AN UNUSUAL CASE OF BUFFALO WITH ONLY TWO FUNCTIONAL TEATS IN ANDAMAN ISLANDS

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ABSTRACT

A non-descript buffalo aged 4 years in the first lactation with one male calf of South Andaman, Andaman and Nicobar Islands was found to have only two teats with two well developed free quarters with the complete absence of the other two quarters and corresponding teats. The congenital anomaly observed only in the buffalo, not in her dam.

Keywords: Andaman, non-descript, buffalo, teats, abnormality

INTRODUCTION

The normal buffalo udder usually has four quarters with four teats projecting ventrally from the two halves of the udder. The fore and hind quarters of each half are seldom equal in Indian buffaloes (Bhalerao, 1985). Congenital abnormalities in the bovine udder include many structural defects viz. fusion of front and hind teats, very small short teats, improperly placed teats, cut-up udders and supernumerary teats. In buffalo, the occurrence of congenital anomalies of the udder is rarely reported. In this present communication, a non-descript buffalo with two functional teats is discussed.

CASE HISTORY, CLINICAL EXAMINATION AND DISCUSSION

In the present case, a non-descript buffalo aged 4 years in the first lactation with one male calf belonging to a farmer of South Andaman, Andaman and Nicobar Islands was found to have only two teats with two well developed free quarters with the complete absence of the other two quarters and corresponding teats. On clinical examination it was found that the two halves of the udder were of equal size and each half constituted a quarter. Each quarter had well developed ventrally projecting teats which were of equal size and shape and morphologically they were long and tubular in shape (Figures 1 and 2). The milk yield from each quarter / teat was almost equal, amounting to 1.5 Litre per day from each quarter. Pathan et al. (2007) reported a similar condition in a Marathadwadi buffalo; they found that in both the dam and the dead female calf the two hind quarters and corresponding teats were absent, indicating the congenital and hereditary nature of the condition. However, in the present case, the congenital anomaly was observed only in the buffalo, not in her dam. Vidya Sagar (2009) reported complete absence of teats in a Murrah buffalo from Gudiwada.

Each mammary gland is a separate entity draining by its own duct system, storage cistern and teat. The differentiation of the udder takes place

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in early embryonic period by the interruption of ventral milk lines of ectoderm forming mammary buds that develops into a separate mammary gland. This present condition is a very rare phenomenon which might be attributed to a congenital condition in which of only a pair of mammary glands are retained during embryonic development.

REFERENCES

