

DYSTOCIA DUE TO ANASARCA MONSTER CO-TWIN WITH NORMAL FETUS IN MURRAH BUFFALO

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ABSTRACT

A case of dystocia due to anasarca monster fetus co-twin with normal fetus in a buffalo and it's per vaginal delivery through partial fetotomy is described here.

Keywords: *Bubalus bubalis*, buffalo, anasarca, monster, co-twin, buffalo, partial fetotomy

INTRODUCTION

Incidences of dystocia due to anasarca fetus co-twin to normal fetus are rare in domestic animals. This anomaly is believed to be the result of a dizygotic twin pregnancy in which the co-twin is usually normal, viable and generally born first (Hafez and Hafez, 2000). In anasarca the fluid is accumulated under the skin and between muscles. Occasionally skin without hair, muscles, cartilage, and bones may be present. The probable causes of fetal anasarca are hereditary predisposition due to autosomal recessive genes (Arthur *et al.*, 1996). The condition is seen commonly in cattle, rarely reported in the buffalo (Devanathan *et al.*, 1990). Singh *et al.* (2009) reported an amorphous globus co-twin with a normal male fetus. A rare case of anasarca co-twin to normal fetus in a buffalo and it's per vaginal delivery is reported here.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

A pluriparous full-term pregnant Murrah buffalo was presented to the TVCC, LUVAS, Hisar, with the history of severe straining for last 8 to 10 h after the rupture of water bag. Both the fore limbs were broken in field condition by local veterinarian during traction applied by 6 to 8 persons for 2 to 3 h. Physical examination revealed exhausted, dull animal with edematous vulvar lips, congested mucus membrane, normal temperature and elevated pulse with moderate level of dehydration. Per vaginal examination after proper lubrication revealed that a single fetus with muscular edema and fatty deposition under the skin without fore limbs and suspected to be a case of dystocia due to anasarca fetus (Figure 1).

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

Following epidural anesthesia 5 ml, lignocaine HCl (2%), birth passage was well lubricated using sodium carboxymethyl cellulose gel. The size of fetus was reduced by fetotomy by using thygesion's fetotome and was delivered by traction. The head and neck of the fetus was not recognizable and hind limbs were short and stumpy. On further examination, forelimbs and head of another fetus were palpated in the birth canal,



Figure 1. Showing anasarca fetus with dam.



Figure 2. Showing anasarca monster with normal fetus.

which was then delivered by applying traction and was morphologically normal. Both the fetuses were dead and appeared to be a twin pregnancy. Hence, the case was diagnosed as dystocia due to anasarca monster co-twin with normal fetus (Figure 2). Routine antibiotics and supportive treatment were carried out following delivery of fetus.

Multiple births are undesirable in both cattle and buffaloes, though they have the potential to improve the efficiency of beef production. Anasarca is observed in cattle most commonly but may also affect sheep (Robert, 2004) and is caused by autosomal recessive traits. Such type of fetuses may or may not be live following delivery (Khasatiya *et al.*, 2009). Caesarean section is usually chosen to resolve dystocia in such type of conditions (Sloss and Duffy, 1980). Twin fetus were delivered through caesarean section by Singh *et al.* (2011), however in the present case the anasarca co-twin to normal fetus in a buffalo is delivered per vaginal through partial fetotomy and mutation.

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