

rodent-proof containers and keeping the home clean help to discourage rodents from entering homes. Using these rodents as a food source is not recommended. Trapping in and around homes can help reduce rodent populations; however, the wide distribution of *Mastomys* in Africa makes complete control of this rodent reservoir impractical.

When caring for patients with Lassa fever, further transmission of the disease through person-to-person contact or nosocomial routes can be avoided by taking preventive precautions against contact with patient secretions (called VHF isolation precautions or barrier nursing methods). Such precautions include wearing protective clothing, such as masks, gloves, gowns, and goggles; using infection control measures, such as complete equipment sterilization; and isolating infected patients from contact with unprotected persons until the disease has run its course.

Further, educating people in high-risk areas about ways to decrease rodent populations in their homes will aid in the control and prevention of Lassa fever. Other challenges include developing more rapid diagnostic tests and increasing the availability of the only known drug treatment, ribavirin. Research is presently under way to develop a vaccine for Lassa fever.

Countries reporting endemic disease and substantial outbreaks of Lassa Fever are Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Countries reporting few cases, periodic isolation of virus, or serological evidence of Lassa virus infection: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo.

Conclusion. Primary transmission of the Lassa virus from its host to humans can be prevented by avoiding contact with *Mastomys* rodents, especially in the geographic regions where outbreaks occur.

BIODIVERSITY AND BIOLOGY OF THE AXOLOTLS

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Introduction. The axolotl also known as a Mexican salamander (*Ambystoma mexicanum*) or a Mexican walking fish, is a neotenic salamander, closely related to the tiger salamander. Although the axolotl is colloquially known as a "walking fish", it is not a fish, but an amphibian. Their heads are wide, and their eyes are lidless. Their limbs are underdeveloped and possess long, thin digits.

Aim. The study was devoted to understanding the biology and physiology of axolotls and their potential use for scientific study as a model object.

Material and methods. Literature study was conducted including research on video sources on YouTube.

Results and discussion. The feature of the salamander that attracts most attention is its healing ability: In captivity, axolotls eat a variety of readily available foods, including trout and salmon pellets, frozen or live bloodworms, earthworms, and waxworms.

Axolotls are 1000 times more resistant to cancer. They can regenerate pretty much anything in their body. They regenerate without showing any signs of scarring at the site of amputation. They can also receive transplant organs from each other.

An Axolotl remains in its larval form its entire life. A single injection of iodine can turn young axolotls into adult salamanders. Female axolotl lay eggs depending on their size. She can lay anywhere between 100-1000 eggs. They have rudimentary teeth, designed for gripping than biting or tearing. As a result, their food is generally swallowed whole.

They can reach the ages of 15-20 years old. An adult axolotl can reach the length of 30cm. Their sex is determined by their cloaca. Axolotls are also known to be the master of regeneration. Axolotls are an important research animal and have been used in studies of the regulation of gene expression, embryology, neurobiology, and regeneration.

The colour of axolotl is dependent upon pigment cells called chromatophores. They come and four main colours and four subcolours. In the wild, the species lives underwater and is not commonly seen. Outside of the wild, it is a popular aquarium species around the world and is used widely in laboratory experiments

Conclusions. There are no negative effect of axolotls on human. Positive impacts are for example, pet trade, food, source of medicine of drug and resource and education.