CONGENITAL ABSENCE OF TEATS (ATHELIA) IN A BUFFALO

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INTRODUCTION

Congenital aberration in the bovine udder includes many structural defects such as fusion of teats, large base or funnel shaped teats, improperly placed teats, cut up udder and supranumerary teats (Sigmund, 1979). In the present paper a rare case of athelia in a graded Murrah buffalo was reported.

Keywords: teat, buffalo

CASE HISTORY

A 4-year-old graded Murrah buffalo immediately after first calving was presented to the Veterinary Polyclinic, Gudiwada, with a history of absence of teats. On clinical examination, no teats were observed on the udder (Figure1-3) and the normal udder was engorged with milk. All the teats were represented by small eruptions with dribbling of milk on pressure from the left fore teat area. Needle aspiration from the same point resulted drainage of Colostrum (Figure 4). No lacteal secretions were observed from the remaining. There were no teat cistern, canal and orifice. Animal was evinced pain on palpation of the udder.

TREATMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Attempts were made to catheterize the erupted point with success. Surgical approach to make teat ducts was not possible and the animal was discharged. The presence of teats is undoubtedly controlled by genes either single, pair or a few pairs of genes and therefore the athelia condition may be the result of mutation in gene(s) as reported by Verma et al. (1983).

Complete absence of teats is a rare condition. But isolated cases in which the teats were only represented by slight eminence have been met with (O’Conner, 1980). This condition was previously reported by Arul Jothi and Alphonse (2003) in a Jersey cow, Verma et al. (1983) in a shahiwall heifer and Baskal et al. (1979) in a she goat. Sailendra Kulakarni and Sandhya Kulakarni (1998) reported the presence of only two functional hind quarters with teats in a buffalo. Available literature reveals no reports regarding complete absence of teats in buffaloes in India.

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REFERENCES

Figure 1. Photograph showing complete absence of teats in a buffalo.

Figure 2. Photomicrograph showing absence of teats. Side view at standing position.
Figure 3. Photomicrograph showing absence of teats. Ventral view at lateral recumbency.

Figure 4. Photograph showing colustrum from erupted point on needle aspiration in a buffalo.