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## FIRST DETECTION OF SUNSHINE VIRUS IN PYTHONS (*Python regius*) IN EUROPE

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### ABSTRACT

Sunshine virus is a recently described genetically distinct paramyxovirus found in Australian pythons. It appears to be associated with neurorespiratory signs in infected animals. In July 2012, a ball python (*Python regius*) from southern Germany was presented for medical examination showing slight respiratory signs and anorexia. Antibiotic treatment first improved the clinical signs, but after 3 mo, the animal was euthanatized due to severe central nervous signs. On pathologic examination, a mild multifocal lymphohistiocytic encephalitis was diagnosed. In August 2012, an oral and cloacal swab from a ball python from eastern Germany was sent for virologic testing. This animal showed dyspnea and stomatitis. The animal recovered after antibiotic treatment. Sunshine virus was detected by reverse transcriptase PCR from snakes (lung lavage / swab) from both cases. Obtained partial sequences (350bp) from polymerase gene (L) from both were 100% identical to each other and to Sunshine virus. This is the first detection of Sunshine virus outside Australia.