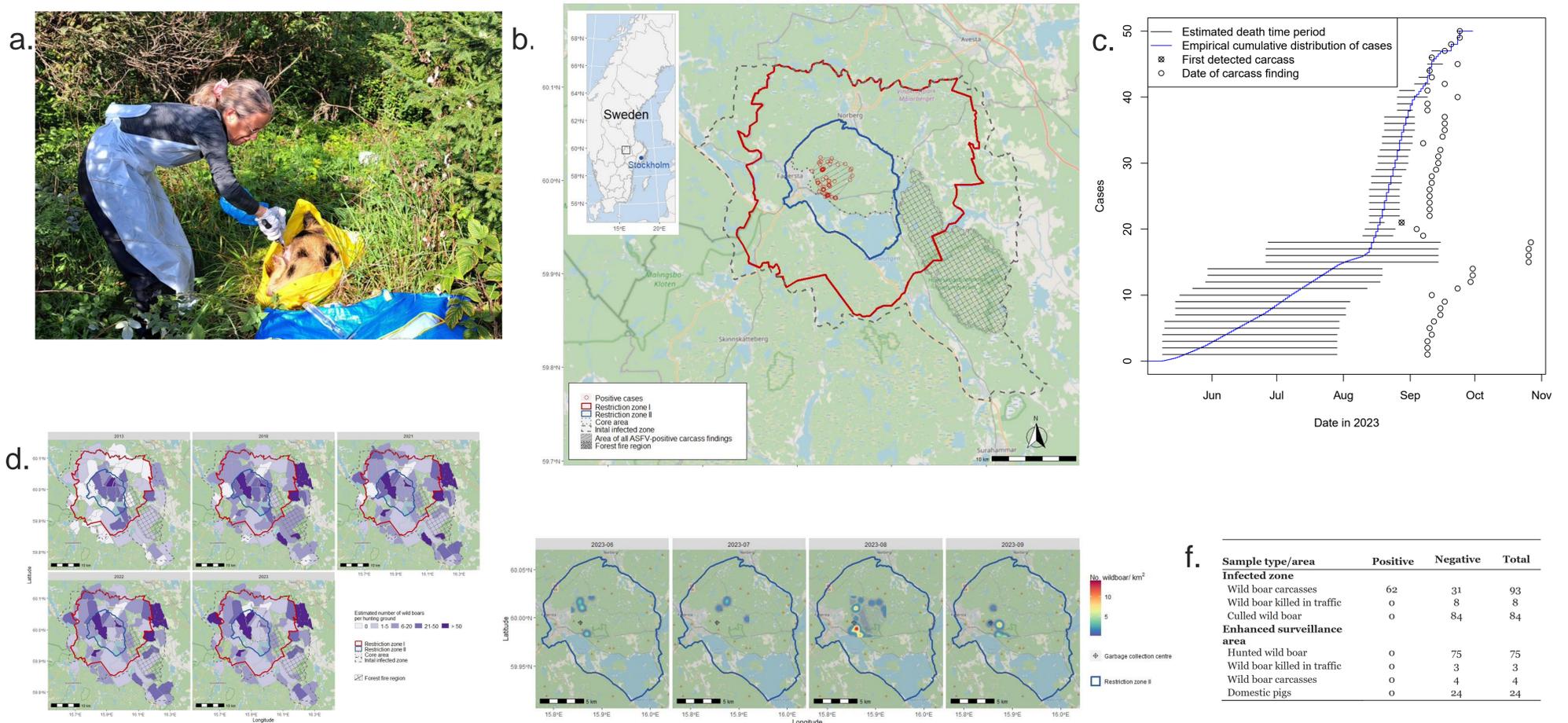




MARIA NÖREMARK

African swine fever in Sweden

On the 6th of September 2023, African swine fever (ASF) was detected in Sweden for the first time. Six months later, 62 ASF-positive wild boars have been detected (no cases in domestic pigs). The last positive wild boar was confirmed in November, but it was a decomposed carcass. The epidemic curve, based on decomposition of carcasses, suggests that the outbreak peaked between mid-August and mid-September. Several factors are assumed to have contributed to the currently favourable development of the outbreak.



a. Sample collection in the field one of the first days of the outbreak before a dedicated sampling central was set up.

b. Restricted zone, and **confirmed ASF-cases** shown as red circles. The dashed line shows the initial infected zone, where restrictions were implemented.

c. Epidemic curve, based on decomposition of positive carcasses.

d. Wild boar population per hunting ground 2013-2023, based on questionnaire data from hunting teams.

e. Monthly spatiotemporal evolution of the outbreak, shown by a two-dimensional kernel based on mean estimated death date. The garbage collection centre is indicated by a diamond shape.

f. Samples analysed per area and category.

Detection of outbreak:

- Reporting and sampling of wild boar carcasses by hunters.

Control:

- Restrictions prohibiting access to forested areas.
- RZ II was fenced, wild boar within the core area culled.

Surveillance and carcass search:

- Intensive and systematic carcass search from 9th of September.
- All carcasses, road kills and culled wild boar from the initial infected zone were sampled.
- Carcasses, road kills and hunted wild boar were sampled in municipalities bordering the infected zone.

Population and outbreak development:

- Area not ideal for wild boar but the population had increased, especially close to the municipality garbage collection centre where wild boar accessed food waste.
- Source of the outbreak is not known. Not a result of wild boar migration as ASF is absent in nearby populations, but a result of human activities, likely waste of contaminated meat.
- The local high population density close to the garbage centre has played a role for the spread within the population.

Preparedness, collaboration, and digital development:

- Local engagement was high, more than 350 local hunters engaging in carcass search.
- Rapid development of digital tools to follow search, carcass findings and samples.
- Collaboration between authorities and stakeholder groups worked well, had been prepared for several years.
- Negative consequences for the local community high, including effects on forestry and tourism.

