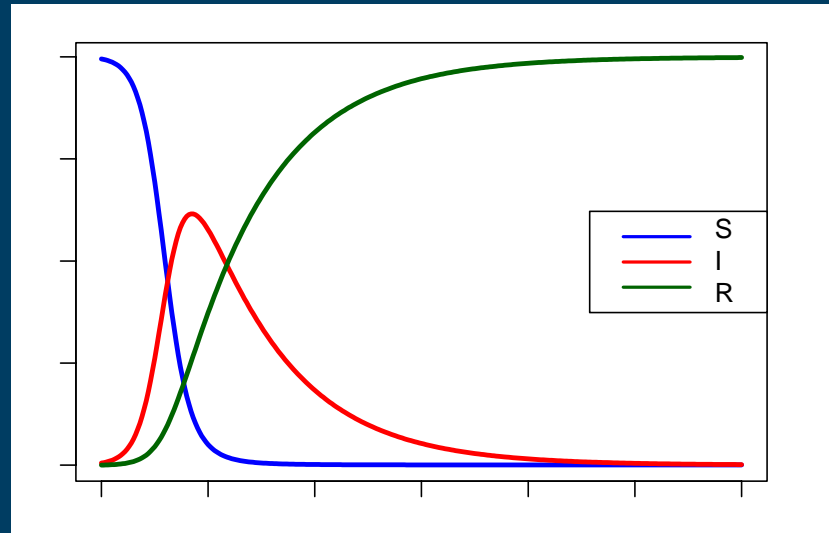


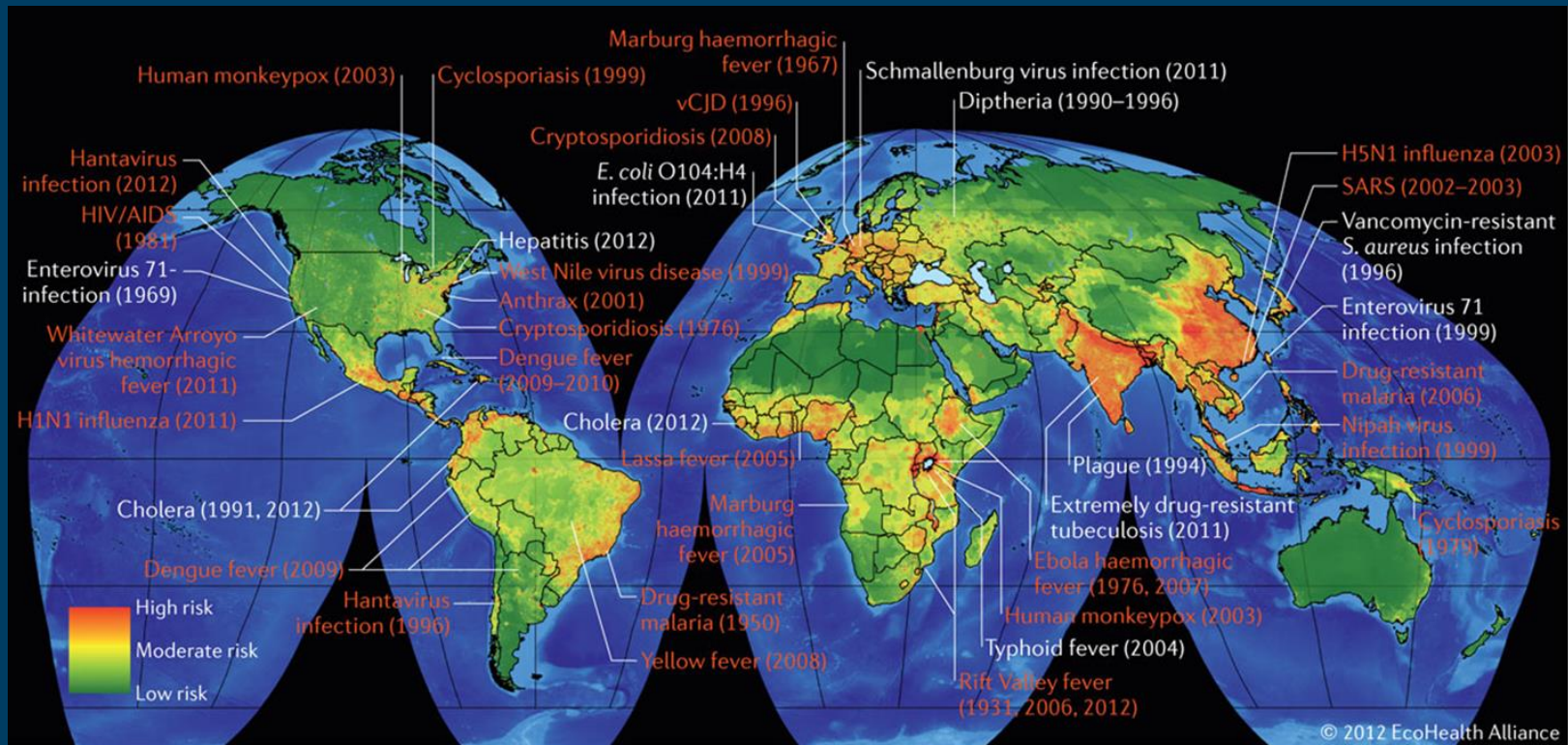
Patterns in mice, patterns in humans?



Herwig LEIRS & collaborators
ASCID, Universiteit Antwerpen
Evolutionary Ecology Group

Mice (and other small mammals) source of infections

New and (re-)emerging infectious diseases (EID)
70% vector-borne or zoonotic



Reason for increase of EID:

- changing ecological conditions
- jumping host species

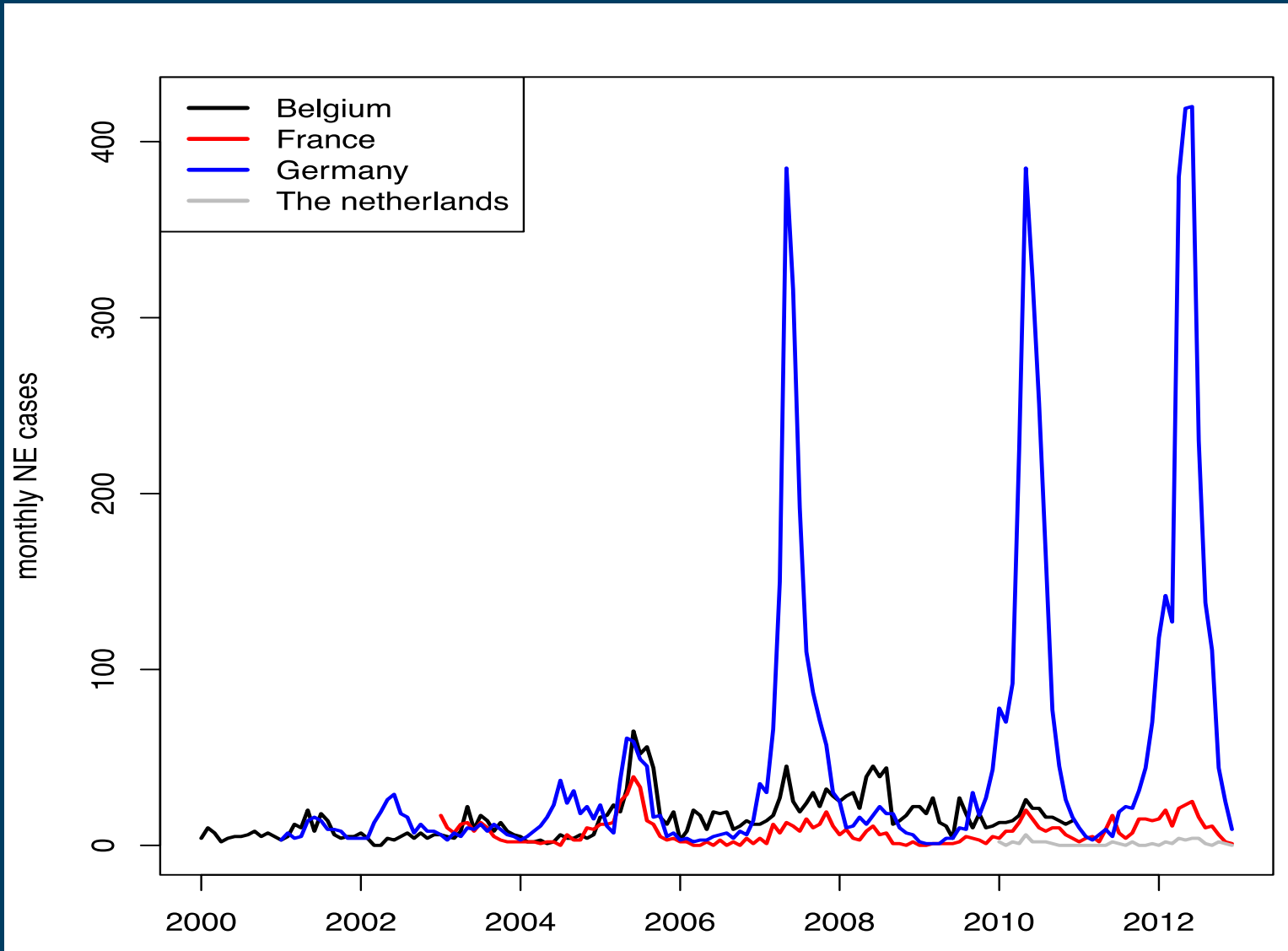
Nature Reviews | Microbiology

Hantavirus

- rodent borne viruses (Bunyaviridae)
 - in Western Europe: mostly Puumala virus
 - reservoir PUUV: Bank vole *Myodes glareolus*
 - asymptomatic infection in rodents
 - virus excreted in urine, faeces, saliva
-
- humans infected through inhalation of infectious particles
 - Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome (*Nephropathia Epidemica*)
 - potentially serious kidney problems



Temporal variation in Nephropathia Epidemica in W Europe



Temporal variation in number of cases

Link with vole abundance?

cases

400

350

300

250

200

150

100

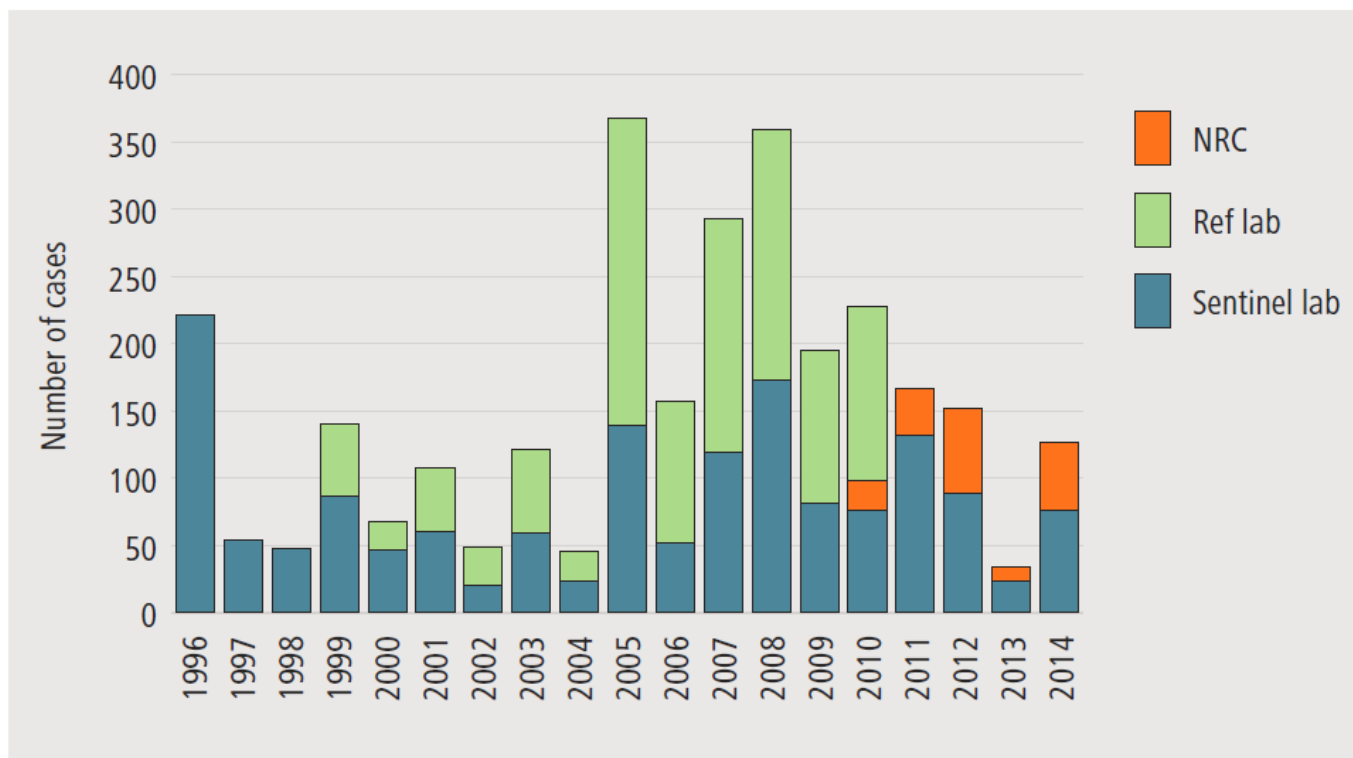
50

0

1996

Figuur 1 | Aantal gerapporteerde gevallen van hantavirose per gegevensbron en per jaar, België 1996-2014

(Bronnen: netwerk van peillaboratoria, referentielaboratorium en NRC)



Heymar

Rebolledo et al. (2015). Zoönosen en vector overdraagbare ziekten. Epidemiologische surveillance in België, 2013 en 2014. WIV, Brussels.

Effect of mast years on rodents: important delay

Bud formation
(Summer year t)



Dry warm Summer



Flowering
(Spring year $t+1$)



*No late frost
Little rain during pollination*



Seed production
(Autum year $t+1$)



High vole densities
(year $t+1$)



Intense transmission



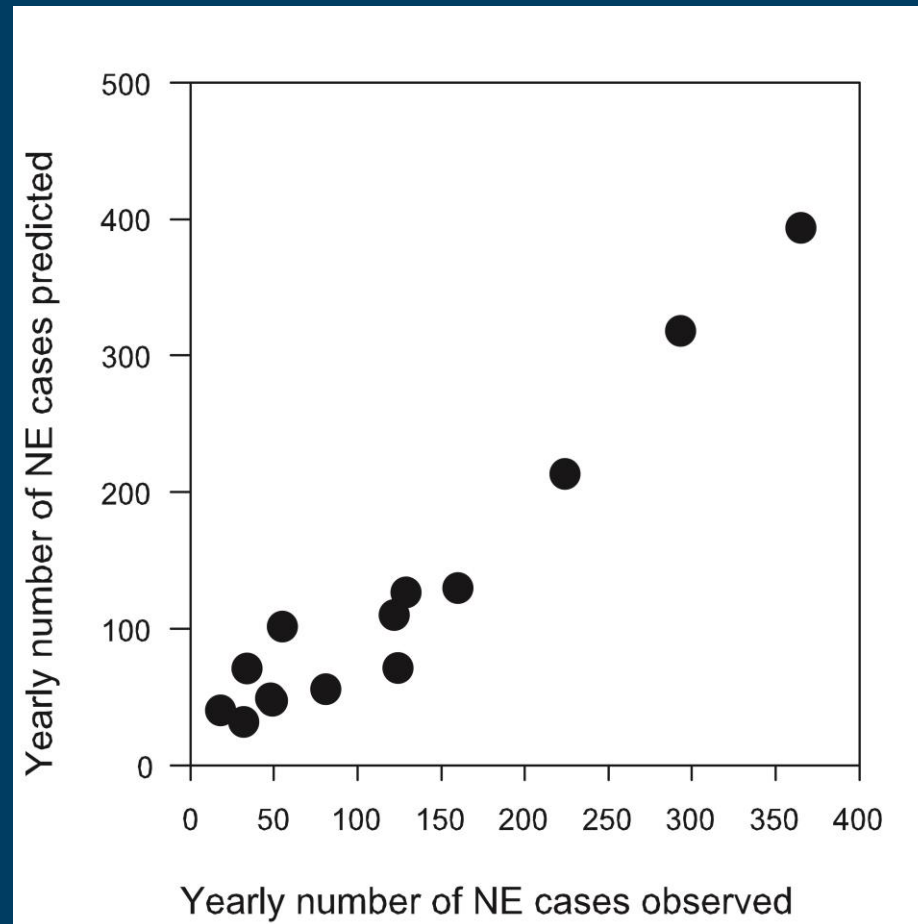
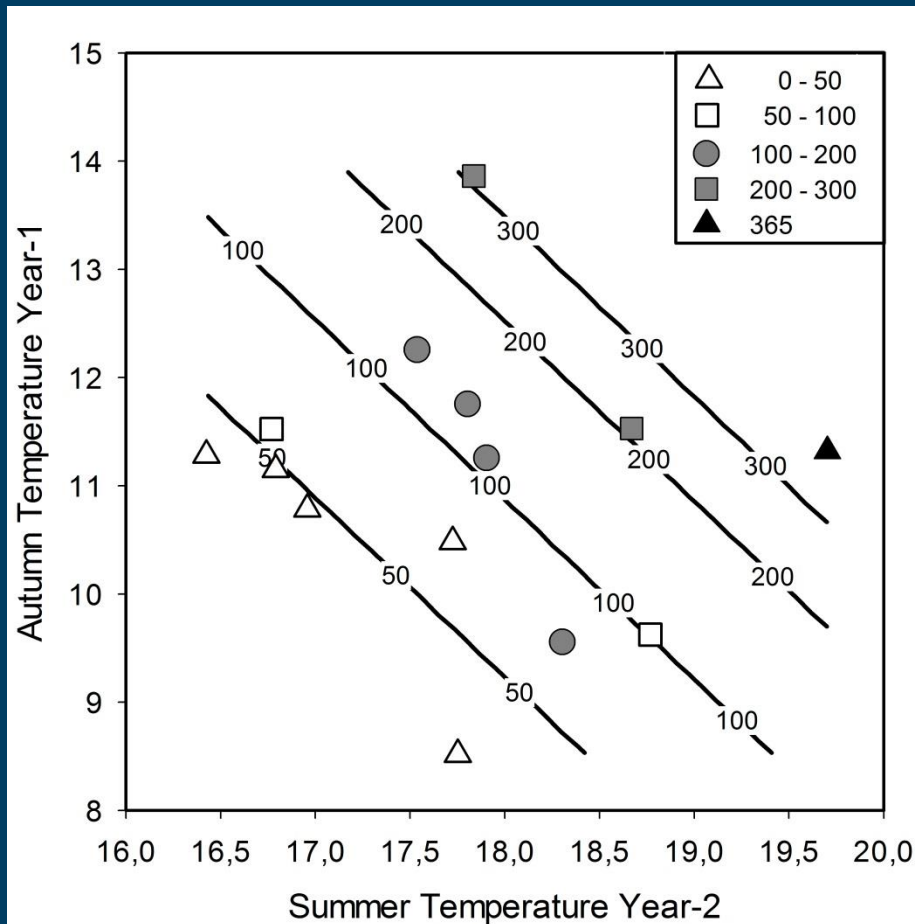
High infection risk
for humans



Hantavirus
incidence
(jaar $t+2$)

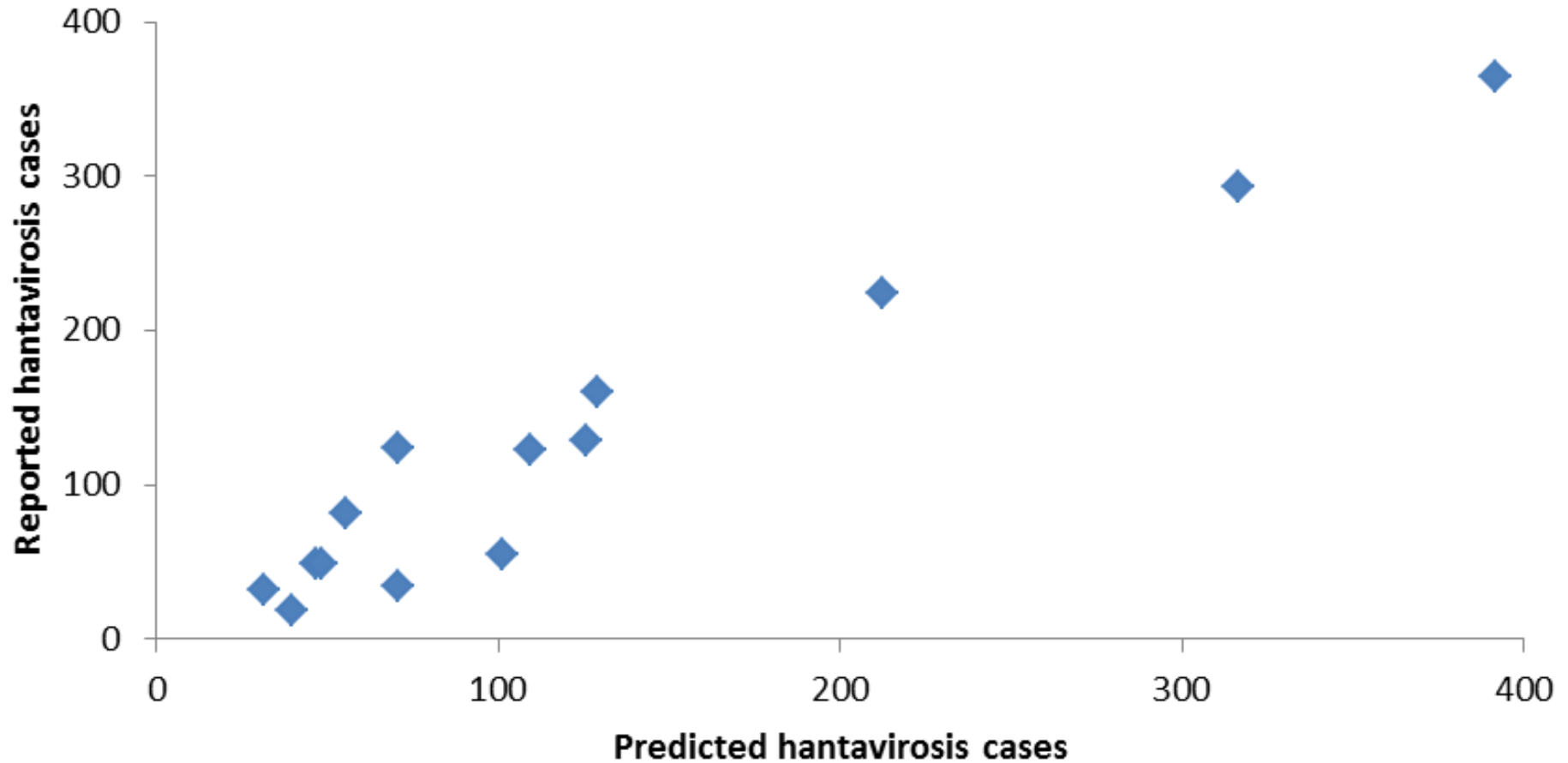


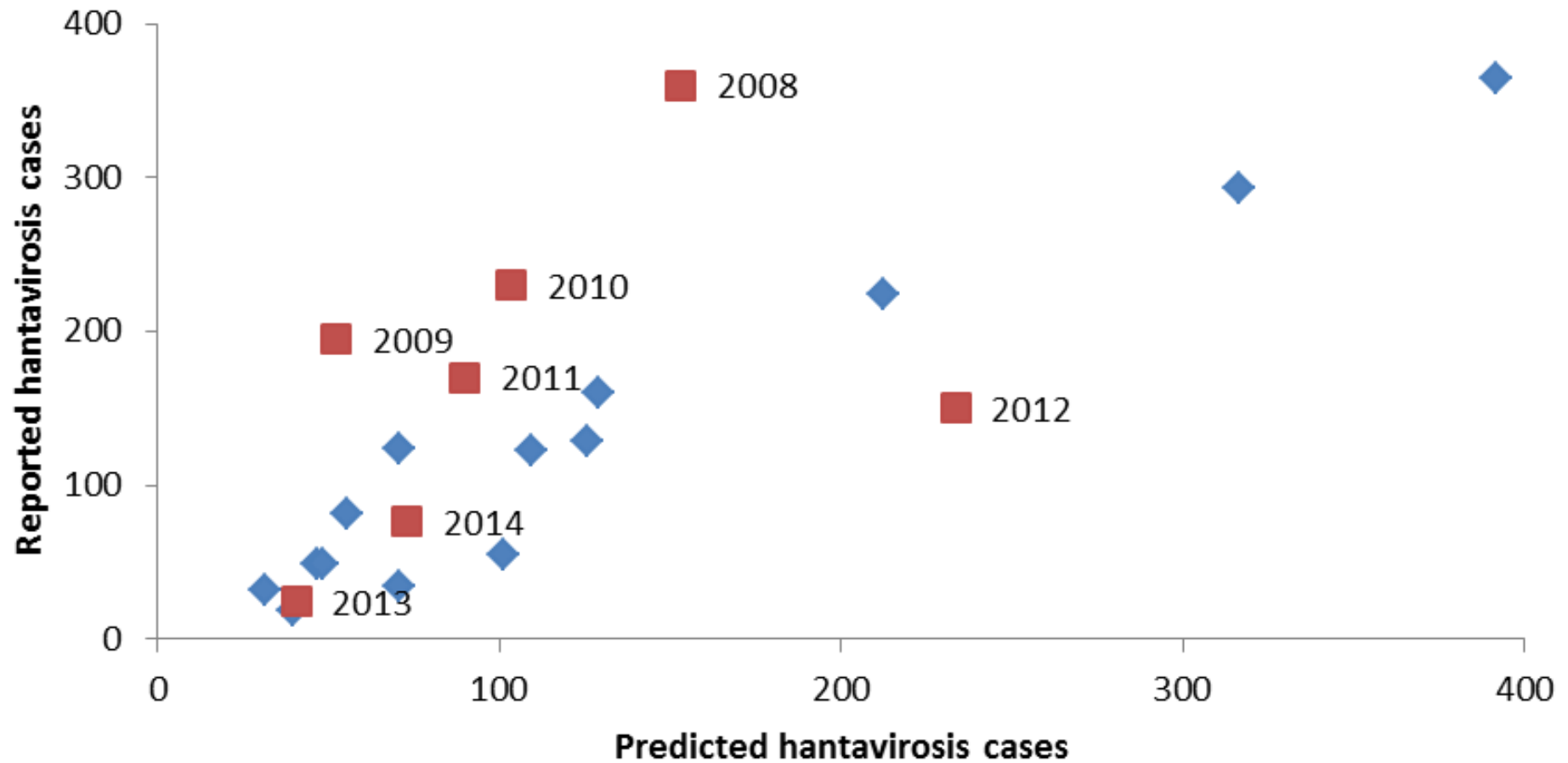
Hantavirus case numbers relate to climate

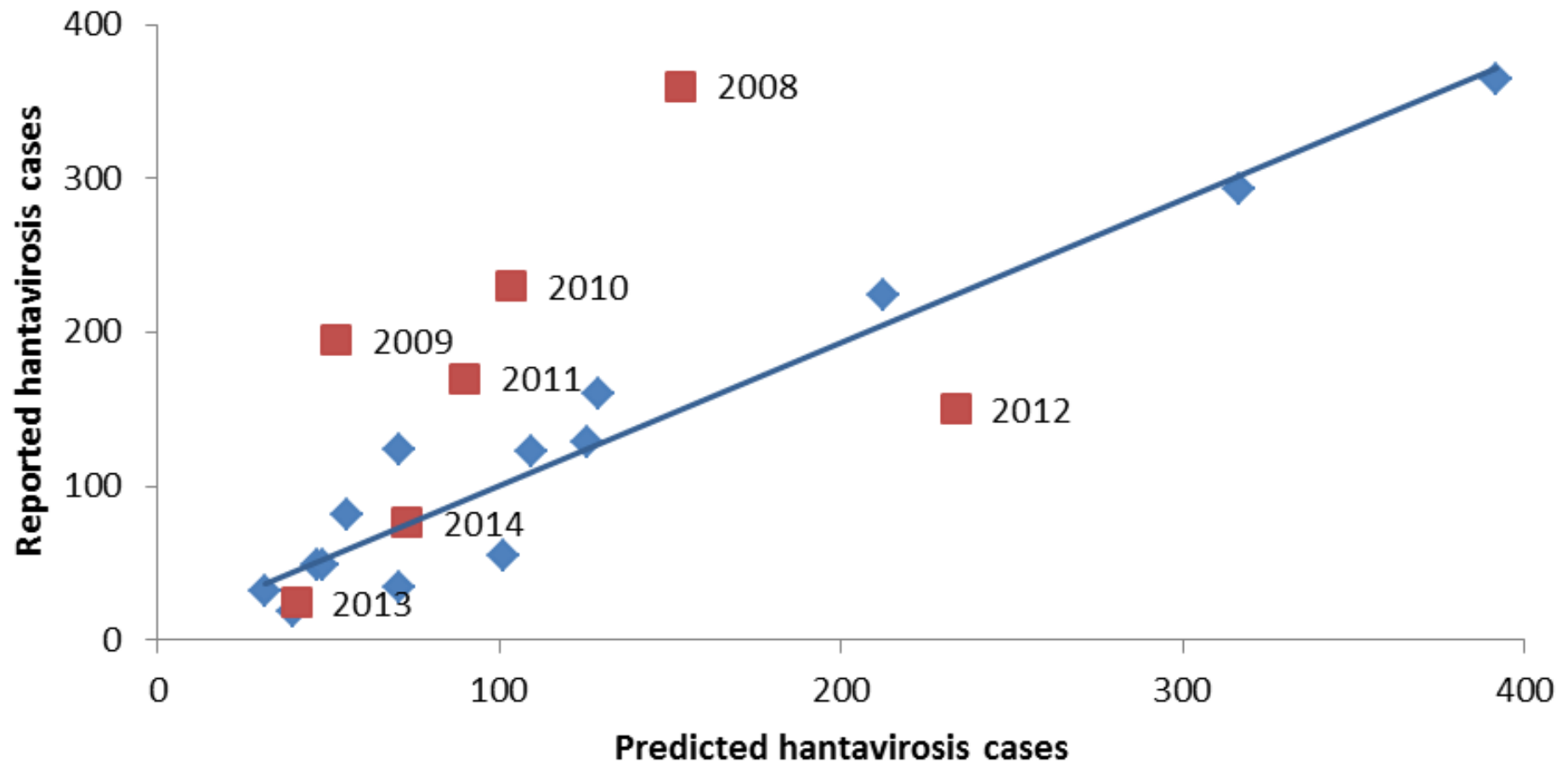


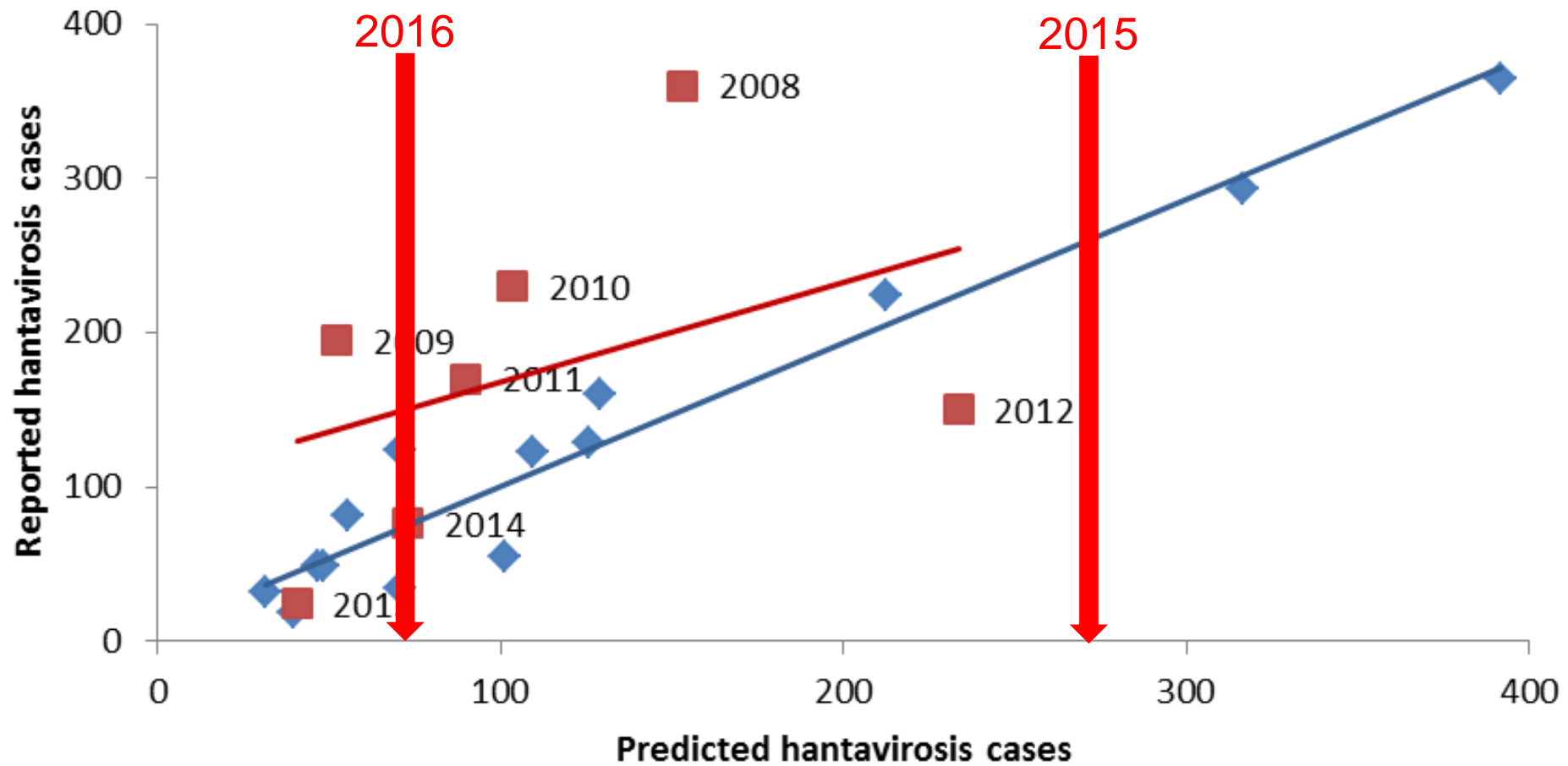
Tersago et al. (2008). *Epidemiol.Infect.* 137, 250–256.

Predicted number of NE cases



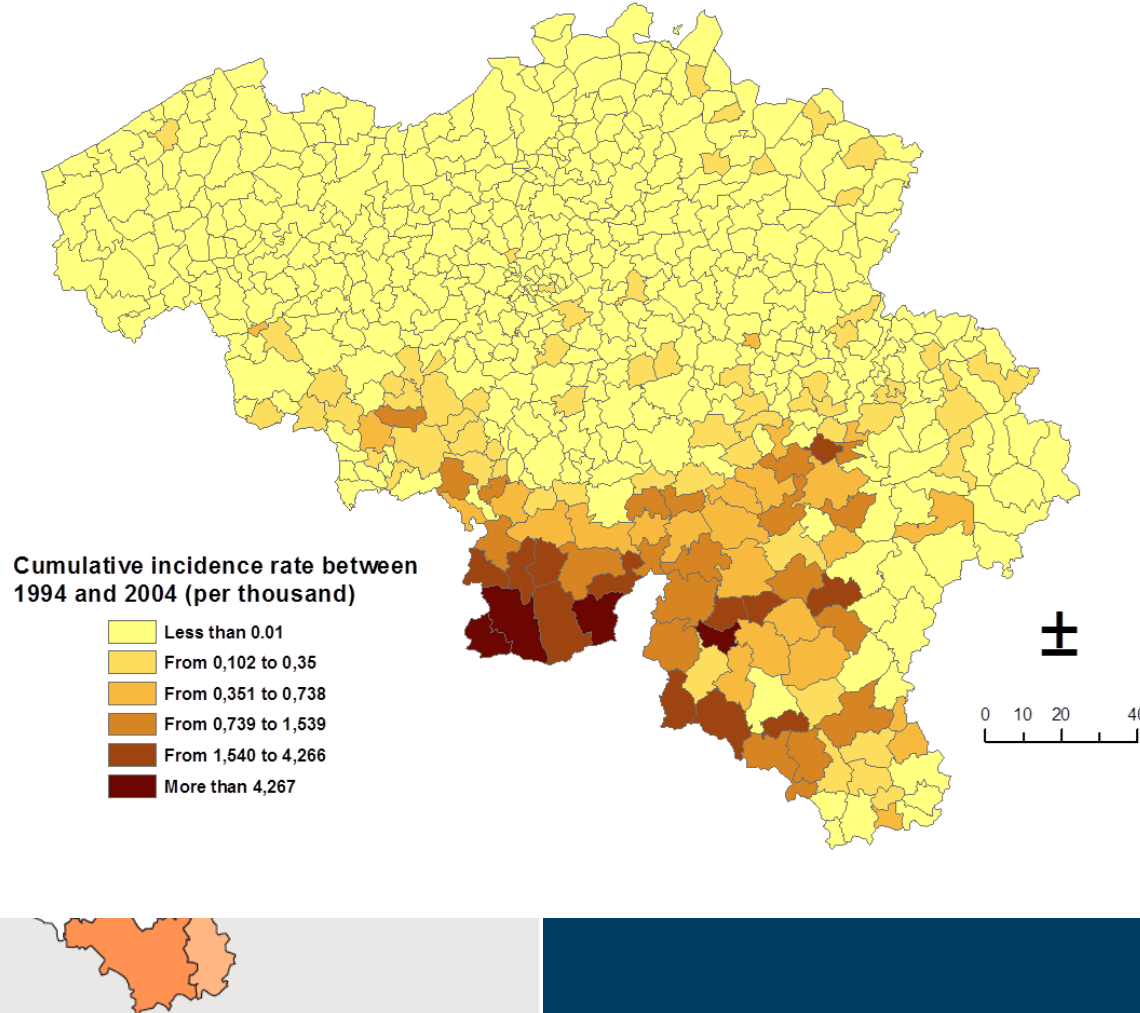
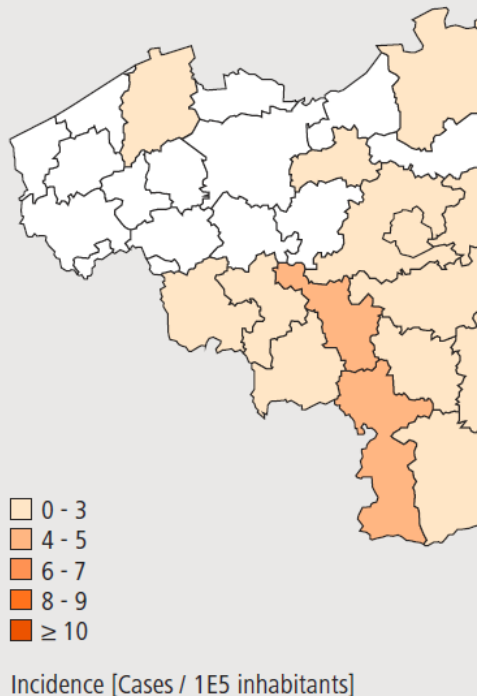






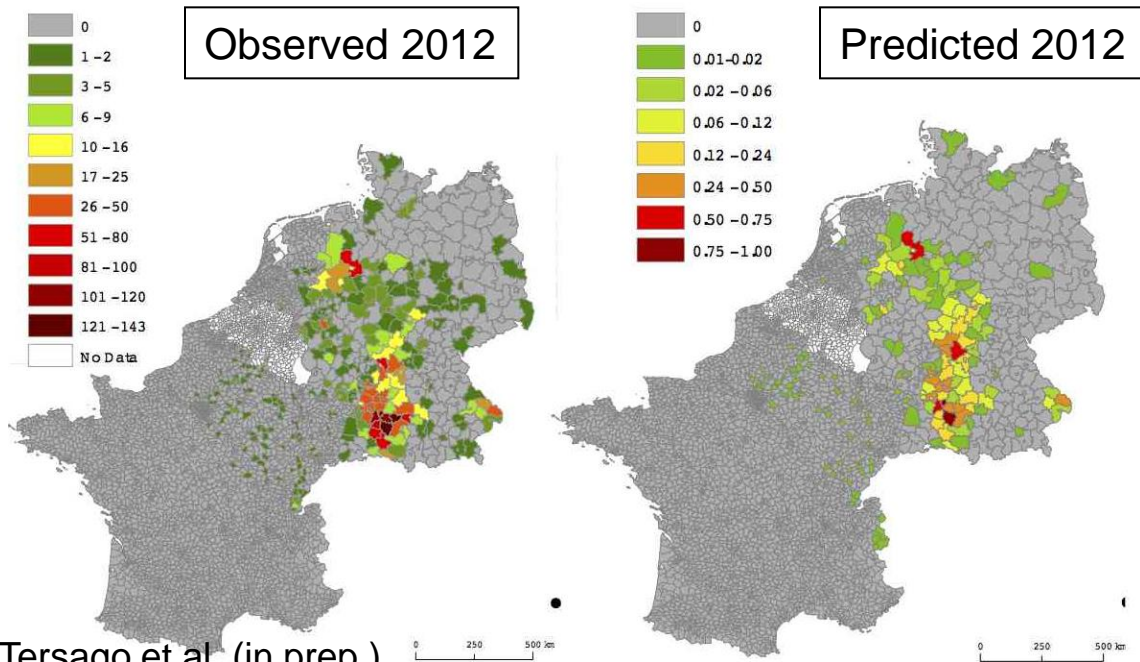
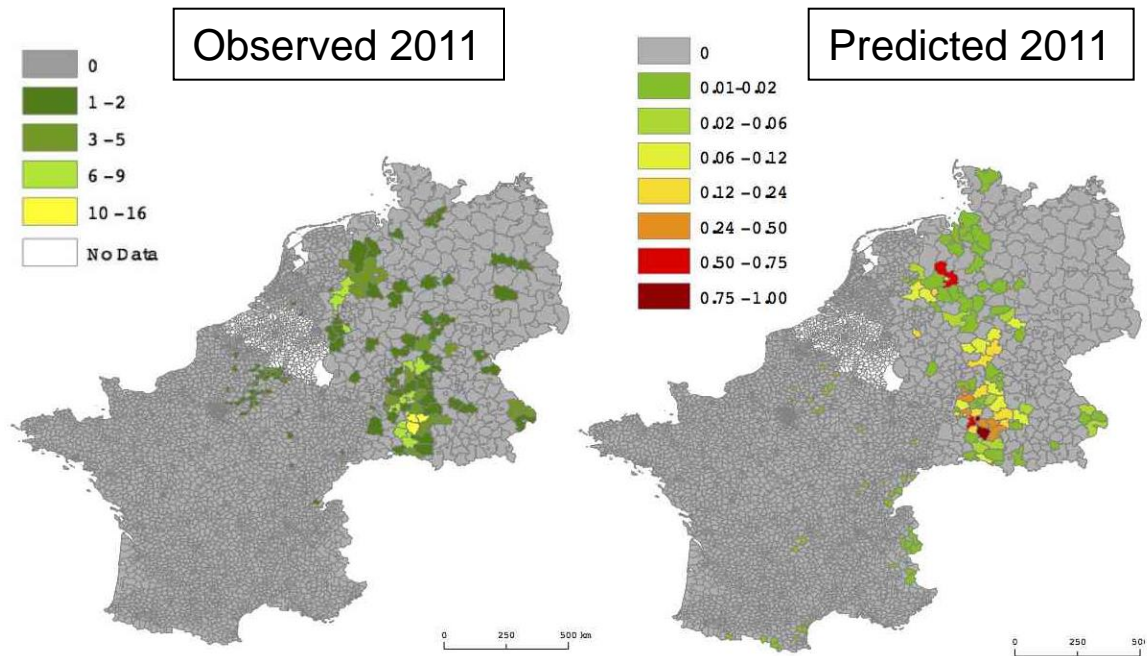
Spatial patterns vary over time...

Figuur 2 | Gerapporteerde incidentie van ha
België, 2013 en 2014
(Bron: netwerk van peillaboratoria)



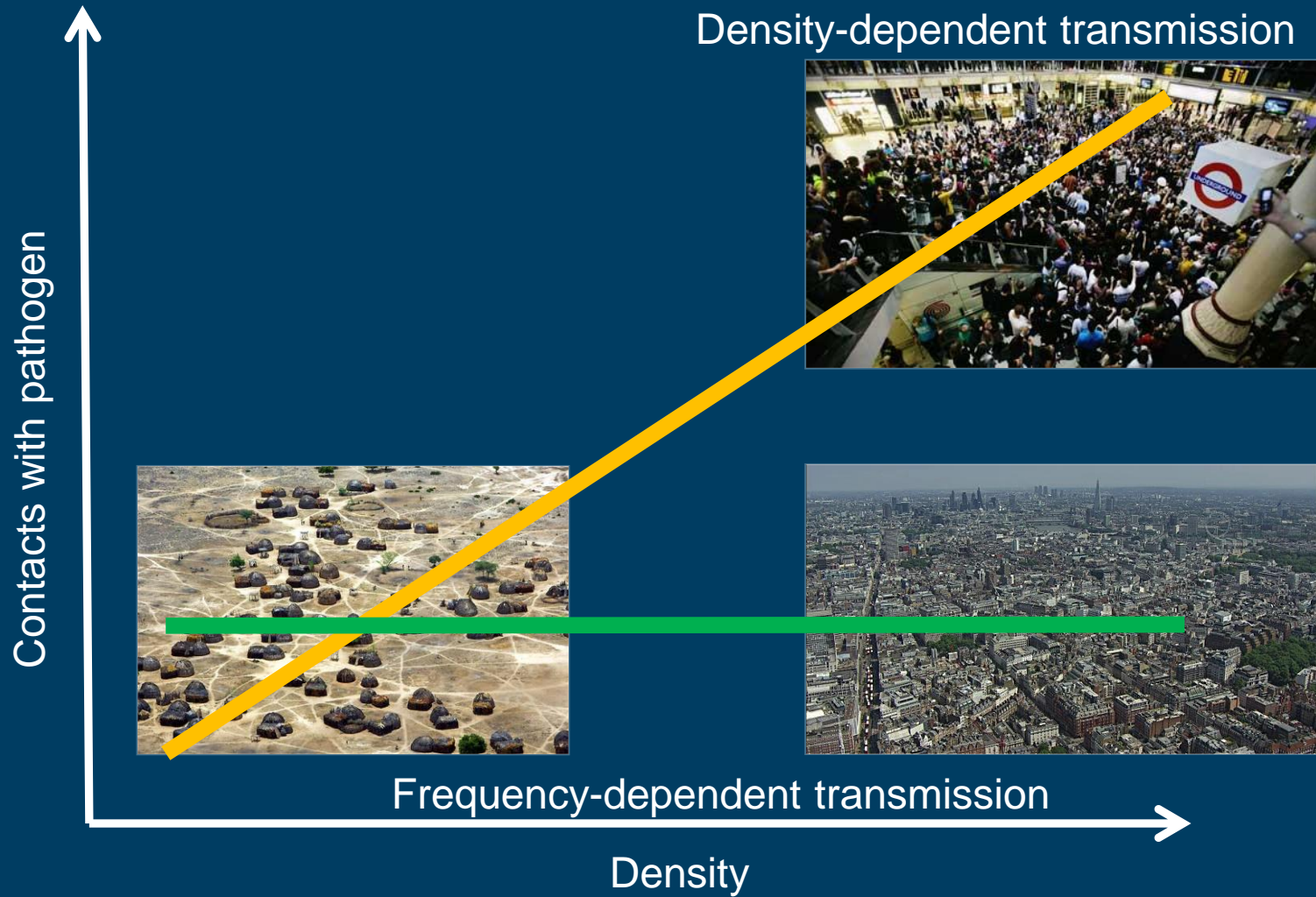
Rebolledo et al. (2015). Zoönosen en vector overdraagbare ziekten.
Epidemiologische surveillance in België, 2013 en 2014. WIV, Brussels.

Space-time model predicting probability of hantaviruses in Western Europe



Tersago et al. (in prep.)

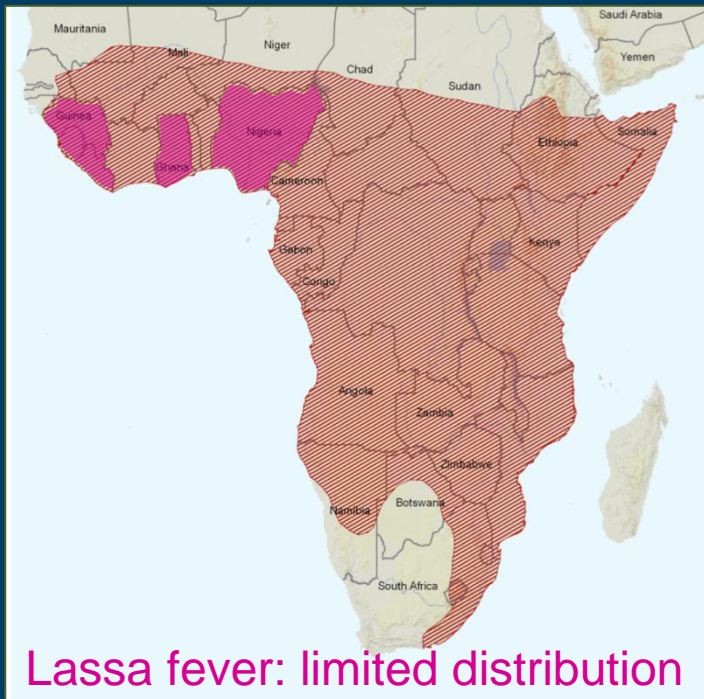
Contact-density function



Relevant for models: e.g. host abundance threshold

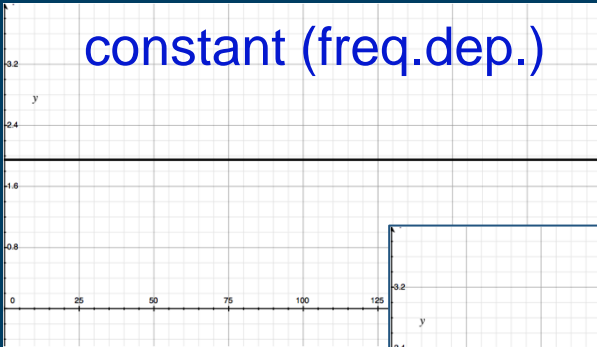
African arenaviruses

- Lassa virus causing Lassa fever in W Africa
- BSL4 virus
- Reservoir multimammate mouse *Mastomys natalensis*
- Host occurs all over Africa
- In E Africa, related viruses in same host species

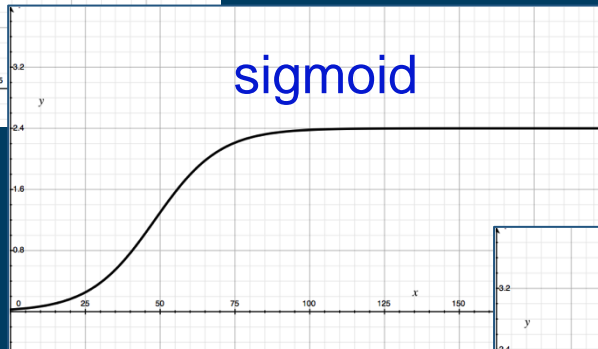


Exact shape of the contact-density function?

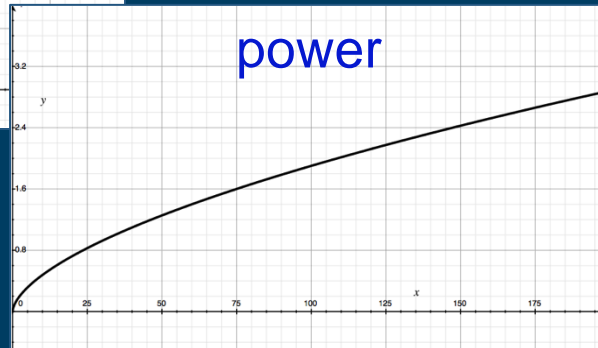
constant (freq.dep.)



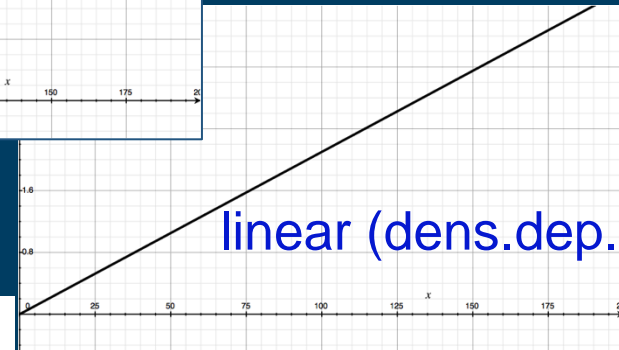
sigmoid



power

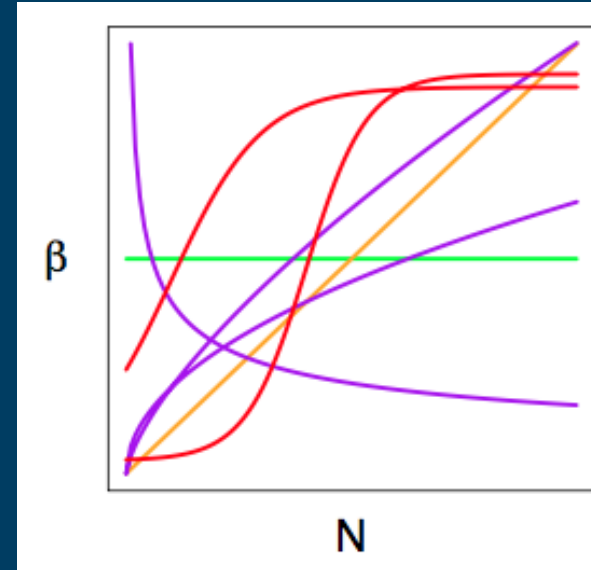


linear (dens.dep.)



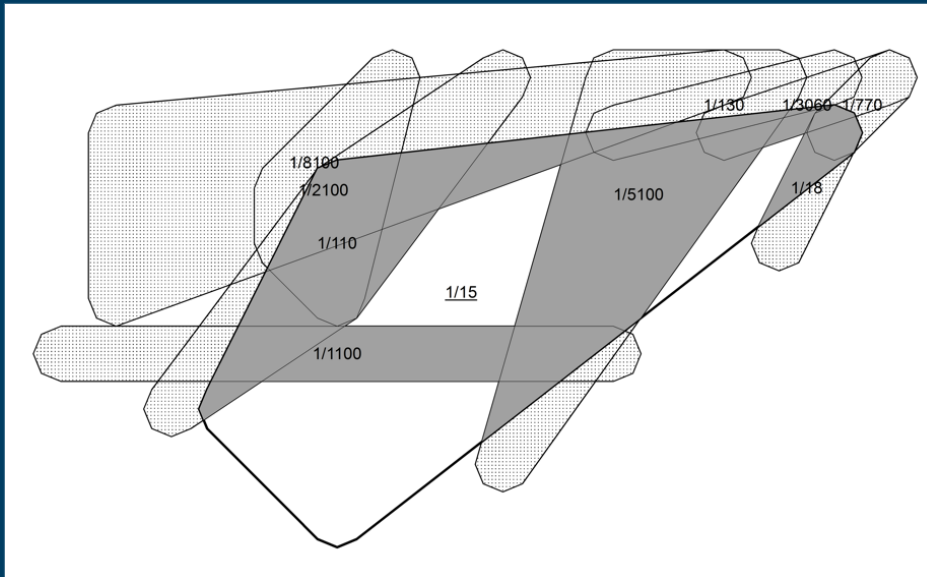
β

N



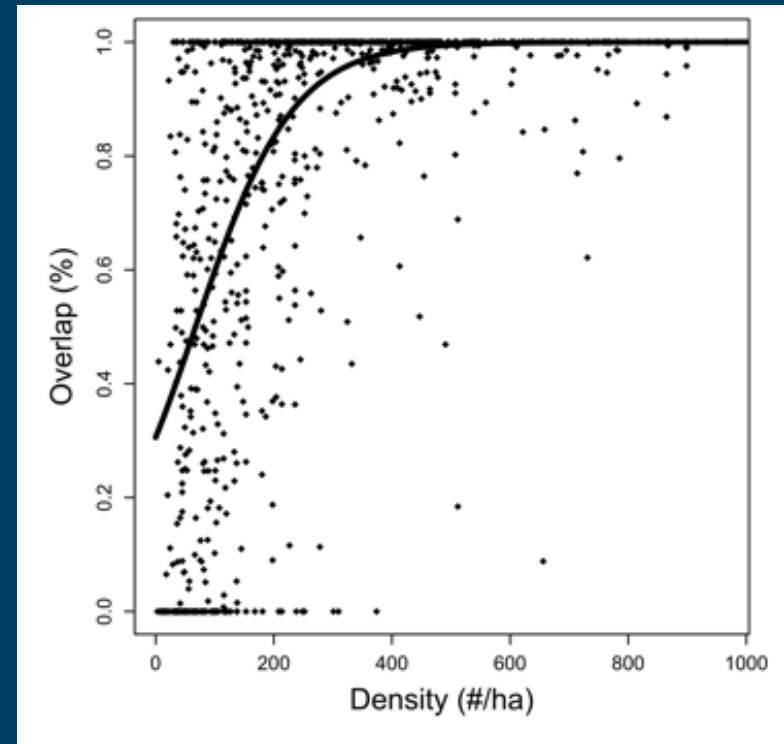
McCallum et al. 2001

How do mouse contacts change with density?

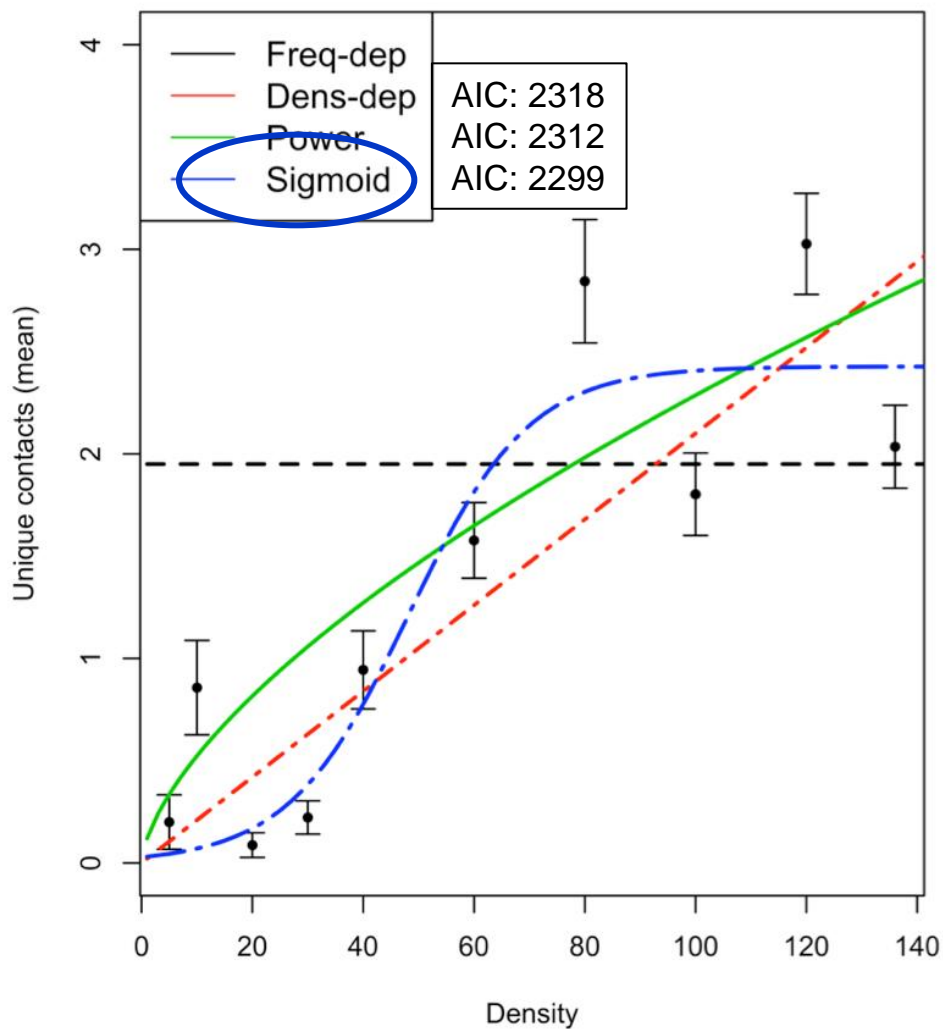


Happily together forever: temporal variation in spatial patterns and complete lack of territoriality in a promiscuous rodent

Benny Borremans · Nelika K. Hughes · Jonas Reijnders · Vincent Sluydts ·
Abdul A. S. Katakweba · Loth S. Mulungu · Christopher A. Sabuni · Popul Ecol (2014) 56:109–118
Rhodes H. Makundi · Herwig Leirs
DOI 10.1007/s10144-013-0393-2







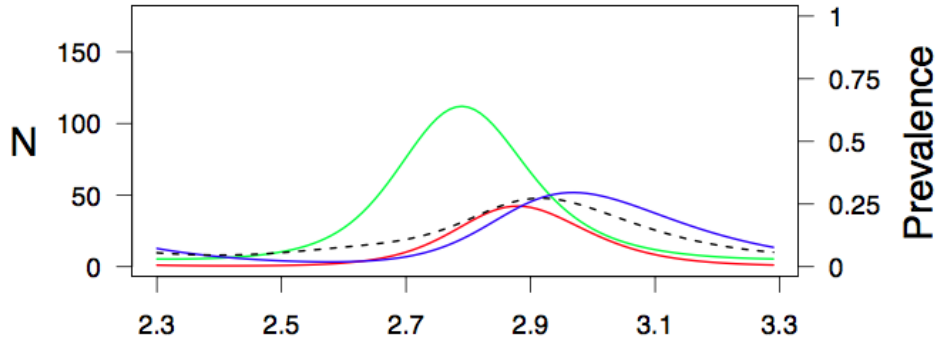
The shape of the contact-density function matters when modelling disease transmission in fluctuating populations

Benny Borremans¹, Jonas Reijnen¹, Herwig Leirs¹

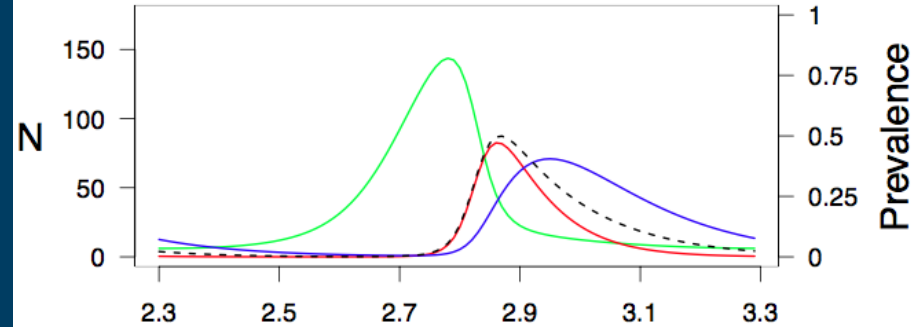
Manuscript submitted

But does this matter?

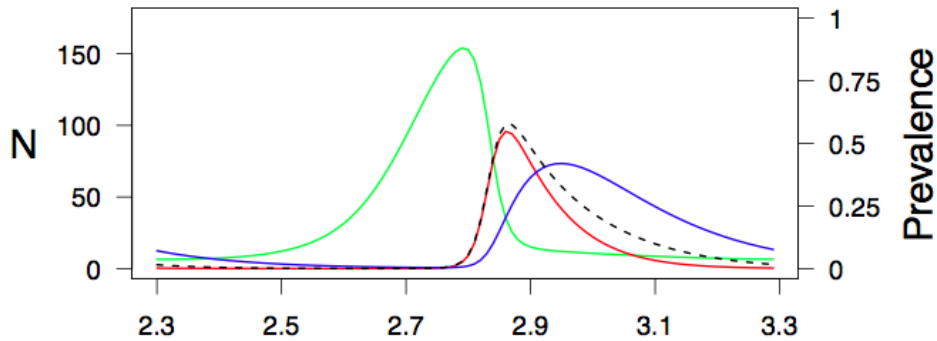
Constant



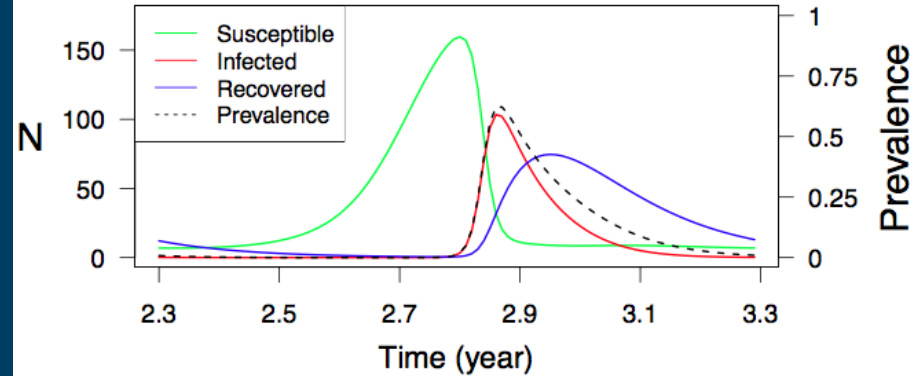
Power



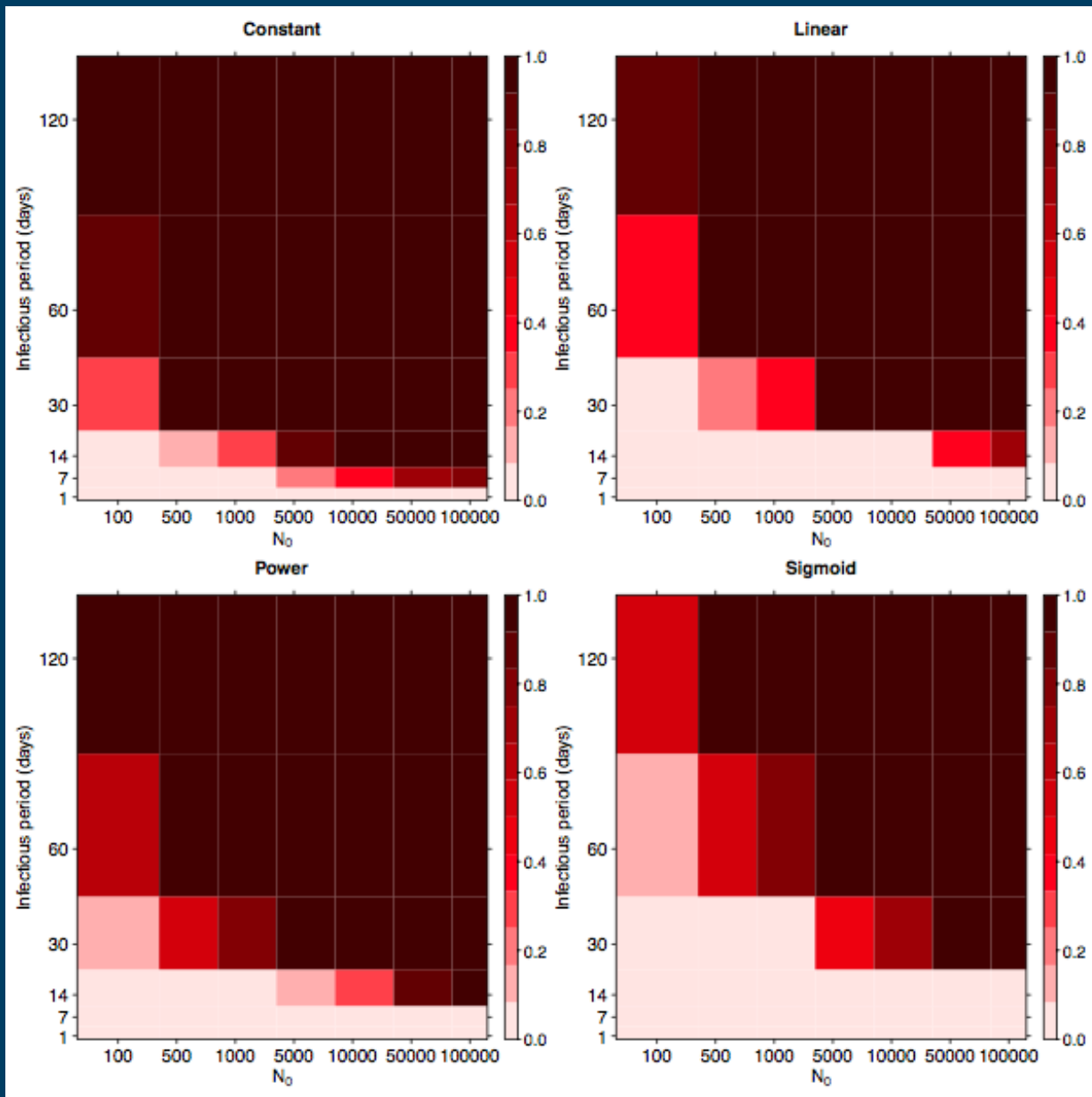
Linear



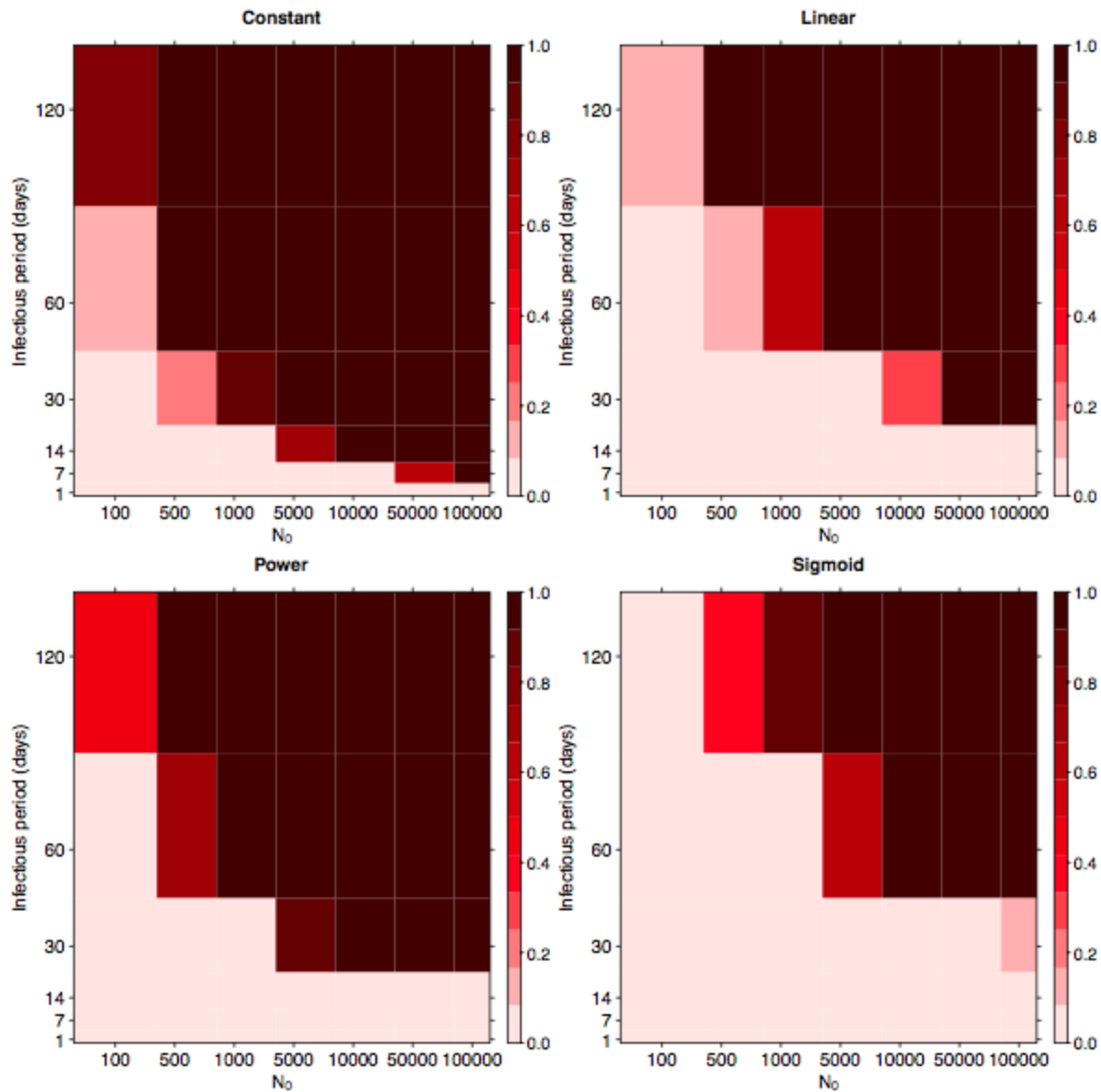
Sigmoid



P(invasion)



P(persistence|invasion)

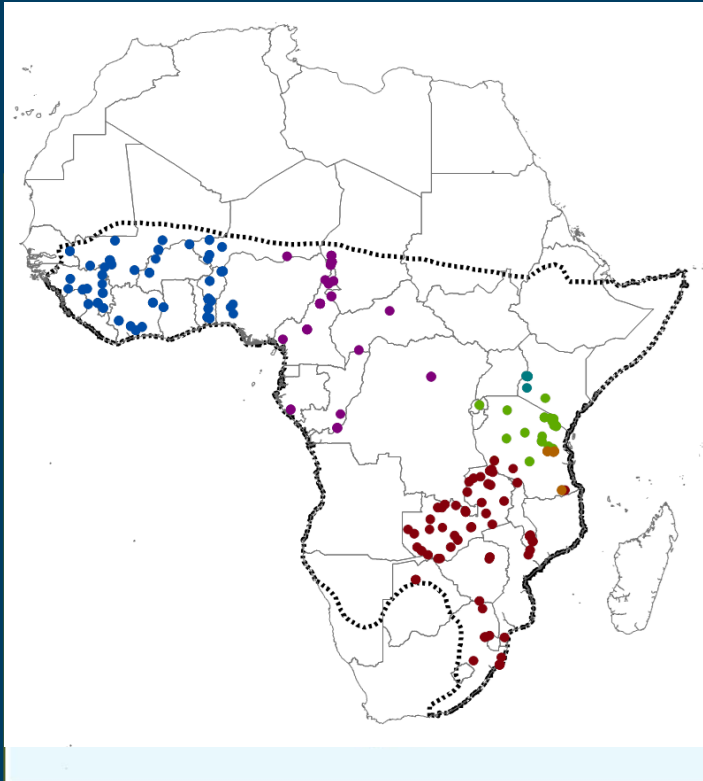


thresholds differ considerably

consequences for e.g.

- hotspot area size
- vaccination programs?

Spatial patterns: Lassa fever has a limited distribution



several *Mastomys natalensis* clades

Diverse arenaviruses?

Sympatric Occurrence of 3 Arenaviruses, Tanzania

Joëlle Goüy de Bellocq, Benny Borremans, Abdul Katakweba, Rhodes Makundi, Stuart J.E. Baird, Beate Becker-Ziaja, Stephan Günther, and Herwig Leirs



Emerging Infectious Diseases • www.cdc.gov/eid • Vol. 16, No. 4, April 2010

High Diversity of RNA Viruses in Rodents, Ethiopia

Yonas Meheretu,¹ Dagmar Čížková,¹ Jana Těšíková, Kiros Welegerima, Zewdneh Tomas, Dawit Kidane, Kokob Girmay, Jonas Schmidt-Chanasit, Josef Bryja, Stephan Günther, Anna Bryjová, Herwig Leirs, and Joëlle Goüy de Bellocq



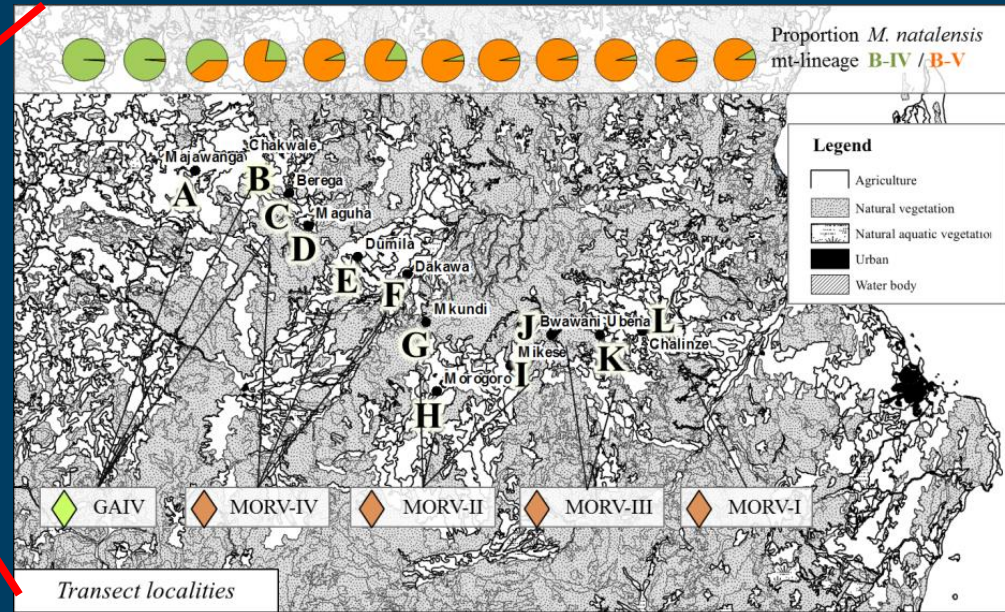
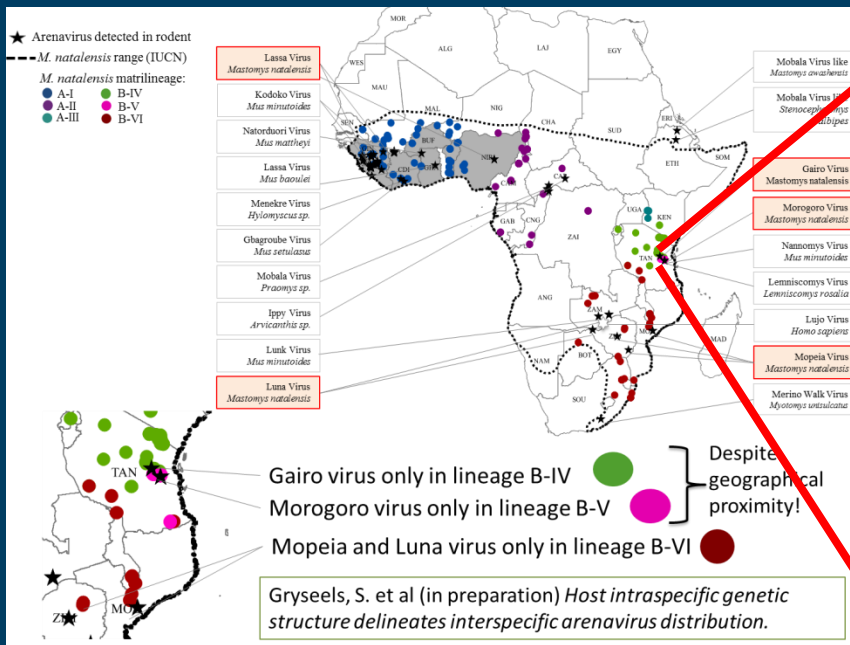
Emerging Infectious Diseases • www.cdc.gov/eid • Vol. 18, No. 12, December 2012

Gairo virus, a novel arenavirus of the widespread *Mastomys natalensis*: Genetically divergent, but ecologically similar to Lassa and Morogoro viruses

Sophie Gryseels^{a,*}, Toni Rieger^b, Lisa Oestereich^b, Bart Cuypers^{c,d}, Benny Borremans^a, Rhodes Makundi^e, Herwig Leirs^a, Stephan Günther^{b,1}, Joëlle Goüy de Bellocq^{a,f,1}

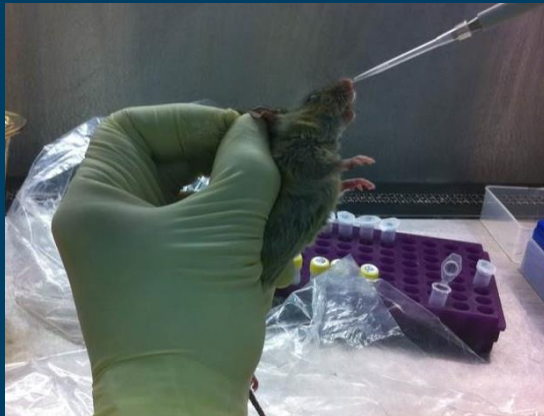


Virology 476 (2015) 249–256



Gryseels et al. (in review)

How do viruses remain in their own host/jump host in natural conditions?



Team work

