

Validation of the BrockTB STAT-PAK[®] Assay for Detection of Tuberculosis in Eurasian Badgers (*Meles meles*) and Influence of Disease Severity on Diagnostic Accuracy

Mark A. Chambers,^{1*} Tim Crawshaw,² Sue Waterhouse,³ Richard Delahay,⁴ R. Glyn Hewinson,¹ and Konstantin P. Lyashchenko⁵

TB Research Group, Department of Statutory and Exotic Bacterial Diseases, Veterinary Laboratories Agency Weybridge, New Haw, Surrey KT15 3NB, United Kingdom¹; Veterinary Laboratories Agency Starcross, Staplake Mount, Exeter, Devon EX6 8PE, United Kingdom²; Veterinary Laboratories Agency Langford, Bristol BS40 5DX, United Kingdom³; Central Science Laboratory, Sand Hutton, York YO4 1LZ, United Kingdom⁴; and Chembio Diagnostic Systems, Inc., Medford, New York 11763⁵

A lateral-flow immunoassay (BrockTB STAT-PAK) for detecting tuberculosis in Eurasian badgers was 49% sensitive and 93% specific against culture for *M. bovis* ($n = 1,464$) at necropsy. However, the sensitivity was significantly higher (66 to 78%) in animals with more severe tuberculosis, indicating that the BrockTB STAT-PAK may be useful for the detection of badgers with the greatest risk of transmitting disease.

* Corresponding author. Mailing address: TB Research Group, Department of Statutory and Exotic Bacterial Diseases, Veterinary Laboratories Agency Weybridge, New Haw, Surrey KT15 3NB, United Kingdom. Phone: 44 1932 357 494. Fax: 44 1932 357 260. E-mail: m.a.chambers@vla.defra.gsi.gov.uk.