



The Infectious Disease Nocardiosis in Marine Animals

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Received: March 18, 2019; **Published:** April 01, 2019

The infectious disease Nocardiosis is not small disease it is affecting either lungs or the whole body. It is due to infection by the bacterium called Nocardia. It is an ubiquitous environmental microorganism belong to Actinomycetes. When the bacterium Nocardia asteroides affect the lung pulmonary Nocardiosis infection occur and when *Nocardia brasiliensis* affect the whole body called Systemic Nocardiosis infection. Nocardiosis symptoms are look like pneumonia and tuberculosis. The bacterium Nocardia asteroides and *Nocardia brasiliensis* found in soil and standing water.

Nocardiosis is not only man disease it is also found in Marine mammals. To date above 90 species of Nocardia are identified. Of these above 30 have been found in man and minimum 30 species are responsible for animal diseases. It is also diagnoses in marine mammals such as both group of cetaceans (toothed whales: Odontocetes and baleen whales: Mysticetes), sea otters (Mustelidae), pinnipeds (true seals: Phocidae, eared seals: Otariidae and walrus: Odobenidae), polar bears (Ursidae) and sirenians (Sireniidae). Nocardia bacteria infections cause pyogranulomatous lesions in different organs particularly in lungs [1]. In marine mammals the significant cause of mortality is Nocardiosis disease.

Recently this devastating disease discovered in cultured marine and fresh fishes and shell fishes. The causative agent in fishes was the gram positive acid fast bacterium, *Nocardia seriolae* [2]. The Nocardia bacterium attack on skin, muscle and various inner tissues of teleost (Ray finned fishes) and shell fishes. Maekawa, et al. [3] reported four species of *Nocardia asteroides*, *N. seriolae*, *N. salmonicida* and *N. crassostreae* from affecting fish and shell fish. From this disease great economic loss occur in aquatic aquaculture in region of Asia (China, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia).

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Volume 2 Issue 5 May 2019

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