP999-ECO    AAGATGCCATTTTCTCTTCCAGCGTAGCGGTGGC-GGGGTTGA-CGAGCCAGGGGC
IMP1010-ST    AAGATGCCATTTTCTCTTCCAGCGTAGCGGTGGC-GGGGTTGA-CGAGCCAGGGGC
IMP1011-48    AAGATGCCATTTTCTCTTCCAGCGGTAAAGGTGGC-GGGGTTGA-CGAGCCAGGGGC
IMP1011-48    AAGATGCCATTTTCTCTTCCAGCGGTAAAGGTGGC-GGGGTTGA-CGAGCCAGGGGC
*****      * * * * *      * * * * *      * * * * *

PCVPK-15      GGTCTTCTCCGAGGATGTTTCCAGATGGCTGCGGGGCGGGTCTTCTTCTCGGTAA
IMP999-ECO    GG----CGGCGAGGATCTGGCCAGATGGCTGCGGGGCGGGTCTTCTTCTCGGTAA
IMP1010-ST    GG----CGGCGAGGATCTGGCCAGATGGCTGCGGGGCGGGTCTTCTTCTCGGTAA
IMP1011-48    GG----CGGCGAGGATCTGGCCAGATGGCTGCGGGGCGGGTCTTCTTCTCGGTAA
IMP1011-48    GG----CGGCGAGGATCTGGCCAGATGGCTGCGGGGCGGGTCTTCTTCTCGGTAA
**      * * * * *      * * * * *      * * * * *

PCVPK-15      CGCCTCCTTGGCCAGCTCATCTATATAAAGTGAAGAAGTGGCTGCTGTAGTATTACCA
IMP999-ECO    CGCCTCCTTGGATACGTCATAGC-TGAAAACGAAGAAGTGGCTGTA--AGTATTACCA
IMP1010-ST    CGCCTCCTTGGATACGTCATAGC-TGAAAACGAAGAAGTGGCTGTA--AGTATTACCA
IMP1011-48    CGCCTCCTTGGATACGTCATATC-TGAAAACGAAGAAGTGGCTGTA--AGTATTACCA
IMP1011-48    CGCCTCCTTGGATACGTCATATC-TGAAAACGAAGAAGTGGCTGTA--AGTATTACCA
*****      * * * * *      * * * * *      * * * * *

PCVPK-15      GCGCACTTCGGCAGCGGCAGCACCTCGGCAGCG--TCASTG--AAAATGCCAAGCAAGAA
IMP999-ECO    GCGCACTTCGGCAGCGGCAGCACCTCGGCAGCACCTCAGCAGCAACATGCCAGCAAGAA
IMP1010-ST    GCGCACTTCGGCAGCGGCAGCACCTCGGCAGCACCTCAGCAGCAACATGCCAGCAAGAA
IMP1011-48    GCGCACTTCGGCAGCGGCAGCACCTCGGCAGCACCTCAGCAGCAACATGCCAGCAAGAA
IMP1011-48    GCGCACTTCGGCAGCGGCAGCACCTCGGCAGCACCTCAGCAGCAACATGCCAGCAAGAA
*****      * * * * *      * * * * *      * * * * *

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Figure No. 5 (continuation)

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PCVPK-15 -----AAGCGGCCCCAACCCCATAGAGGTGGGTGTTCCAGCTTAATAATCCTTC
IMP999-ECO GAATGGAGAGCGGACCCCAACCAATAAAGGTGGGTGTTCCAGCTTAATAATCCTTC
IMP1010-ST GAATGGAGAGCGGACCCCAACCAATAAAGGTGGGTGTTCCAGCTTAATAATCCTTC
IMP1011-48 GAATGGAGAGCGGACCCCAACCCATAAAGGTGGGTGTTCCAGCTTAATAATCCTTC
IMP1011-48 GAATGGAGAGCGGACCCCAACCCATAAAGGTGGGTGTTCCAGCTTAATAATCCTTC
*****

PCVPK-15 CGAGGAGGAGAAACAAAATACGGGAGCTTCCAACTCCCTTTTGATTATTTTGTG
IMP999-ECO CGAGGAGGAGGAGAAATAACGGGAGCTTCCAACTCCCTATTGATTATTTTGTG
IMP1010-ST CGAGGAGGAGGAGGAGAAATACGGGAGCTTCCAACTCCCTATTGATTATTTTGTG
IMP1011-48 CGAGGAGGAGGAGGAGAAATACGGGATCTTCCAACTCCCTATTGATTATTTTGTG
IMP1011-48 CGAGGAGGAGGAGGAGAAATACGGGATCTTCCAACTCCCTATTGATTATTTTGTG
***

PCVPK-15 CGGAGAGGAGGTTTGGAGAGGGTAGAAGCTCTCAGCTCCAGGGTTTGCBAATTTTC
IMP999-ECO TGGCAGGAGGTTTAAAGAGAGGAGGAGACCTCAGCTCCAGGGTTTGCCTAATTTGT
IMP1010-ST TGGCAGGAGGTTTAAAGAGAGGAGGAGACCTCAGCTCCAGGGTTTGCCTAATTTGT
IMP1011-48 TGGCAGGAGGTTTAAAGAGAGGAGGAGACCTCAGCTCCAGGGTTTGCCTAATTTGT
IMP1011-48 TGGCAGGAGGTTTAAAGAGAGGAGGAGACCTCAGCTCCAGGGTTTGCCTAATTTGT
**

PCVPK-15 TAAGAGCAGACTTTTAAAGAGGTGAAGTGGTATTTGGTCCCGCTGCCACATCGAGAA
IMP999-ECO GAAGAGCAGACTTTTAAAGAGGTGAAGTGGTATTTGGTCCCGCTGCCACATCGAGAA
IMP1010-ST GAAGAGCAGACTTTTAAAGAGGTGAAGTGGTATTTGGTCCCGCTGCCACATCGAGAA
IMP1011-48 GAAGAGCAGACTTTTAAAGAGGTGAAGTGGTATTTGGTCCCGCTGCCACATCGAGAA
IMP1011-48 GAAGAGCAGACTTTTAAAGAGGTGAAGTGGTATTTGGTCCCGCTGCCACATCGAGAA
*****

PCVPK-15 AGCGAAGGAGACGACAGCAGAGATTAAGAACTGCGTAAGAGGCGACATACTTAT
IMP999-ECO AGCGAAGGAGACTGATCAGCAGATTAAGAACTATTCAGTAAGAGGCGACTTACTTAT
IMP1010-ST AGCGAAGGAGACTGATCAGCAGATTAAGAACTATTCAGTAAGAGGCGACTTACTTAT
IMP1011-48 AGCGAAGGAGACTGATCAGCAGATTAAGAACTATTCAGTAAGAGGCGACTTACTTAT
IMP1011-48 AGCGAAGGAGACTGATCAGCAGATTAAGAACTATTCAGTAAGAGGCGACTTACTTAT
***

PCVPK-15 CGAGTGTGAGCTCCGCGAACCGGGAGCGCAGCGACTTGTCTACTGCTGTGAGTAC
IMP999-ECO TGAATGTGAGCTCCTCGATCTCAAGGACACCGAGTGAAGTGTCTACTGCTGTGAGTAC
IMP1010-ST TGAATGTGAGCTCCTCGATCTCAAGGACACCGAGTGAAGTGTCTACTGCTGTGAGTAC
IMP1011-48 GGAATGTGAGCTCCTAGATCTCAAGGACACCGAGTGAAGTGTCTACTGCTGTGAGTAC
IMP1011-48 GGAATGTGAGCTCCTAGATCTCAAGGACACCGAGTGAAGTGTCTACTGCTGTGAGTAC
**

PCVPK-15 CCTTTTGGAGACGGGTCTTTGGTGAAGTGTAGCGGAGCACTTCCCTGTAAAGTTGTGAG
IMP999-ECO CTTGTTGGAGAGCGGAGTCTGGTGAAGTGTAGCGGAGCACTTGTAAAGTTGTGAG
IMP1010-ST CTTGTTGGAGAGCGGAGTCTGGTGAAGTGTAGCGGAGCACTTGTAAAGTTGTGAG
IMP1011-48 CTTGTTGGAGAGCGGAGTCTGGTGAAGTGTAGCGGAGCACTTGTAAAGTTGTGAG
IMP1011-48 CTTGTTGGAGAGCGGAGTCTGGTGAAGTGTAGCGGAGCACTTGTAAAGTTGTGAG
*

PCVPK-15 AAATTTCCGCGGCTGGCTGAAGCTTTTGAAGTGAAGCGGAGGATGAGCAGCGTGAATG
IMP999-ECO AAATTTCCGCGGCTGGCTGAAGCTTTTGAAGTGAAGCGGAGGATGAGCAGCGTGAATG
IMP1010-ST AAATTTCCGCGGCTGGCTGAAGCTTTTGAAGTGAAGCGGAGGATGAGCAGCGTGAATG
IMP1011-48 AAATTTCCGCGGCTGGCTGAAGCTTTTGAAGTGAAGCGGAGGATGAGCAGCGTGAATG
IMP1011-48 AAATTTCCGCGGCTGGCTGAAGCTTTTGAAGTGAAGCGGAGGATGAGCAGCGTGAATG
*****

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Figure No. 5 (continuation and end)

PCVPK-15 GTTTTAAATTTTAAATTA---TTTA----GAGGTCCTTTAGGATAAAATTCCTGAATTG
 IMP999-ECO GTTTTAAATTAATTCATTAGGGTTTAAAGTGGGGGCTCTTAAGATAAAATTCCTGAATTG
 IMP1010-ST GTTTTAAATTAATTCATTAGGGTTTAAAGTGGGGGCTCTTAAGATAAAATTCCTGAATTG
 IMP1011-48 GTTTTAAATTAATTCATTAGGGTTTAAAGTGGGGGCTCTTAAGATAAAATTCCTGAATTG
 IMP1011-48 GTTTTAAATTAATTCATTAGGGTTTAAAGTGGGGGCTCTTAAGATAAAATTCCTGAATTG
 ***** ** * * * * * ***** **

PCVPK-15 TACATAAATAGTCAGGCTTACCACATAATTTGGGCTGTGGCTGC-ATTTGGAGCCCAT
 IMP999-ECO TACATACATGTTTACACGGATATTTAGTCTCTGG-TCGTATATAGTGTTTTCGAACGCAG
 IMP1010-ST TACATACATGTTTACACGGATATTTAGTCTCTGG-TCGTATATAGTGTTTTCGAACGCAG
 IMP1011-48 TACATACATGTTTACACGGATATTTAGTCTCTGG-TCGTATATAGTGTTTTCGAACGCAG
 IMP1011-48 TACATACATGTTTACACGGATATTTAGTCTCTGG-TCGTATATAGTGTTTTCGAACGCAG
 ***** ** * * * * * ** * ** * * * **** * *

PCVPK-15 AGCCGAGGCTGTGTCTCGACATTGGTGTGGGTATTAAATGGAGCCACAGCTGGTTTC
 IMP999-ECO TGCCGAGGCTTACGTGTCTCCACATTTCAGAGGTTTGTAGGCTCAGCCAAAGCTGATTC
 IMP1010-ST CGCCGAGGCTTACGTGTCTCCACATTTCAGAGGTTTGTAGTCTCAGCCAAAGCTGATTC
 IMP1011-48 TGCCGAGGCTTACGTGTCTCCACATTTCAGAGGTTTGTAGTCTCAGCCACAGCTGGTTTC
 IMP1011-48 TGCCGAGGCTTACGTGTCTCCACATTTCAGAGGTTTGTAGTCTCAGCCACAGCTGATTC
 ***** ** * * * * * ** * ** * * * **** * *

PCVPK-15 TTTTATTATTTGGGTGGAAACCAATCAATTTTGGTCCAGCTCAGGTTTGGGGGTGAAGT
 IMP999-ECO TTTTGTATTGTGTGGAAATTAATCAATAGTGGAGTCAAGAACAGGTTTGGGTGTGAAGT
 IMP1010-ST TTTTGTATTGTGTGGAAATTAATCAATAGTGGAGTCAAGAACAGGTTTGGGTGTGAAGT
 IMP1011-48 TTTTGTATTGTGTGGAAATTAATCAATAGTGGAAATCAAGAACAGGTTTGGGGGTGAAGT
 IMP1011-48 TTTTGTATTGTGTGGAAATTAATCAATAGTGGAAATCAAGAACAGGTTTGGGGGTGAAGT
 **** * * ***** ** * * * * * ***** **

PCVPK-15 ACCGTGAGTGGTAGGTAAGGGCTGCCCTTATGGTGTGGCGGAGGAGTAAATATAGG
 IMP999-ECO AACGGAGTGGTAGGAGAGGGTTGGGGGATTGTATGGCGGAGGAGTAAATACATATG
 IMP1010-ST AACGGAGTGGTAGGAGAGGGTTGGGGGATTGTATGGCGGAGGAGTAAATACATATG
 IMP1011-48 AGCGGGAGTGGTAGGAGAGGGCTGGGTTATGGTATGGCGGAGGAGTAAATACATAGG
 IMP1011-48 AGCGGGAGTGGTAGGAGAGGGCTGGGTTATGGTATGGCGGAGGAGTAAATACATAGG
 * * ***** ** * * * * * ***** **

PCVPK-15 GGTCTAGGCCAGTTGGTGGAGGGGTTACAAAGTTGGCATCCAGATAACAACAGTGG
 IMP999-ECO GGTCTAGGTTAGGGCTGTGGCCTTTGTACAAAGTTATCATCTAGAAATAACAGCACTGG
 IMP1010-ST GGTCTAGGTTAGGGCTGTGGCCTTTGTACAAAGTTATCATCTAGAAATAACAGCACTGG
 IMP1011-48 GGTCTAGGTTAGGGCTGTGGCCTTTGTACAAAGTTATCATCTAGAAATAACAGCACTGG
 IMP1011-48 GGTCTAGGTTAGGGCTGTGGCCTTTGTACAAAGTTATCATCTAGAAATAACAGCACTGG
 ***** * * **** ***** ** * * * * * ***** **

PCVPK-15 ACCCAACACCTCTTTGATTAGAGGTGATGGGCTCTCTGGGTAA
 IMP999-ECO AGCCCACTCCCTATCACCTGGGTGATGGGGAGCAGGGCCAG
 IMP1010-ST AGCCCACTCCCTATCACCTGGGTGATGGGGAGCAGGGCCAG
 IMP1011-48 AGCCCACTCCCTGTACCTGGGTGATGGGGAGCAGGGCCAG
 IMP1011-48 AGCCCACTCCCTGTACCTGGGTGATGGGGAGCAGGGCCAG
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Figure No. 6

1 GAATTCAACT TTAACCTTTT TTATTCTGTA GTATTCAAAG GGTATAAAGA
 51 TTTTGTGGT CCCCCCTCCC GGGGGAACAA AGTCGTCAAT ATTAAATCTC
 101 ATCATGTCCA CCGCCAGGA GGGCCTTCTG ACTGTGGTAG CCTTGACAgT
 151 ATATCCGAAG GTGGGGAGA TGGCGGTGTT GAAATGCCA TTTTTCCTTC
 201 TCCAACGCTA GCGGTGGCG GGGTGGACAA ACCAGGGCG GCGGCGAGG
 251 ATCTGGCCAA GATGGCTGCG GGGGCGGTGT CTCTTCTGCG GGTAAAGCCT
 301 CCTTGATAC GTCATAGCTG AAAACGAAG AAGTGGCTG TAGGTATTAC
 351 CAGCGCACTT CGCAGCGGC AGCAGCTCG CAGCAGCTCA GCAGCAACAT
 401 GCCCAGCAAG AAGAATGGA GAAGCGGACC CCAACCACAT AAAAGGTGGG
 451 TGTTCACGCT GAATAATCCT TCCGAAGACG AGCGCAGAA AATACGGGAG
 501 CTCCCATCT CCTATTGA TTATTTATT GTTGGCAGG AGGCTWTGA
 551 GGAAGACpA ACACCTCACC TCCAGGGTT CGCTAATTTT GTGAAGAAGC
 601 aaACTTETA TAAAGTGAAG TGGTATTTGG GTGCCCCGCTG CCACATCGAG
 651 AAAGCCAAAG GAAGTATCA GCAGAATAAA GAATATTGCA GTAAAGAGG
 701 CACTTACTT ATTGAATGTG GAGCTCCTCG ATCTCAAGGA CAACGGAGTG
 751 ACCTGTCTAC TGCTGTGAGT ACCTGTGTTG AGAGCGGGAG TCTGGTGACC
 801 GTTCAGAGC AGCAGCTGT AACGTTGTC AGAAATTTCC GCGGCTGGC
 85: TGAAGTTTG AAGTGAAGG GGAATGCA GAAGCGTAT TGAAGACCA
 90: ATGTACAGT CATTGTGGG CCACCTGGT GTGTAAAAG CAAATGGCT
 95: GCTAATTTG CAGACCGGA AACCACATC TGGAAACCAC CTAGAAACAA
 100: GTGGTGGAT GGTACCATG GTGAAGAAGT GGTGTTATT GATGACTTTT
 105: ATGGCTGGCT CCGTGGAT GATCTACTGA GACTGTGTGA TCGATATCCA
 110: TTGACTGTAG AGACTAAAG TGAAGTGA CTTTTTTTTG CCGCAGTAT
 115: TCTGATTACC AGCAATCAGA CCGCTTGGG ATGGTACTCC TCAACTGCTG
 120: TCCAGCTGT AGAAGCTCTC TATCGGAGGA TCACTTCTT GGTATTTTGG
 125: AAGAACTGA CAGAACATC CACGGAGGA GGGGGCCAGT TGTACACCT

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Figure No. 6 (continuation)

1301 TTCCCCCCCA TCCCCTGAAT TTCCATATGA AATAAATTAC TGAGTCTTTT
1351 TTATCACTTC GTAATGGTTT TTATTATTCA TTTAGGGTTT AAGTGGGGGG
1401 TCTTTAAGAT TAAATTCTCT GAATTGTACA TACATGGTTA CACGGATATT
1451 GTAGTCCTGG TCGTATATAC TGTITTCGAA CGCAGTGCCG AGGCCTACGT
1501 GGTCCACATT TCTAGAGGTT CGTAGCCTCA GCCAAAGCTG ATTCCTTTTG
1551 TTATTTGGTT GGAAGTAATC AATAGTGGAG TCAAGAACAG GTTTGGGTGT
1601 GAAGTAACGG GAGTGGTAGG AGAAGGGTTG GGGGATTGTA TGGCGGGAGG
1651 AGTAGTTTAC ATATGGGTCA TAGGTTAGGG CTGTGGCCTT TGTACAAAG
1701 TTATCATCTA GAATAACAGC AGTGGAGCCC ACTCCCCTAT CACCCTGGGT
1751 GATGGGGGAG CAGGGCCA

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Figure No. 7

8con.s = sequence clone pGEM-7/8

pcveco = sequence strain PCV PK/15

SCORES Init1: 2517 Initn: 3774 Opt: 4010
75.84 identity in 1705 bp overlap

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      1769      1759      1749      1739      1729      1719
8con.s GAATTCCTGGCCCTGCTCCCTCATCCAGGGTGATAGGGAGTGGGCTCCACTGCTGTT
      |||||  |||  |||||
pcveco GAATTTACCCAGAGACCCCATCCTCTAATCAAAGAGGTGTTGGGTCCACTGTTGTT
      10      20      30      40      50      60

      1709      1699      1689      1679      1669      1659
8con.s ATTCTAGATGATAACTTTGTAAAGGCCACAGCCCTAACCTATGACCCATATGTAAAC
      |||  |||||  |||||
pcveco ATCTTGATGCCAACTTTGTAAAGGCCCTCAACCACTTGGCTATGACCCATATTAAC
      70      80      90      100     110     120

      1649      1639      1629      1619      1609      1599
8con.s TACTCTCTCCGCCATACAATCCCCCAACCTTCTCTTACCCTCCCGTTACTTCACACCC
      |||||  |||||  |||||  |||||
pcveco TACTCTCTCCGCCACACATAGGCAGCCCTTTACCTACCACTCCAGGTACTTCACCCCC
      130     140     150     160     170     180

      1589      1579      1569      1559      1549      1539
8con.s AAACCTGTTCTTGACTCCACTATTGATTACTTCCAACTAAATAACAAAGGATCAGCTT
      |||||  |||||  |||||  |||||
pcveco AAACCTGAGCTGGACCAACAATTGATTGTTCCACCTAAATAATAAAGAACCAAGCTG
      190     200     210     220     230     240

      1529      1519      1509      1499      1489      1479
8con.s TGGCTGAGGCTACAAACCTCTAGAAATGTGGACCAGGTAGGCTCGGCACTGCGTTGAA
      |||||  |||||  |||||  |||||
pcveco TGGCTCCATTTAATAGCCACCAATGTGGAGCACACAGGCTTCGGCTATGCGCTCAA
      250     260     270     280     290     300

      1469      1459      1449      1439      1429      1419
8con.s AACAGTATATAC-GACCAGGACTACAATATCCGTGTAAACCATGTATGTACAATTCAGAGA
      |||  |||||  |||||
pcveco AA-TGCAGCCACAGCCCAAAATTATGTGGTAAGGCTGACTATTTATGTACAATTCAGAGA
      310     320     330     340     350

      1409      1399      1389      1379      1369      1359
8con.s ATTTAATCTTAAGACCCCCCACTTAAACCCCTAAATGAATAATAAAACCATTTACGAAGT
      |||||  |||||  |||||  |||||
pcveco ATTTATCCTAAAGACCTC-----TAAA---TAAAT-AAAAATAAAACCATTTACGATGT
      360     370     380     390     400     410

      1349      1339      1329      1319      1309      1299
8con.s GAT---AAAAAGAGCTCAGTAATTTATTTTATATGGAAATTCAGGGCATGGGGGGGAAAG
      |||  |||||  |||||  |||||
pcveco GATAACAAAAAGAGCTCAGTAATTTATTTTATATGGGAAAAGGGCACAGGGTGGGTCCAC
      420     430     440     450     460     470

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Figure No. 7 (continuation)

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      759      749      739      729      719      709
8con.s AGTAGACAGGTCACTCCGTGTCCTTGAGATCGAGAGCTCCACATTCAATAAGTAAGTT
      |||||
pcveco AGTAGACAGGTCCCTCCGCTTCCCTCGTTCCCGGAGCTCCACACTCGATAAGTATGTG
      1020      1030      1040      1050      1060      1070

      699      689      679      669      659      649
8con.s GCCTTCTTTACTGCAATATTCTTTATTCTGCTGATCAGTTCTTTGGCTTTCTCGATGTG
      |||||
pcveco GCCTTCTTTACTGCAATATTCTTTATTCTGCTGATCGGTTCTTTCTCGATGTG
      1080      1090      1100      1110      1120      1130

      639      629      619      609      599      589
8con.s GCAGCGGGCACCACAAATACCACTTCACCTTATTAAGATTTGCTTCTTCACAAATTAGC
      |||||
pcveco GCAGCGGGCACCACAAATACCACTTCACCTTATTAAGATTTGCTTCTTAGCAAAATTCGC
      1140      1150      1160      1170      1180      1190

      579      569      559      549      539      529
8con.s GAACCCCTGGAGGTGAGGTGTTTCGTCTTCTCAWACCCCTCCCTCGCCAAACAATAAAATA
      |||||
pcveco AAACCCCTGGAGGTGAGGAGTTCTACCTCTTCCAAACCTTCTCTCCGCAACAAATA
      1200      1210      1220      1230      1240      1250

      519      509      499      489      479      469
8con.s ATCAAAATAGGAGATTGGAGCTCCCGTATTTCTTGGCTCTCTTTCGGAAGGATTATT
      |||||
pcveco ATCAAAAGGAGATTGGAGCTCCCGTATTTGTTTCTCTCTCTCGGAAGGATTATT
      1260      1270      1280      1290      1300      1310

      459      449      439      429      419      409
8con.s CAGCGTGAACACCCACCTTTTATGTGGTTGGGGTCCGCTTCTTCCATTCTTCTGCTGGG
      |||||
pcveco AAGGGTGAACACCCACCTTCTTATGGGGTTGCGGGCCGCTT-----TCTTCTGCTGG
      1320      1330      1340      1350      1360

      399      389      379      369      359      349
8con.s CATGTTGCTGCTGAGGTGCTGCGGAGGTGCTGCCGCTGCCGAAGTCCGCTGTTAATACT-
      |||||
pcveco CATTTT--CACTGA--CGCTGCCGAGGTGCTGCCGCTGCCGAAGTCCGCTGTTAATACTA
      1370      1380      1390      1400      1410

      339      329      319      309      299      289
8con.s -TACAGCGCACTTCTTTC-GTTTTTCAGCTATGACGTATCCAAGGAGGCGTTACCCGAGAA
      |||||
pcveco CAGCAGCGCACTTCTTTCACCTTTATAGATGACGTGCGCAAGGAGGCGTTACCCGAGAA
      1420      1430      1440      1450      1460      1470

      279      269      259      249      239      229
8con.s GAAGACACCGCCCCCGCAGCCATCTTGCCAGATCTTCCGCGCCCGCCCGTGGTGTCC
      |||||
pcveco GAAAGACCGCCCCCGCAGCCATCTTGAACATCTTCCGAGAGAGACCATATTGGCAC
      1480      1490      1500      1510      1520      1530

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Figure No. 7 (continuation and end)

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      219      209      199      189      179
scon.s  ACCCCCGCC-----ACCGCTACCGTTGGAGAGGAAAAATGGCATTTCACACCCCGC
      |||||
pcveco  A-CCCCCGCCTTCAGAAACCGTTACAGATGGCCCGAAAGACGGGTATCTTCAATTCGCCG
      1540      1550      1560      1570      1580      1590

      169      159      149      139      129      119
scon.s  YTCTCCCGCACCTTCGGATATACTGTCAAGGCTACCACAGTCAGAACGCCCTCCTGGGCG
      |||
pcveco  CTTTCTACAGAAATTGTACTCACCATAAAAG-GAGGATACTCGCA--GCCATCTTGGAAAT
      1600      1610      1620      1630      1640      1650

      109      99      89      79      69      59
scon.s  GTGGACATGATGAGATTAAATATTGACGACTTTGTTCCTCCCGGGAGGGGGGACCAACAA
      ||
pcveco  GTTAACTACCTCAAATTCACATCGGCCAGTTCTCTCCCTCCCTCAGGCGGCACCAACCCC
      1660      1670      1680      1690      1700      1710

      49      39      29      19      9
scon.s  ATCTTTATACCCCTTGAATACTACAGATAAAAAAGGTTAAGTT
      |||||
pcveco  CTACCCCTACCTTTCCAATACTACCGTATTAGAAAGGCTAAATAT
      1720      1730      1740      1750

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PORCINE CIRCOVIRUS VACCINE AND DIAGNOSTICS REAGENTS

The present invention relates to new porcine circovirus (PCV for Porcine CircoVirus) strains responsible for the PMWS syndrome (Porcine Multisystemic Wasting Syndrome also called Post-Weaning Multisystemic Wasting Syndrome) to reagents and methods allowing their detection, to methods of vaccination and to vaccines, as well as to methods of producing these reagents and vaccines.

PCV was originally detected as a noncytopathogenic contaminant in pig kidney cell lines PK/15. This virus was classified among the Circoviridae with the chicken anaemia virus (CAV for Chicken Anaemia Virus) and the PFBVD virus (Pecittacine Beak and Feather Disease Virus). It is a small nonenveloped virus (from 15 to 24 nm) whose common characteristic is to contain a genome in the form of a circular single-stranded DNA of 1.76 to 2.31 kb. It was first thought that this genome encoded a polypeptide of about 30 kDa (Todd et al., Arch Virol 1991, 117: 129-135). Recent work has however shown a more complex transcription (Meehan B. M. et al., 1997, 78: 221-227). Moreover, no significant homologies in nucleotide sequence or in common antigenic determinants are known between the three types of circoviruses known.

The PCV derived from the PK/15 cells is considered not to be pathogenic. Its sequence is known from B. M. Meehan et al., J. Gen. Virol 1997 (78) 221-227. It is only very recently that some authors have thought that strains of PCV could be pathogenic and associated with the PMWS syndrome (Gupl P. S. Nayar et al., Can. Vet. J. vol. 38, 1997: 385-387 and Clark E. G., Proc. Am. Assoc. Swine Prac. 1997: 499-501). Nayar et al. have detected PCV DNA in pigs having the PMWS syndrome using PCR techniques. No wild-type PCV strain has however been isolated and purified so far.

The PMWS syndrome detected in Canada, the United States and France is clinically characterized by a gradual loss of weight and by manifestations such as tachypnea, dyspnea and jaundice. From the pathological point of view, it is manifested by lymphocytic or granulomatous infiltrations, lymphadenopathies and, more rarely, by hepatitis and lymphocytic or granulomatous nephritis (Clark E. G., Proc. Am. Assoc. Swine Prac. 1997: 499-501; La Semaine Vétérinaire No. 26, supplement to La Semaine Vétérinaire 1996 (834); La Semaine Vétérinaire 1997 (857): 54; Gupl P. S. Nayar et al., Can. Vet. J. vol. 38, 1997: 385-387).

The applicant has succeeded in isolating five new PCV strains from pulmonary or ganglionic samples obtained from farms situated in Canada, the United States (California) and France (Brittany), hereinafter called circoviruses according to the invention. These viruses have been detected in lesions in pigs with the PMWS syndrome, but not in healthy pigs.

The applicant has, in addition, sequenced the genome of four of these strains, namely the strains obtained from Canada and the United States as well as two French strains. The strains exhibit a very strong homology with each other at the nucleotide level, exceeding 96% and much weaker with the PK/15 strain, about 76%. The new strains can thus be considered as being representative of a new type of porcine circovirus, called here type II, type I being represented by PK/15.

The subject of the present invention is therefore the group II porcine circovirus, as defined above, isolated or in the form of a purified preparation.

The invention relates to any porcine circovirus capable of being isolated from a physiological sample or from a tissue

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sample, especially lesions, from a diseased pig having the PMWS syndrome, especially following the method described in the examples, in particular type II circovirus.

The subject of the present invention is more particularly purified preparations of five strains, which were deposited at the ECACC (European Collection of Cell Cultures, Centre for Applied Microbiology & Research, Porton Down, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 0JG, United Kingdom) on Thursday Oct. 2, 1997:

provisional accession No. V97100219 (called here Imp. 1008PCV)

provisional accession No. V9700218 (called here Imp. 1010PCV)

provisional accession No. V97100217 (called here Imp. 999PCV), and, on Friday Jan. 16 1998:

provisional accession No. V98011608 (called here Imp. 1011-48285)

provisional accession No. V98011609 (called here Imp. 1011-48121).

The invention aims to consider the porcine circoviruses isolated from a diseased pig and/or the circoviruses having a significant serological similarity with the strains of the invention and/or the circoviruses having cross-hybridization with the strains of the invention under stringency conditions such that there is no hybridization with the PCV PK/15 strain.

The viral strains isolated from a physiological sample or from a tissue sample, especially a lesion, from a pig having the PMWS syndrome can be advantageously propagated on cell lines such as especially pig kidney cell lines, in particular PK/15 cells free from contamination (in particular for PCV, as well as for pestiviruses, porcine adenoviruses and porcine parvoviruses) for their multiplication or specifically for the production of antigen, whole (e.g. virus) and/or subunits (e.g. polypeptides).

Very remarkably and unexpectedly, these isolates have proved very productive in culture on PK/15 cells, which have undeniable advantages for the production of virus or antigen, in particular for the production of inactivated vaccine.

The subject of the present invention is also the preparations of circoviruses isolated after passages on cells, especially cell lines, e.g. PK/15 cells, cultured in vitro while being infected with at least one of the circoviruses according to the invention or of any porcine circovirus capable of being isolated from a physiological sample or from a tissue sample, especially lesions, from a pig having the PMWS syndrome. Its subject is also the culture extract or supernatant, optionally purified by standard techniques, and in general any antigenic preparation obtained from in vitro cultures.

The subject of the invention is also the immunogenic active ingredients and the vaccines containing at least one antigen as defined above.

They may be immunogenic active ingredients based on attenuated live whole viruses, or vaccines prepared with these active ingredients, the attenuation being carried out according to the customary methods, e.g. by passage on cells, preferably by passage on pig cells, especially lines, such as PK/15 cells (for example from 50 to 150, especially of the order of 100, passages). These vaccines comprise in general a vehicle or diluent acceptable from the veterinary point of view, optionally an adjuvant acceptable from the veterinary point of view, as well as optionally a freeze-drying stabilizer.

These vaccines will preferably comprise from 10^3 to 10^6 TCID₅₀.

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They may be immunogenic active ingredients or vaccines based on circovirus antigen according to the invention, in an inactivated state. The vaccine comprises, in addition, a vehicle or a diluent acceptable from the veterinary point of view, with optionally in addition an adjuvant acceptable from the veterinary point of view.

The circoviruses according to the invention, with the fractions which may be present, are inactivated according to techniques known to persons skilled in the art. The inactivation will be preferably carried out by the chemical route, e.g. by exposing the antigen to a chemical agent such as formaldehyde (formalin), paraformaldehyde, β -propiolactone or ethyleneimine or its derivatives. The preferred method of inactivation will be herein the exposure to a chemical agent and in particular to ethyleneimine or to β -propiolactone.

Preferably, the inactivated vaccines according to the invention will be supplemented with adjuvant; advantageously by being provided in the form of emulsions, for example water-in-oil or oil-in-water, according to techniques well known to persons skilled in the art. It will be possible for the adjuvant character to also come from the incorporation of a customary adjuvant compound into the active ingredient.

Among the adjuvants which may be used, there may be mentioned by way of example aluminium hydroxide, the saponins (e.g. Quilaja saponin or Quil A; see Vaccine Design, The Subunit and Adjuvant Approach, 1995, edited by Michael F. Powell and Mark J. Newman, Plenum Press, New-York and London, p.210), Avridine® (Vaccine Design p. 148), DDA (Dimethyldioctadecylammonium bromide, Vaccine Design p. 157), Polyphosphazene (Vaccine Design p. 204), or alternatively oil-in-water emulsions based on mineral oil, squalene (e.g. SPT emulsion, Vaccine Design p. 147), squalene (e.g. MF59, Vaccine Design p. 183), or water-in-oil emulsions based on metabolizable oil (preferably according to WO-A-94 20071) as well as the emulsions described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,422,109. It is also possible to choose combinations of adjuvants, for example Avridine® or DDA combined with an emulsion.

These vaccines will preferably comprise from 10^6 to 10^8 TCID₅₀.

The live vaccine adjuvants can be selected from those given for the inactivated vaccine. The emulsions are preferred. To those indicated for the inactivated vaccine, there may be added those described in WO-A-9416681.

As freeze-drying stabilizer, there may be mentioned by way of example SPGA (Bovarnik et al., J. Bacteriology 59, 509, 950), carbohydrates such as sorbitol, mannitol, starch, sucrose, dextran or glucose, proteins such as albumin or casein, derivatives of these compounds, or buffers such as alkali metal phosphates.

The vaccines according to the invention may comprise one or more active ingredients (antigens) of one or more (2 or 3) of the circoviruses according to the invention.

The invention also provides for combining vaccination against the porcine circovirus with a vaccination against other pig pathogens, in particular those which can be associated with the PMWS syndrome. The vaccine according to the invention may therefore comprise another valency corresponding to another pig pathogen.

The applicant has, in addition, obtained the genome of four of the isolates, identified SEQ ID NO: 1 to 4 and optionally 6.

The subject of the present invention is therefore a DNA fragment containing all or part of one of these sequences. It goes without saying that the invention automatically covers

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the equivalent sequences, that is to say the sequences which do not change the functionality or the strain-specificity of the sequence described or of the polypeptides encoded by this sequence. There will of course be included the sequences differing by degeneracy of the code.

The invention also covers the equivalent sequences in the sense that they are capable of hybridizing with the above sequence under high stringency conditions and/or have a high homology with the strains of the invention and belong to group II defined above.

These sequences and their fragments can be advantageously used for the in vitro or in vivo expression of polypeptides with the aid of appropriate vectors.

In particular, the open reading frames, forming DNA fragments according to the invention, which can be used to this effect have been identified on the genomic sequence of the type II circoviruses. The invention relates to any polypeptide containing at least one of these open reading frames (corresponding amino acid sequence). Preferably, the invention relates to a protein essentially consisting of ORF4, ORF7, ORF10 or ORF13.

For the expression of subunits in vitro, as a means of expression, *E. coli* or a baculovirus will be preferably used (U.S. Pat. No. 4,745,051). The coding sequence(s) or their fragments are integrated into the baculovirus genome (e.g. the baculovirus Autographa californica Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus AcNPV) and the latter is then propagated on insect cells, e.g. *Spodoptera frugiperda* Sf9 (deposit ATCC CRL 1711). The subunits can also be produced in eukaryotic cells such as yeasts (e.g. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) or mammalian cells (e.g. CHO, BHK).

The subject of the invention is also the polypeptides which will be produced in vitro by these expression means, and then optionally purified according to conventional techniques. Its subject is also a subunit vaccine comprising at least one polypeptide as thus obtained, or fragment, in a vehicle or diluent acceptable from the veterinary point of view and optionally an adjuvant acceptable from the veterinary point of view.

For the expression in vivo for the purpose of producing recombinant live vaccines, the coding sequence(s) or their fragments are inserted into an appropriate expression vector under conditions allowing the expression of the polypeptide (s). As appropriate vectors, there may be used live viruses, preferably capable of multiplying in pigs, nonpathogenic for pigs (naturally nonpathogenic or rendered as such), according to techniques well known to persons skilled in the art. There may be used in particular pig herpesviruses such as Aujeszky's disease virus, porcine adenovirus, poxviruses, especially vaccinia virus, avipox virus, canarypox virus, swinepox virus. Plasmid DNAs can also be used as vectors (WO-A-90 11092, WO-A-93 19813, WO-A-94 21797, WO-A-95 20660).

The subject of the invention is therefore also the vectors and the recombinant live vaccines or plasmid vaccines (polynucleotide or DNA vaccines) thus prepared, the vaccines comprising, in addition, a vehicle or diluent acceptable from the veterinary point of view.

The subject of the present invention is also a method which makes it possible to induce an immune response in pigs towards circoviruses according to the invention. Its subject is in particular a method of vaccination which is effective in pigs.

This method provides for the administration to pigs, in one or more portions, of a vaccine above. It is also possible to combine several types of the above vaccines in the same vaccination protocol.

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This method provides not only for administration to adult pigs, but also to young pigs or to pregnant females. The vaccination of the latter makes it possible to confer passive immunity to the newborns (maternal antibodies).

The invention also offers the possibility of diagnosing the presence of the circoviruses according to the invention in pigs. Its subject is therefore diagnostic tests and methods relating thereto using reagents which will be described below.

Knowledge of the sequences of the different circoviruses makes it possible to define common sequences which make it possible to produce reagents capable of recognizing all the porcine circoviruses known.

Persons skilled in the art will also be able to select fragments of the sequences corresponding to regions exhibiting little or no homology with the corresponding PK/15 circovirus sequence in order to carry out a specific diagnosis.

Sequence alignments make it possible for persons skilled in the art to select a reagent in accordance with their wishes.

A first reagent consists in the DNA sequences disclosed here and their fragments, which will in particular be used as probes or primers in well-known hybridization or PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) techniques.

A second reagent consists in the polypeptides encoded by these sequences from the virus or expressed with the aid of a vector (see above), or synthesized by the chemical route according to conventional techniques for peptide synthesis.

A third and fourth reagent consists in respectively polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies which may be produced according to the customary techniques from the virus, the polypeptides or fragments, extracted or encoded by the DNA sequences.

These second, third and fourth reagents may be used in a diagnostic method, a subject of the invention, in which a test is carried out, on a sample of physiological fluid (blood, plasma, serum and the like) or a sample of tissue (ganglia, liver, lungs, kidneys and the like) obtained from a pig to be tested, for the presence of an antigen specific for a circovirus according to the invention, by seeking to detect either the antigen itself, or antibodies directed against this antigen.

The antigens and antibodies according to the invention may be used in any known laboratory diagnostic technique.

However, it will be preferable to use them in techniques which can be used directly in the field by the veterinary doctor, the breeder or the owner of the animal. Persons skilled in the art have available a range of laboratory and field techniques and are therefore in the perfect position to adapt the use of this antigen and/or antibodies as diagnostic reagent(s).

The diagnostic techniques which will be preferably used within the framework of the present invention are Western blotting, immunofluorescence, ELISA and immunochromatography.

As regards the use of immunochromatography methods, specialists can refer in particular to Robert F. Zurk et al., Clin. Chem. 31/7, 1144-1150 (1985) as well as to patents or patent applications WO-A-88/08 534, WO-A-91/12528, EP-A-291 176, EP-A-299 428, EP-A-291 194, EP-A-284 232, U.S. Pat. No. 5,120,643, U.S. Pat. No. 5,030,558, U.S. Pat. No. 5,266,497, U.S. Pat. No. 4,740,468, U.S. Pat. No. 5,266,497, U.S. Pat. No. 4,855,240, U.S. Pat. No. 5,451,504, U.S. Pat. No. 5,141,850, U.S. Pat. No. 5,232,835 and U.S. Pat. No. 5,238,652.

Accordingly, it is preferably sought to detect specific antibodies in the sample by an indirect test, by competition or by displacement. To do this, the antigen itself is used as diagnostic reagent, or a fragment of this antigen, conserving

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recognition of the antibodies. The labelling may be advantageously a labelling with peroxidase or a special labelling, preferably with colloidal gold.

It may also be desired to detect the antigen itself in the sample with the aid of a labelled antibody specific for this antigen. The labelling is advantageously as described above.

By antibody specific for the antigen which can be used in particular in competition or displacement or for the detection of the antigen itself, there is understood monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies specific for the antigen, fragments of these antibodies, preferably Fab or F(ab)₂ fragments.

Another feature of the invention is the reduction of polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies specific for the antigen in accordance with the invention, it being possible for these antibodies to then be used in particular as diagnostic reagent for the detection of the antigen in a sample of physiological fluid or in a tissue sample, or even for the detection of antibodies present in such a sample or specimen. The invention also includes the immunologically functional fragments of these antibodies, in particular the F(ab) and F(ab)₂ fragments.

Antibodies can be prepared by the customary techniques. Reference may be made in particular to Antibodies, A Laboratory Manual, 1988, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, USA or to J. W. Goding, Monoclonal Antibodies: Principles and Practice, Academic Press Inc., whose contents are incorporated herein by reference.

It will be possible in particular, as is known per se, to carry out the fusion of spleen cells of mice, immunized with the antigen or with at least one of its fragments, with suitable myelomatous cells.

The subject of the invention is also a preparation, preferably pure or partially pure, or even crude, of monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies specific for the antigen, especially mouse or rabbit antibodies.

The present invention also makes it possible to determine epitopes of interest especially on the basis of the DNA sequences described here, whether epitopes of vaccinal interest or epitopes of interest in diagnosis. From the DNA sequence of the genome of the circovirus according to the invention, persons skilled in the art are in a position to determine epitopes according to known methods, for example an appropriate computer program or PEPSCAN. Epitopes are immunodominant regions of proteins and are as such regions exposed at the surface of the proteins. They can therefore be recognized by antibodies and thus be particularly used in the field of diagnosis either for the preparation of antibodies for diagnostic purposes or for the production of corresponding peptides which can be used as diagnostic reagents.

At the very least, an epitope is a peptide having from 8 to 9 amino acids. A minimum of 13 to 25 amino acids is generally preferred.

Persons skilled in the art are therefore in a position, using one or more of these techniques as well as the other available techniques, to find epitopes for using peptides or antibodies for diagnostic purposes.

The subject of the invention is also a diagnostic kit comprising this antigen and/or polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies specific for this antigen. These are in particular diagnostic kits corresponding to the diagnostic techniques described above.

The invention will now be described in greater detail with the aid of nonlimiting exemplary embodiments, taken with reference to the drawing, in which:

FIG. 1: DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 1011-48121 strain

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FIG. 2: DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 1011-48285 strain

FIG. 3: DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 999 strain

FIG. 4: DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 1010 strain

FIG. 5: Alignment of the 4 sequences according to FIGS. 1 to 4 with the sequence of the PCV PK/15 strain

FIG. 6: DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 999 strain as defined in the first filing in France on Oct. 3, 1997

FIG. 7: Alignments of the sequence of FIG. 6 with the sequence of the PK/15 strain

Sequence listing SEQ ID

SEQ ID No: 1 DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 1011-48121 strain

SEQ ID No: 2 DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 1011-48285 strain

SEQ ID No: 3 DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 999 strain

SEQ ID No: 4 DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 1010 strain

SEQ ID No: 5 DNA sequence of the genome of the PK/15 strain

SEQ ID No: 6 DNA sequence of the genome of the Imp. 999 strain as defined in the first filing in France on Oct. 3, 1997.

EXAMPLES

Example 1

Culture and isolation of the porcine circovirus strains

Tissue samples were collected in France, Canada and the USA from lung and lymph nodes of piglets. These piglets exhibited clinical signs typical of the post-weaning multi-systemic wasting syndrome. To facilitate the isolation of the viruses, the tissue samples were frozen at -70°C . immediately after autopsy.

For the viral isolation, suspensions containing about 15% tissue sample were prepared in a minimum medium containing Earle's salts (EMEM, BioWhittaker UK Ltd., Wokingham, UK), penicillin (100 IU/ml) and streptomycin (100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$) (MEM-SA medium), by grinding tissues with sterile sand using a sterile mortar and pestle. This ground preparation was then taken up in MEM-SA, and then centrifuged at 3000 g for 30 minutes at $+4^{\circ}\text{C}$. in order to harvest the supernatant.

Prior to the inoculation of the cell cultures, a volume of 100 μl of chloroform was added to 2 ml of each supernatant and mixed continuously for 10 minutes at room temperature. This mixture was then transferred to a microcentrifuge tube, centrifuged at 3000 g for 10 minutes, and then the supernatant was harvested. This supernatant was then used as inoculum for the viral isolation experiments.

All the viral isolation studies were carried out on PK/15 cell cultures, known to be uncontaminated with the porcine circovirus (PCV), pestiviruses, porcine adenoviruses and porcine parvoviruses (Allan G. et al Pathogenesis of porcine circovirus experimental infections of colostrum-deprived piglets and examination of pig foetal material. *Vet. Microbiol.* 1995, 44, 49-64).

The isolation of the porcine circoviruses was carried out according to the following technique:

Monolayers of PK/15 cells were dissociated by trypsinization (with a trypsin-versene mixture) from confluent cultures, and taken up in MEM-SA medium containing 15% foetal calf serum not contaminated by pestivirus (=MEM-G medium) in a final concentration of about 400,000 cells per ml. 10 ml aliquot fractions of this cell suspen-

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sion were then mixed with 2 ml aliquot fractions of the inocula described above, and the final mixtures were aliquoted in 6 ml volumes in two Falcon flasks of 25 cm^2 . These cultures were then incubated at $+37^{\circ}\text{C}$. for 18 hours under an atmosphere containing 10% CO_2 .

After incubation, the culture medium of the semi-confluent monolayers were treated with 300 mM D-glucosamine (Cat # G48175, Sigma-Aldrich Company Limited, Poole, UK) (Tischer I. et al., *Arch. Virol.*, 1987 96 39-57), then incubation was continued for an additional period of 48-72 hours at $+37^{\circ}\text{C}$. Following this last incubation, one of the two Falcons of each inoculum was subjected to 3 successive freeze/thaw cycles. The PK/15 cells of the remaining Falcon were treated with a trypsin-versene solution, resuspended in 20 ml of MEM-G medium, and then inoculated into 75 cm^2 Falcons at a concentration of 400,000 cells/ml. The freshly inoculated flasks were then "superinfected" by addition of 5 ml of the corresponding lysate obtained after the freeze/thaw cycles.

Example 2

Preparation of the samples of cell culture for the detection of porcine circoviruses by immunofluorescence or by in situ hybridization

A volume of 5 ml of the "superinfected" suspension was collected and inoculated into a Petri dish 55 mm in diameter containing a sterile and fat-free glass coverslip. The cultures in the flasks and on glass coverslips were incubated at $+37^{\circ}\text{C}$. and treated with glucosamine as described in Example 1. The cultures on glass coverslips were harvested from 24 to 48 hours after the treatment with glucosamine and fixed, either with acetone for 10 minutes at room temperature, or with 10% buffered formaldehyde for 4 hours. Following this fixing, all the glass coverslips were stored at -70°C ., on silica gel, before their use for the in situ hybridization studies and the immunocytochemical labelling studies.

Example 3

Techniques for the detection of PCV sequences by in situ hybridization

In situ hybridization was carried out on tissues collected from diseased pigs and fixed with formaldehyde and also on the preparations of cell cultures inoculated for the viral isolation (see Example 2) and fixed on glass coverslips.

Complete genomic probes corresponding to the PK/15 porcine circoviruses (PCV) and to the infectious chicken anaemia virus (CAV) were used. The plasmid pPCV1, containing the replicative form of the PCV genome, cloned in the form of a single 1.7 kilo base pair (kbp) insert (Meehan B. et al. Sequence of porcine circovirus DNA: affinities with plant circoviruses, *J. Gen. Virol.* 1997, 78, 221-227), was used as specific viral DNA source for PCV.

An analogous plasmid, pCAAI, containing the 2.3 kbp replicative form of the avian circovirus CAV was used as negative control. The respective glycerol stocks of the two plasmids were used for the production and purification of the plasmids according to the alkaline lysis technique (Sambrook J. et al. *Molecular cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, 2nd Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., 1989) so that they are then used as templates for the preparation of the probes. The circovirus probes representative of the complete genomes of PCV and of CAV were produced from the purified plasmids described above (1 μg for each probe) and from hexanucleotide primers at random using a commercial nonradioactive labelling kit ("DIG DNA labelling kit", Boehringer Mannheim, Lewes, UK) according to the supplier's recommendations.

The digoxigenin-labelled probes were taken up in a volume of 50-100 μl of sterile water before being used for the in situ hybridization.

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The diseased pig tissue samples, enclosed in paraffin and fixed with formaldehyde, as well as the preparations of infected cell cultures, fixed with formaldehyde, were prepared for the detection of the PCV nucleic acids according to the following technique:

Sections 5 μ m thick were cut from tissue blocks enclosed in paraffin, rendered paraffin free, and then rehydrated in successive solutions of alcohol in decreasing concentrations. The tissue sections and the cell cultures fixed with formaldehyde were incubated for 15 minutes and 5 minutes respectively at +37° C. in a 0.5% proteinase K solution in 0.05 M Tris-HCl buffer containing 5 mM EDTA (pH 7.6). The slides were then placed in a 1% glycine solution in autoclaved distilled water, for 30 seconds, washed twice with 0.01 M PBS buffer (phosphate buffered saline) (pH 7.2), and finally washed for 5 minutes in sterile distilled water. They were finally dried in the open air and placed in contact with the probes.

Each tissue/probe preparation was covered with a clean and fat-free glass coverlip, and then placed in an oven at +90° C. for 10 minutes, and then placed in contact with an ice block for 1 minute, and finally incubated for 18 hours at +37° C. The preparations were then briefly immersed in a 2x sodium citrate salt (SSC) buffer (pH 7.0) in order to remove the protective glass coverslips, and then washed twice for 5 minutes in 2xSSC buffer and finally washed twice for 5 minutes in PBS buffer.

After these washes, the preparations were immersed in a solution of 0.1 M maleic acid, 0.15 M NaCl (pH 7.5) (maleic buffer) for 10 minutes, and then incubated in a 1% solution of blocking reagent (Cat #1096176, Boehringer Mannheim UK, Lewis, East Sussex, UK) in maleic buffer for 20 minutes at +37° C.

The preparations were then incubated with a 1/250 solution of an anti-digoxigenin monoclonal antibody (Boehringer Mannheim), diluted in blocking buffer, for 1 hour at +37° C., washed in PBS and finally incubated with a biotinylated anti-mouse immunoglobulin antibody for 30 minutes at +37° C. The preparations were washed in PBS and the endogenous peroxidase activity was blocked by treatment with a 0.5% hydrogen peroxide solution in PBS for 20 minutes at room temperature. The preparations were again washed in PBS and treated with a 3-amino-9-diethylcarbazole (AEC) substrate (Cambridge Bioscience, Cambridge, UK) prepared immediately before use.

After a final wash with tap water, the preparations were counterstained with hematoxylin, "blued" under tap water, and mounted on microscope glass coverslips with a mounting fluid (GVA Mount, Cambridge Bioscience, Cambridge, UK). The experimental controls included the use of a nonpertinent negative probe (CAV) and of a positive probe (PCV) on samples obtained from diseased pigs and from nondiseased pigs.

Example 4

Technique for the detection of PCV by immunofluorescence

The initial screening of all the cell culture preparations fixed with acetone was carried out by an indirect immunofluorescence technique (IIF) using a 1/100 dilution of a pool of adult pig sera. This pool of sera comprises sera from 25 adult sows from Northern Ireland and is known to contain antibodies against a wide variety of porcine viruses, including PCV, porcine parvovirus, porcine adenovirus, and PRRS virus. The IIF technique was carried out by bringing the serum (diluted in PBS) into contact with the cell cultures for one hour at +37° C., followed by two washes in PBS. The cell cultures were then stained with a 1/80 dilution in PBS of a rabbit anti-pig immunoglobulin antibody conjugated

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with fluorescein isothiocyanate for one hour, and then washed with FBS and mounted in glycerol buffer prior to the microscopic observation under ultraviolet light.

Example 5

Results of the in situ hybridization on diseased pig tissues

The in situ hybridization, using a PCV genomic probe, prepared from tissues collected from French, Canadian and Californian piglets having multisystemic wasting lesions and fixed with formaldehyde, showed the presence of PCV nucleic acids associated with the lesions, in several of the lesions studied. No signal was observed when the PCV genomic probe was used on tissues collected from nondiseased pigs or when the CAV probe was used on the diseased pig tissues. The presence of PCV nucleic acid was identified in the cytoplasm and the nucleus of numerous mononuclear cells infiltrating the lesions in the lungs of the Californian piglets. The presence of PCV nucleic acid was also demonstrated in the pneumocytes, the bronchial and bronchiolar epithelial cells, and in the endothelial cells of the arterioles, the veinlets and lymphatic vessels.

In diseased French pigs, the presence of PCV nucleic acid was detected in the cytoplasm of numerous follicular lymphocytes and in the intrasinusoidal mononuclear cells of the lymph nodes. The PCV nucleic acid was also detected in occasional syncytia. Depending on these detection results, samples of Californian pig lungs, French pig mesenteric lymph nodes, and Canadian pig organs were selected for the purpose of isolating new porcine circovirus strains.

Example 6

Results of the cell culture of the new porcine circovirus strains and detection by immunofluorescence

No cytopathic effect (CPE) was observed in the cell cultures inoculated with the samples collected from French piglets (Imp.1008 strain), Californian piglets (Imp.999 strain) and Canadian piglets (Imp.1010 strain) showing clinical signs of multisystemic wasting syndrome. However, immunolabelling of the preparations obtained from the inoculated cell cultures, after fixing using acetone and with a pool of pig polyclonal sera, revealed nuclear fluorescence in numerous cells in the cultures inoculated using the lungs of Californian piglets (Imp.999 strain), using the mediastinal lymph nodes of French piglets (Imp.1008 strain), and using organs of Canadian piglets (Imp.1010 strain).

Example 7

Extraction of the genomic DNA of the porcine circoviruses

The replicative forms of the new strains of porcine circoviruses (PCV) were prepared using infected PK/15 cell cultures (see Example 1) (10 Falcons of 75 cm²) harvested after 72-76 hours of incubation and treated with glucosamine, as described for the cloning of the replicative form of CAV (Todd, D. et al. Dot blot hybridization assay for chicken anaemia agent using a cloned DNA probe, J. Clin. Microbiol. 1991, 29, 933-939). The double-stranded DNA of these replicative forms was extracted according to a modification of the Hirt technique (Hirt B. Selective extraction of polyoma virus DNA from infected cell cultures, J. Mol. Biol. 1967, 36, 365-369), as described by Molitor (Molitor T. W. et al. Porcine parvovirus DNA: characterization of the genomic and replicative form DNA of two virus isolates, Virology, 1984, 137, 241-254).

Example 8

Restriction map of the replicative form of the genome of the porcine circovirus Imp.999 strain.

The DNA (1-5 μ g) extracted according to the Hirt technique was treated with SI nuclease (Amersham801 am) accord-

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ing to the supplier's recommendations, and then this DNA was digested with various restriction enzymes (Boehringer Mannheim, Lewis, East Sussex, UK) and the products of digestion were separated by electrophoresis on a 1.5% agarose gel in the presence of ethidium bromide as described by Todd et al. (Purification and biochemical characterization of chicken anemia agent. J. Gen. Virol. 1990, 71, 819-823). The DNA extracted from the cultures of the Imp.999 strain possess a unique EcoRI site, 2 SacI sites and do not possess any PstI site. This restriction profile is therefore different from the restriction profile shown by the PCV PK/15 strain (Meehan B. et al. Sequence of porcine circovirus DNA; affinities with plant circoviruses, 1997 78, 221-227) which possess in contrast a PstI site and do not possess any EcoRI site.

Example 9

Cloning of the genome of the porcine circovirus Imp.999 strain

The restriction fragment of about 1.8 kbp generated by digestion of the double-stranded replicative form of the PCV Imp.999 strain with the restriction enzyme EcoRI was isolated after electrophoresis on a 1.5% agarose gel (see Example 3) using a Qiagen commercial kit (QIAEXII Gel Extraction Kit, Cat #20021, QIAGEN Ltd., Crawley, West Sussex, UK). This EcoRI-EcoRI restriction fragment was then ligated with the vector pGEM-7 (Promega, Medical Supply Company, Dublin, Ireland), previously digested with the same restriction enzymes and dephosphorylated, according to standard cloning techniques (Sambrook J. et al. Molecular cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2nd Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., 1989). The plasmids obtained were transformed into an *Escherichia coli* JM109 host strain (Stratagene, La Jolla, USA) according to standard techniques. The EcoRI-EcoRI restriction fragment of the PCV Imp.999 strain was also cloned into the EcoRI site of the vector pBlueScript SK+ (Stratagene Inc. La Jolla, USA). Among the clones obtained for each host strain, at least 2 clones containing the fragments of the expected size were selected. The clones obtained were then cultured and the plasmids containing the complete genome of the Imp.999 strain were purified in a small volume (2 ml) or in a large volume (250 ml) according to standard plasmid preparation and purification techniques.

Example 10

Sequencing of a genomic DNA (doublestranded replicative form) of the PCV Imp.999 strain.

The nucleotide sequence of 2 EcoRI Imp.999 clones (clones pGEM-7/2 and pGEM-7/8) was determined according to Sanger's dideoxynucleotide technique using the sequencing kit "AmpliTaq DNA polymerase FS" (Cat #402079 PE Applied Biosystems, Warrington, UK) and an Applied Biosystems AB1373A automatic sequencing apparatus according to the supplier's recommendations. The initial sequencing reactions were carried out with the M13 "forward" and "reverse" universal primers. The following sequencing reactions were generated according to the "DNA walking" technique. The oligonucleotides necessary for these subsequent sequencings were synthesized by Life Technologies (Inchinnan Business Park, Paisley, UK).

The sequences generated were assembled and analysed by means of the MacDNASIS version 3.2 software (Cat #22020101, Appligene, Durham, UK). The various open reading frames were analysed by means of the BLAST algorithm available on the "National Center for Biotechnology Information" (NCBI, Bethesda, MD, USA) server.

The complete sequence (EcoRI-EcoRI fragment) obtained initially from the clone pGEM-7/8 (SEQ ID No: 6)

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is presented in FIG. No. 6. It starts arbitrarily after the G of the EcoRI site and exhibits a few uncertainties from the point of view of the nucleotides.

The sequencing was then optimized and the SEQ ID No: 3 (FIG. 3) gives the total sequence of this strain, which was made to start arbitrarily at the beginning of the EcoRI site, that is to say the G as the first nucleotide.

The procedure was carried out in a similar manner for obtaining the sequence of the other three isolates according to the invention (see SEQ ID Nos: 1, 2 and 4 and FIGS. 1, 2 and 4).

The size of the genome of these four strains is:

Imp. 1011-48121	1767 nucleotides
Imp. 1011-48285	1767 nucleotides
Imp. 999	1768 nucleotides
Imp. 1010	1768 nucleotides

Example 11

Analysis of the sequence of the PCV Imp.999 strain.

When the sequence generated from the Imp.999 strain was used to test for homology with respect to the sequences contained in the GenBank databank, the only significant homology which was detected is a homology of about 76% (at nucleic acid level) with the sequence of the PK/15 strain (accession numbers Y09921 and U49186) (see FIG. No. 5).

At amino acid level, the test for homology in the translation of the sequences in the 6 phases with the databanks (BLAST X algorithm on the NCBI server) made it possible to demonstrate a 94% homology with the open reading frame corresponding to the theoretical replicase of the BBT virus similar to the circoviruses of plants (GenBank identification number 1841515) encoded by the GenBank U49186 sequence.

No other sequence contained in the databanks show significant homology with the sequence generated from the PCV Imp.999 strain.

Analysis of the sequences obtained from the Imp.999 strain cultured using lesions collected from Californian piglets having clinical signs of the multisystemic wasting syndrome shows clearly that this viral isolate is a new porcine circovirus strain.

Example 12

Comparative analysis of the sequences

The alignment of the nucleotide sequences of the 4 new PCV strains was made with the sequence of the PCV PK/15 strain (FIG. 5). A homology matrix taking into account the four new strains and the previous PK/15 strain was established. The results are the following:

	1	2	3	4	5
1	1.0000	0.9977	0.9615	0.9621	0.7600
2		1.0000	0.9621	0.9632	0.7594
3			1.0000	0.9949	0.7560
4				1.0000	0.7566
5					1.0000

1: Imp. 1011-48121
2: Imp. 1011-48285
3: Imp. 999
4: Imp. 1010
5: PK/15

The homology between the two French strains Imp. 1011-48121 and Imp. 1011-48285 is greater than 99% (0.9977).

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The homology between the two North American strains Imp. 999 and Imp. 1010 is also greater than 99% (0.9949). The homology between the French strains and the North American strains is slightly greater than 96%.

The homology between all these strains and PK/15 falls at a value between 75 and 76%.

It is deduced therefrom that the strains according to the invention are representative of a new type of porcine circovirus, distinct from the type represented by the PK/15 strain. This new type, isolated from pigs exhibiting the PMWS syndrome, is called type II porcine circovirus, PK/15 representing type I. The strains belonging to this type II exhibit remarkable nucleotide sequence homogeneity, although they have in fact been isolated from very distant geographical regions.

Example 13

Analysis of the proteins encoded by the genome of the new PCV strains.

The nucleotide sequence of the Imp. 1010 isolate was considered to be representative of the other circovirus strains associated with the multi-systemic wasting syndrome. This sequence was analysed in greater detail with the aid of the BLASTX algorithm (Altschul et al. J. Mol. Biol. 1990. 215. 403-410) and of a combination of programs from the set of MacVector 6.0 software (Oxford Molecular Group, Oxford OX4 4GA, UK). It was possible to detect 13 open reading frames (or ORFs) of a size greater than 20 amino acids on this sequence (circular genome). These 13 ORFs are the following:

Name	Start	End	Strand	Size of the ORF (nucleotides (nt))	Protein size (amino acids (aa))
ORF1	103	210	sense	108 nt	35 aa
ORF2	1180	1317	sense	138 nt	45 aa
ORF3	1363	1524	sense	162 nt	53 aa
ORF4	398	1342	sense	945 nt	314 aa
ORF5	900	1079	sense	180 nt	59 aa
ORF6	1254	1334	sense	81 nt	26 aa
ORF7	1018	704	antisense	315 nt	104 aa
ORF8	439	321	antisense	129 nt	42 aa
ORF9	190	101	antisense	90 nt	29 aa
ORF10	912	733	antisense	180 nt	59 aa
ORF11	645	565	antisense	81 nt	26 aa
ORF12	1100	1035	antisense	66 nt	22 aa
ORF13	314	1381	antisense	702 nt	233 aa

The positions of the start and end of each ORF refer to the sequence presented in FIG. No. 4 (SEQ ID No. 4), of the genome of strain 1010. The limits of ORFs 1 to 13 are identical for strain 999. They are also identical for strains 1011-48121 and 1011-48285, except for the ORFs 3 and 13:

ORF3 1432-1539, sense, 108 nt, 35aa

ORF13 314-1377, antisense, 705 nt, 234 aa.

Among these 13 ORFs, 4 have a significant homology with analogous ORFs situated on the genome of the cloned virus PCV PK-15. Each of the open reading frames present on the genome of all the circovirus isolates associated with the multisystemic wasting syndrome was analysed. These 4 ORFs are the following:

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Name	Start	End	Strand	Size of the ORF (nt)	Protein size (aa)	Molecular mass
ORF4	398	1342	sense	945 nt	314 aa	37.7 kDa
ORF7	1018	704	antisense	315 nt	104 aa	11.8 kDa
ORF10	912	733	antisense	180 nt	59 aa	6.5 kDa
ORF13	314	1381	antisense	702 nt	233 aa	27.8 kDa

The positions of the start and end of each ORF refer to the sequence presented in FIG. No. 4 (SEQ ID No. 4). The size of the ORF (in nucleotides=nt) includes the stop codon.

The comparison between the genomic organization of the PCV Imp. 1010 and PCV PK-15 isolates allowed the identification of 4 ORFs preserved in the genome of the two viruses. The table below presents the degrees of homology observed:

ORF Imp. 1010/ORF PK-15	Percentage homology
ORF4/ORF1	86%
ORF13/ORF2	66.4%
ORF7/ORF3	61.5% (at the level of the overlap (104 aa))
ORF10/ORF4	83% (at the level of the overlap (59 aa))

The greatest sequence identity was observed between ORF4 Imp. 1010 and ORF1 PK-15 (86% homology). This was expected since this protein is probably involved in the replication of the viral DNA and is essential for the viral replication (Meehan et al. J. Gen. Virol. 1997. 78. 221-227; Mankertz et al. J. Gen. Virol. 1998. 79. 381-384).

The sequence identity between ORF13 Imp. 1010 and ORF2 PK-15 is less strong (66.4% homology), but each of these two ORFs indeed exhibits a highly conserved N-terminal basic region which is identical to the N-terminal region of the major structural protein of the CAV avian circovirus (Meehan et al. Arch. Virol. 1992. 124. 301-319). Furthermore, large differences are observed between ORF7 Imp. 1010 and ORF3 PK-15 and between ORF10 Imp. 1010 and ORF4 PK-15. In each case, there is a deletion of the C-terminal region of the ORF7 and ORF10 of the Imp. 1010 isolate when they are compared with ORF3 and ORF4 of PCV PK-15. The greatest sequence homology is observed at the level of the N-terminal regions of ORF7/ORF3 (61.5% homology at the level of the overlap) and of ORF10/ORF4 (83% homology at the level of the overlap).

It appears that the genomic organization of the porcine circovirus is quite complex as a consequence of the extreme compactness of its genome. The major structural protein is probably derived from splicing between several reading frames situated on the same strand of the porcine circovirus genome. It can therefore be considered that any open reading frame (ORF1 to ORF13) as described in the table above can represent all or part of an antigenic protein encoded by the type II porcine circovirus and is therefore potentially an antigen which can be used for specific diagnosis and/or for vaccination. The invention therefore relates to any protein comprising at least one of these ORFs. Preferably, the invention relates to a protein essentially consisting of ORF4, ORF7, ORF10 or ORF13.

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Example 14

Infectious character of the PCV genome cloned from the new strains.

The plasmid pGEM-7/8 containing the complete genome (replicative form) of the Imp.999 isolate was transfected into PK/15 cells according to the technique described by Meehan B. et al. (Characterization of viral DNAs from cells infected with chicken anemia agent: sequence analysis of the cloned replicative form and transfection capabilities of cloned genome fragments. Arch. Virol. 1992, 124, 301-319). Immunofluorescence analysis (see Example 4) carried out on the first passage after transfection on noncontaminated PK/15 cells have shown that the plasmid of the clone pGEM7/8 was capable of inducing the production of infectious PCV virus. The availability of a clone containing an infectious PCV genetic material allows any useful manipulation on the viral genome in order to produce modified PCV viruses (either attenuated in pigs, or defective) which can be used for the production of attenuated or recombinant vaccines, or for the production of antigens for diagnostic kits.

Example 15

Production of PCV antigens by in vitro culture

The culture of the noncontaminated PK/15 cells and the viral multiplication were carried out according to the same methods as in Example 1. The infected cells are harvested after trypsinization after 4 days of incubation at 37° C. and enumerated. The next passage is inoculated with 400,000 infected cells per ml.

Example 16

Inactivation of the viral antigens

At the end of the viral culture, the infected cells are harvested and lysed using ultrasound (Branson Sonifier) or with the aid of a rotor-stator type colloid mill (UltraTurrax, IKA). The suspension is then centrifuged at 3700 g for 30 minutes. The viral suspension is inactivated with 0.1% ethylenimine for 18 hours at +37° C. or with 0.5% beta-propiolactone for 24 hours at +28° C. If the virus titre before inactivation is inadequate, the viral suspension is concentrated by ultrafiltration using a membrane with a 300 kDa cut-off (Millipore FTMK300). The inactivated viral suspension is stored at +50° C.

Example 17

Preparation of the vaccine in the form of an emulsion based on mineral oil.

The vaccine is prepared according to the following formula:

suspension of inactivated porcine circovirus: 250 ml
Montanide® ISA 70 (SEPPIC): 750 ml

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The aqueous phase and the oily phase are sterilized separately by filtration. The emulsion is prepared by mixing and homogenizing the ingredients with the aid of a Silverson turbine emulsifier.

One vaccine dose contains about $10^{7.5}$ TCID₅₀. The volume of one vaccine dose is 0.5 ml for administration by the intradermal route, and 2 ml for administration by the intramuscular route.

Example 18

Preparation of the vaccine in the form of a metabolizable oil-based emulsion.

The vaccine is prepared according to the following formula:

suspension of inactivated porcine circovirus: 200 ml
Dehymuls HRE 7 (Henkel): 60 ml
Radia 7204 (Oleofina): 740 ml

The aqueous phase and the oily phase are sterilized separately by filtration. The emulsion is prepared by mixing and homogenizing the ingredients with the aid of a Silverson turbine emulsifier.

One vaccine dose contains about $10^{7.5}$ TCID₅₀. The volume of one vaccine dose is 2 ml for administration by the intramuscular route.

Example 19

The indirect immunofluorescence results in relation to the US and French PCV virus strains and to the PK/15 contaminant with a hyperimmune serum (PCV-T), a panel of monoclonal antibodies F99 prepared from PK/15 and a hyperimmune serum prepared from the Canadian strain (PCV-C)

	VIRUS		
	PK/15	USA	France
PCV-T antiserum	≥6400	200	800
PCV-C antiserum	200	≥6,400	≥6,400
F99 1H4	≥10000	<100	100
F99 4B10	≥10000	<100	<100
F99 2B7	≥10000	100	<100
F99 2E12	≥10000	<100	<100
F99 1C9	≥10000	<100	100
F99 2E1	≥10000	<100	<100
F99 1H4	≥10000	100	<100

Reciprocal of the last dilution of the serum or of the monoclonal antibody which gives a positive reaction in indirect immunofluorescence.

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 <12> TYPE: DNA
 <13> ORGANISM: Porcine circovirus
 <20> FEATURE:
 <21> NAME/KEY: variation
 <22> LOCATION: (1)..(1768)
 <23> OTHER INFORMATION: N represents A or C or G or T

<400> SEQUENCE: 6

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ggcggttgt atgtggtag cttgacagt atctcgaag gtgcgggaga rgcggtgtt	180
gaaatgcc ttttctctc tcaacggta gcggtggcg ggtggacaa ncaacggcg	240
gcggcgag atctggcaa gatggctgc gggcggtgt cttctctgc ggtacgcct	300
cttgatcac gtcatgctg aaacgaag agtgctgtg taatcttac cagcgcaatt	360
cggtagcgg agcactcgg cagcaatca gacgaacat gccagcaag aagaaaggaa	420
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-continued

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 atgtgggatt ttgtccaaag ttatcatata gataaagaga agtggagaga actcccatat 1740
 caccctgggt gatgggggag cagggaaca 1768

What is claimed is:

1. A vector comprising an isolated DNA molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1,2,3,4 and 6.
2. The vector of claim 1 wherein the DNA molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.
3. The vector of claim 1 wherein the DNA molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.
4. The vector of claim 1 wherein the DNA molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 3.
5. The vector of claim 1 wherein the DNA molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 4.
6. The vector of claim 1 wherein the DNA molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 6.
7. The vector of claim 1 wherein the isolated DNA molecule is expressed by the vector in vivo.
8. The vector of claim 1 wherein the isolated DNA molecule is expressed by the vector in vitro.
9. A vector comprising an isolated DNA molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of ORFs 1 to 13 of porcine circovirus type II.
10. The vector of claim 9 wherein the ORF comprises ORF 4.
11. The vector of claim 9 wherein the ORF comprises ORF 7.
12. The vector of claim 9 wherein the ORF comprises ORF 10.
13. The vector of claim 9 wherein the ORF comprises ORF 13.
14. The vector of claim 9, wherein the isolated DNA molecule is expressed by the vector in vivo.
15. The vector of claim 9, wherein the isolated DNA molecule is expressed by the vector in vitro.
16. The vector of any one claims 38-48 wherein the vector is a virus.
17. The vector of claim 16 wherein the virus is selected from the group consisting of pig herpes virus, porcine adenovirus, and poxvirus.
18. An immunogenic composition comprising a vector as claimed in claim 17.
19. The vector of claim 17 wherein the virus is selected from the group consisting of Anjesky's disease virus, vaccinia virus, avipox virus, and swinepox virus.
20. An immunogenic composition comprising a vector as claimed in claim 19.
21. The vector of claim 19 wherein the virus is a canarypox virus.
22. An immunogenic composition comprising a vector as claimed in claim 21.
23. The vector of any one of claims 1,9,2-6, and 10-13 wherein the vector comprises a DNA plasmid.
24. An immunogenic composition comprising a vector as claimed in claim 23.
25. An immunogenic composition comprising a vector as claimed in any one of claims 1,9,2-6, and 10-13.
26. An isolated DNA molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1,2,3,4 and 6.
27. The isolated DNA molecule of claim 26 wherein the DNA molecule comprising SEQ ID NO: 1.
28. The isolated DNA molecule of claim 26 wherein the DNA molecule comprising SEQ ID NO: 2.
29. The isolated DNA molecule of claim 26 wherein the DNA molecule comprising SEQ ID NO: 3.
30. The isolated DNA molecule of claim 26 wherein the DNA molecule comprising SEQ ID NO: 4.
31. The isolated DNA molecule of claim 26 wherein the DNA molecule comprising SEQ ID NO: 6.
32. An isolated DNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an epitope which is specific to PCV-2 and not specific to PCV-1.
33. A vector comprising an isolated DNA molecule as claimed in claim 1.
34. The vector according to claim 33, wherein the isolated DNA molecule is expressed in vivo.
35. The vector according to claim 33, wherein the isolated DNA molecule is expressed in vitro.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,368,601 B1
DATED : April 9, 2002
INVENTOR(S) : Gordon Allan et al.

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Title page

Item [73], Assignee: change "Lyons" to -- Lyon --

Column 27

Line 44, change "claims 38-49" to -- claims 1-6 and 9-13 --

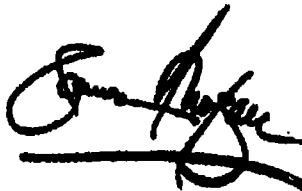
Column 28

Line 43, change "1" to -- 32 --

Signed and Sealed this

Eighth Day of October, 2002

Attest:



Attesting Officer

JAMES E. ROGAN
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office