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WEST NILE VIRUS, REPTILES, ALLIGATORS - USA (FL) (03)

A ProMED-mail post
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Date: Sat 16 Nov 2002
 From: "Patricia Doyle, PhD" <dr_p_doyle@hotmail.com>

I think that another question should be: What does West Nile virus in Florida alligators tell us about West Nile virus and its spread in the US? The first of the articles that Promed-mail posted [see: West Nile virus, reptiles, alligators - USA (FL) [20021114.5797](#) - Mod.CP] discussed the possibility that some or many of the deaths of "hundreds" of alligators in a 4 year period was caused by West Nile virus. If this is proven, then West Nile virus must have been ingrained in the Florida environment long before theorized. It might also indicate that West Nile virus was here long before 1999.

Another possibility is that West Nile virus was first in the Florida environment then made its way to New York City. This would make a case for entry of West Nile virus into the US [from the south rather than the east]. I hope that someone with expertise in reptile viruses would post comments on finding West Nile virus in alligators. An arbovirus expert told me that finding West Nile virus in alligators was "amazing".

--
 Patricia A Doyle, PhD
 <dr_p_doyle@hotmail.com>

[see also:
 West Nile virus, reptiles, alligators - USA (FL) (02) [20021115.5815](#)
 West Nile virus, reptiles, alligators - USA (FL) [20021114.5797](#)]

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