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Case Report

Dystocia due to monocephalus tetrapus tetrabrachius fetus in a pleuriparous buffalo

G.S. CHEEDE[1†], M.K. BEDI, Y. MISHRA AND D. DADARWAL[2]

Department of Animal Reproduction, Gynaecology and Obstetrics
Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana - 141 004

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ABSTRACT

Dystocia due to monocephalus tetrapus tetrabrachius fetus in a pleuriparous buffalo is put on record in the present communication.

Keywords : Buffalo, dystocia, monocephalus tetrapus tetrabrachius

Double monsters are characterized by duplication of anterior, posterior or both parts of the fetal body. These have considerable significance both from obstetrical and embryological point of view. They are common in ruminants and swine (Arthur *et al.*, 1982). This condition when present in animals often leads to severe dystocia (Roberts, 1971).

A buffalo aged 12 years in 7th parity with prolonged gestation having symptoms of dystocia was presented to PAU Veterinary Clinics for treatment. Animal was recumbent and had severe straining. Waterbags had already ruptured. The buffalo had been examined and manipulated by local veterinarian. Per vaginum examination revealed fetus was present in posterior presentation. Two hind limbs were present in birth canal and two hind limbs were havinb bilateral hock flexion posture present below the first ones. Both the hind quarters were fused at the level of thoracic cavity. The case was diagnosed as dystocia due to fetal monster. Since the passage was fully relaxed, fetotomy was considered to be the appropriate treatment. Fetotomy was performed under epidural anesthesia (6 ml, 2% lignocaine hydrochloride) and lubrication of the passage done with 2% carboxy methyl cellulose-Na (S.D. Fine Chem, Mumbari). A single cut was given posterior to thorax involving both the hind quarters in a single loop of wire saw. After amputation, both the hind quarters after correction of hock flexion were delivered. Following evisceration two cuts were given to amputate the fore limb and head of the fetus. The remaining parts were delivered after mild traction. The fetus having a single head, 4 forelimbs, single thoracic cavity, 2 hind quarters, two hind limbs each. The sex of two fetal units was female. The monster was classified as Monocephalus tetrapus tetrabrachius monster. The animal made an uneventful recovery after treatment and was discharged.

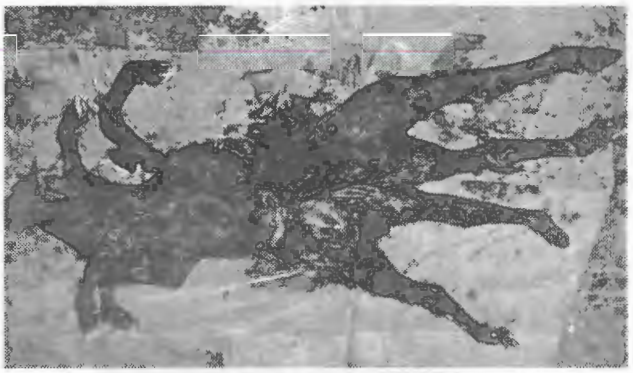

Fig 1. Dystocia due to Monocephalus tetrapus tetrabrachius fetus in a pleuriparous buffalo

Conjoined twins are always identical twins of same sex. The embryonic period, when cell growth and differntiation are at their maximum is the period of great susceptibility to teratogens (Arthur *et al.*., 1982).

Developmental anomalies affecting the bovine embryos have been well recorded (Roberts, 1971). In the present case, incomplete division of the zygote into two might be the cause of this developmental abnormality.

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[1]SRF
[2]Asstt. Gynaecologist

[†]Corresponding author