ABSTRACT

Occurrences of fetal monstrosities due to congenital defects are sporadic and culminate in dystocia in buffaloes. The present communication reports a rare case of dystocia due to *Campylorrhacchis contorta* in a primiparous buffalo and its successful delivery per vaginally by judicious mutation and traction.

Keywords: buffaloes, *Bubalus bubalis*, *Campylorrhacchis contorta*, dystocia, judicious mutation

INTRODUCTION

Congenital defects are abnormalities of structure or function present at birth (Noden and De Lahunta, 1985) and arise as a result of defective genetics or from genetic insult that is associated with foetal environment or from their interaction (Leipold, *et al.*, 1983). Foetuses with congenital defects are dead at birth. Anomalies of muscular skeletal and nervous systems are common in monsters (Purohit, *et al.*, 2012). The incidence of monstrosities for river buffalos has been reported to be 7.9 to 12.8% (Singla and Sharma, 1992). Occurrences of fetal monstrosities due to congenital defects are sporadic and their reports are meagre in buffalo. Dystocia is a common sequel for fetal monstrosities; however, in some cases deformities do not interfere with birth. In the present case, an abnormal fetus with ill-developed lumbar and sacral regions along with bending of the vertebral column on itself with all four ankylosed limbs (*Campylorrhacchis contorta*) has been successfully relieved per-vaginally by judicious mutation and traction.

HISTORY AND CLINICAL OBSERVATIONS

A primiparous buffalo was brought to Udayapura Veterinary Dispensary, Hassan district, Karnataka, with the history of full-term pregnancy but inability to deliver the fetus. The animal had been straining for the previous five hours with the expulsion of the first water bag eight hours before. Clinical examination of the animal revealed normal rectal temperature and respiration rate. Per-vaginal exploration revealed a completely dilated cervix with the fetus in an anterior longitudinal presentation. All the four limbs were in the birth canal along with the head of the fetus positioned in between the legs leading to dystocia. The case was tentatively diagnosed to be dystocia due to...
twinning.

**TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION**

The animal was subjected to epidural analgesia with 2% lignocaine hydrochloride. It was astonishing to note that, on repulsion of the hind limbs, the entire fetus was repelled and on traction on the fore limbs, the entire fetus approached birth canal. Extensive per-vaginal examination of the fetus revealed all four limbs were ankylosed and the portion of the fetus posterior to the thorax was not palpable. These findings led us to diagnose the case as dystocia due to a monster fetus. Proper lubrication of birth canal was ensured with castor oil. Both the fore limbs and hind limbs of the dam were fastened to the snare separately and caston dorsal recumbence which made the pelvis more spacious. On judicious mutation and traction a dead male monster was delivered and the placenta expelled normally after 8 h. The animal was discharged with routine prescription of antibiotics and supportive therapy for 5 days.

The distorted monster fetus weighed 15 kg, which is less than a normal fetus. Gross examination of the monster fetus revealed a well-developed head with brachignathism /parrot mouth (Figure condensed). There was an acute bend in the vertebral column giving a double bodied appearance. The lumbar and sacral regions were ill developed, the pelvis was deformed severely and all the limbs were ankylosed with atrophy of musculature (Figure 1). A similar finding has been described by Craig, (2000) as *Campylorrhacchis contorta*, which may be due to muscular contraction of the fetus or extraneous pressure on the uterus. The line of obstetrical treatment indicated is

![Figure 1. Campylorrhacchis contorta monster with brachignathism in buffalo.](image)
fetotomy or caesarean section (Craig, 2000). However, the above successful findings imply that an attempt to deliver foetus by traction in dorsal recumbancy may also be considered as a line of treatment. Hence, this report put on record a rare case of *Campylorrhacchis contorta* in buffalo and its successful delivery per vaginam.

**REFERENCES**


