

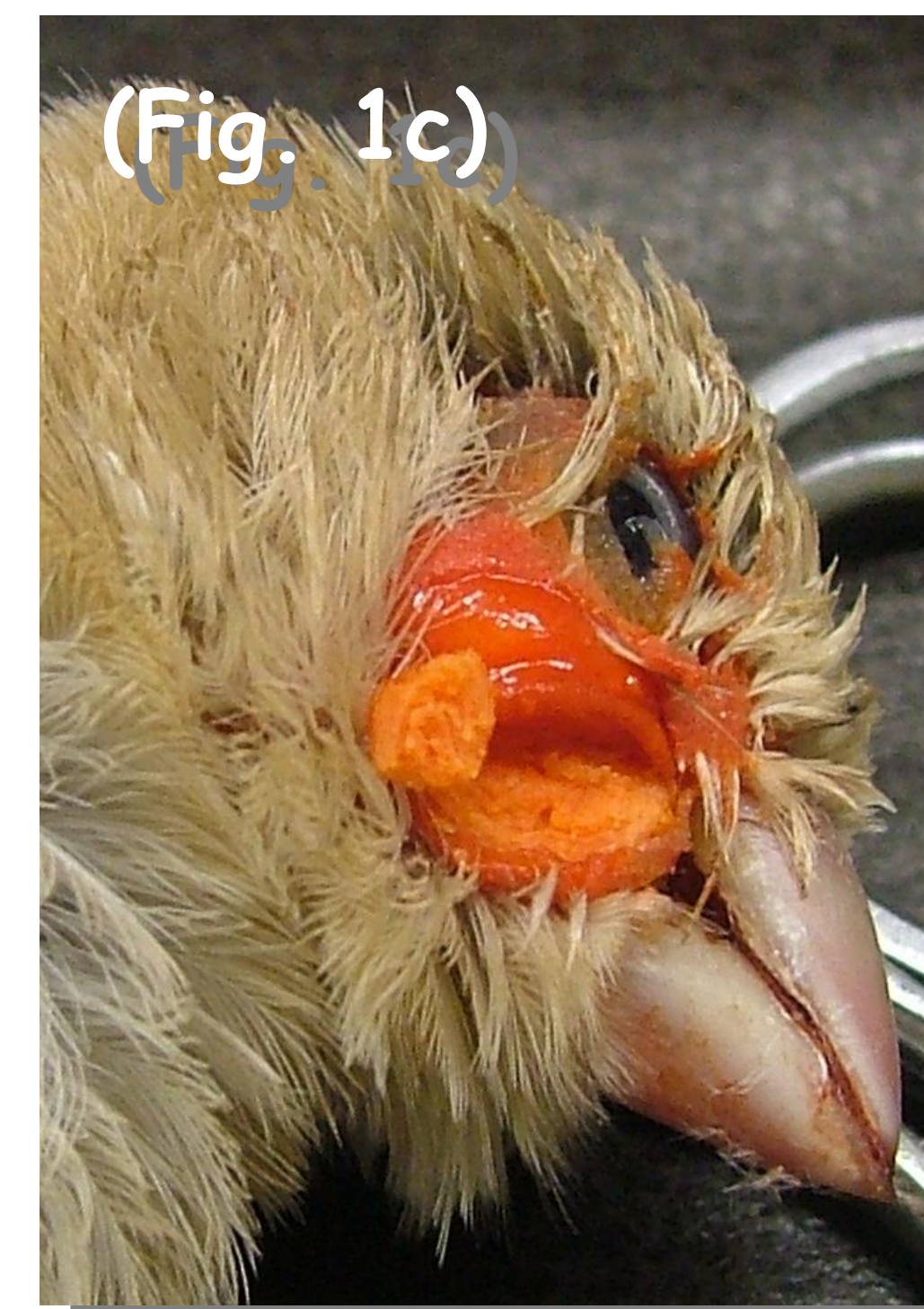
Trichomonas spp. as a possible cause of a new recognized Canary Infraorbital Synusitis syndrome in Italy

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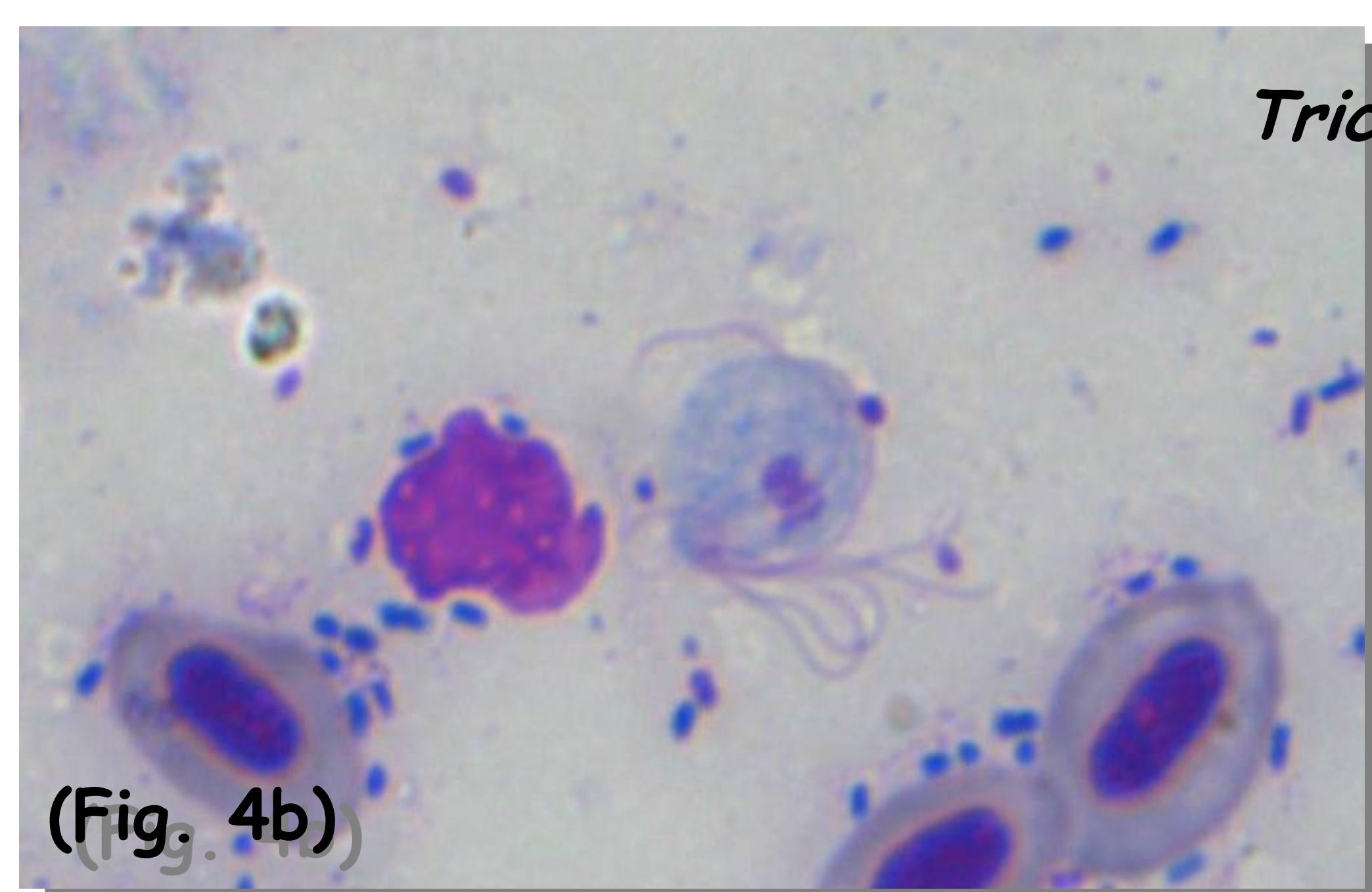
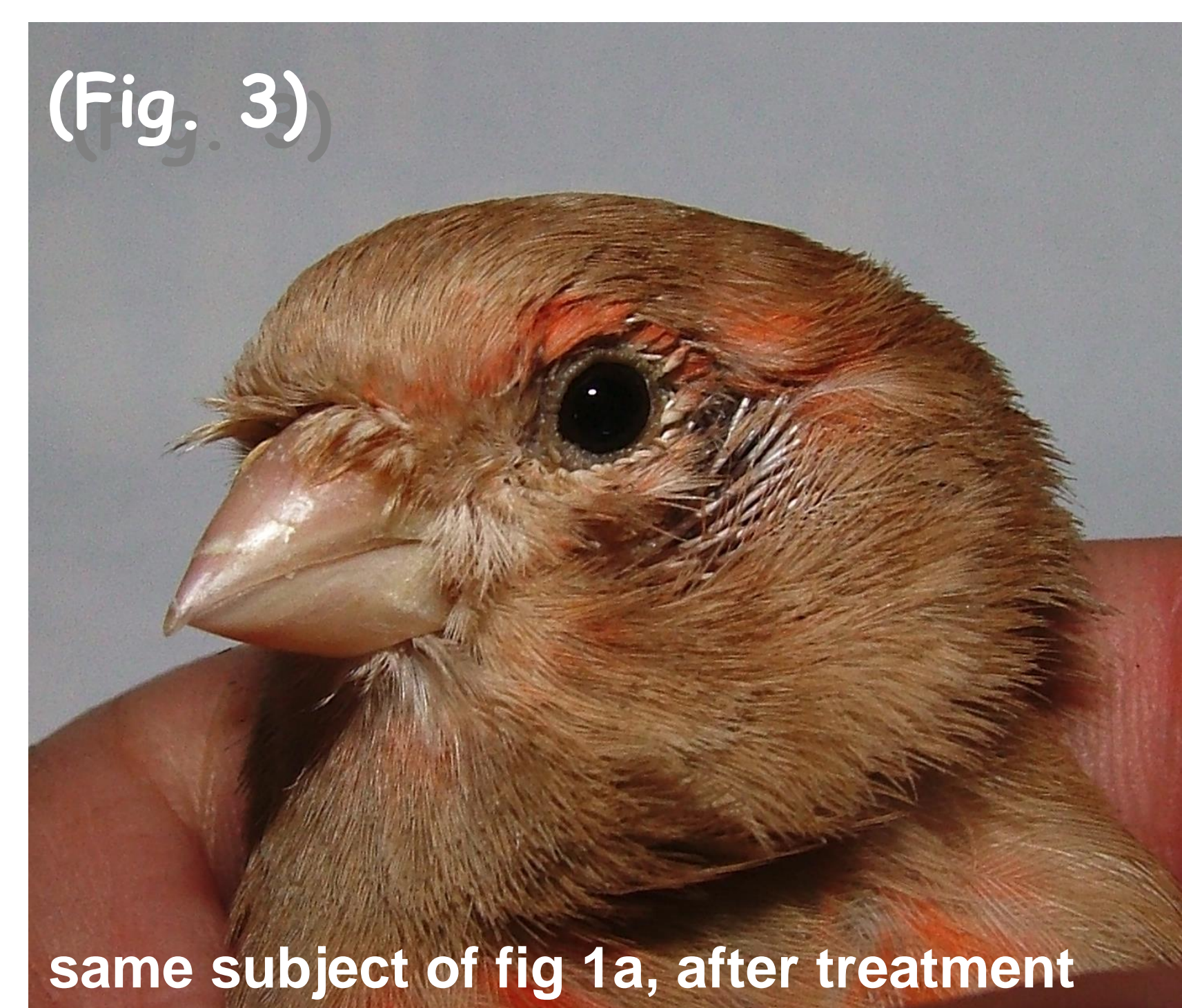
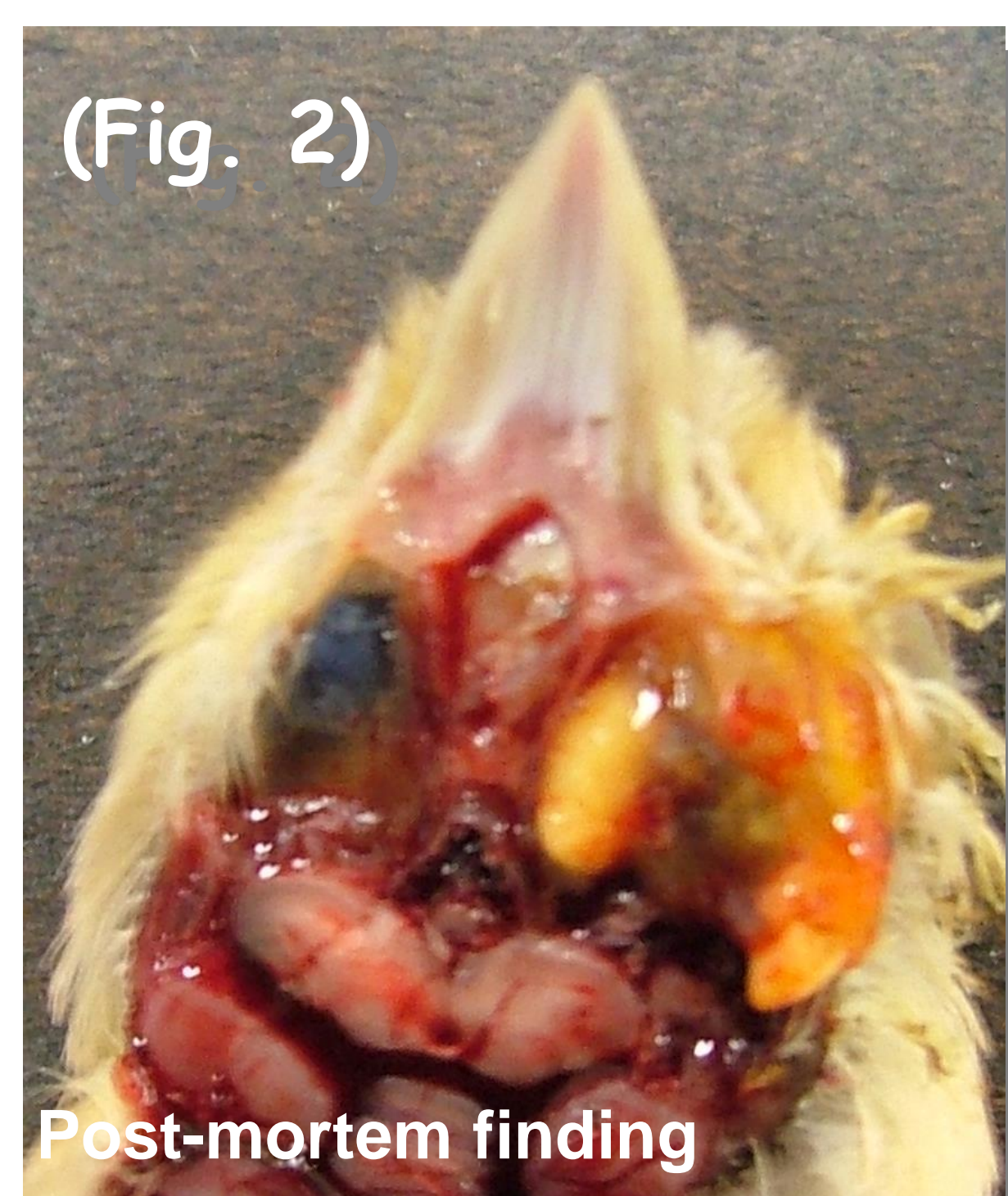
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The breeding of ornamental canary (*Serinus canarius*, Linnaeus, 1758) is well represented in Italy. The medium animal stock is constituted by 35 couples of birds, producing 7-8 offspring per year. In the past 10 years, breeders have repeatedly reported a syndrome, here called Canary Infraorbital Synusitis (CIS), affecting the eyes of the canary. The CIS is characterised by a subtle emergence, with only 1 or 2 birds infected per breeding flock. Usually the first symptom is a slight mono- or bilateral conjunctivitis, followed by the formation of a yellow, hard and painless tumescence under the eyes (from Fig. 1a to Fig. 1d).



Autopsy reveals a mono- or bilateral sinusitis located mainly in the infraorbital sinus (Fig.2). Bacteriological examination performed from the sinus material showed more frequently *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella oxytoca*, *Enterobacter cloacae* and *Stafilococcus aureus*, but focused antibiotics treatments never resolved the symptomatology of CIS. Virological examination and Mycoplasma culture were always negatives. In a fresh smear of purulent material of one of these cases, a protozoan *Trichomonas*-like was seen. The protozoa was successful cultured in a *Trichomonas* medium (*Trichomonas* medium No2®, Oxoid). The protozoan was then searched and found on all the subsequent 17 breeding flock examined (Fig. 4a and 4b). The hypothesis of a protozoan caused syndrome was reinforced by the successful treatment of the flocks with dimetridazole and furazolidone drugs in association, which resulted in a complete remission of symptoms (Fig.3).



Trichomonas spp. - Diff-Quick stain

