The Pangolin Connection

A deeper look at the pangolin connection:

Prox O: *Malayan pangolins illegally imported into Guangdong province contain coronaviruses similar to SARS-CoV-2 (ref 21) .. Although RaTG13 .. remains the closest to SARS-CoV-2, .. some pangolin coronaviruses exhibit strong similarity to SARS-CoV-2. .. This **clearly shows** that the SARS-CoV-2 .. is the result of natural selection.*

I checked their ref for the *illegally imported* pangolin - it's this paper.
Published Feb 20, 2020
Authors: Tao Zhang, Qunfu Wu, Zhigang Zhang, Chinese Academy of Science, Kunming, Yunan

Interestingly, Garry says Prox O draft was finished by Feb 1 - so their key pangolin claim is reffed to a paper that hadn't been published at that stage - which suggests some communication with the above authors. Nothing wrong with that - just registering it.

But the above paper is still not the source for *illegally imported* pangolin. In turn, that paper refs a previous paper which conducted tests on 11 dead pangolin seized by customs.

Authors: Ping Liu, Wu Chen 2 and **Jin-Ping Chen** (Institute of Zoology, Guangdong Academy of Sciences, Guangzhou)

Received: 30 September 2019 / Revised: 21 October 2019 / Accepted: 21 October 2019 / Published: **24 October 2019**

The dates are interesting. Nobody was studying pangolin viruses - the authors talk about how neglected they were as a topic - suddenly a paper appears - right in the Covid-emergence-timeframe.

Jin-ping Chen et al: *Recently, the prediction of viral zoonosis epidemics has become a major public health issue... **Malayan pangolins could be another host with the potential of transmitting the SARS coronavirus to humans.***

Remember, this is Oct 21, 2019, pre-Covid's emergence being public.

Either they were incredibly prescient - to the point that the Covid outbreak happened within days of their prediction, or .... this was part of the set-up.

Then there's this: Jin-Ping Chen had previously collabed on this paper in 2014: *Evidence for Retrovirus and Paramyxovirus Infection of Multiple Bat Species in China*
Pub: 2014

Get a load of the authors on that:

Lihong Yuan, Min Li, Linmiao Li, Corina Monagin, Aleksei A. **Chmura**, Bradley S. **Schneider**, Jonathan H. **Epstein**, Xiaolin Mei, **Zhengli Shi**, **Peter Daszak**, and **Jinping Chen**

Three are from EHA, plus Schneider, a frequent EHA collaborator - with Shi Zhengli from WIV.

What does that prove? Not much, apart from what we already knew - the Bat Pack behind Prox O and The Lancet statement are as thick as thieves. It's another tantalizing coincidence. We know Prox O was purpose written to counter the conspiracy theorists coz the authors tell us that straight out.

In the desperate scramble to create a zoonotic narrative, was this orginal pangolin paper also purpose written - or more likely, co-opted and re-edited - to fit the scenario?

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