

## CONGENITAL UDDER AND TEAT ABNORMALITIES IN BUFFALOES

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## ABSTRACT

Three buffaloes with congenital athelia with amastia and polythelia with polymastia (presence of five and six functional quarters and teats) were placed on record.

**Keywords:** *Bubalus bubalis*, buffaloes, Athelia, amastia, polythelia, polymastia

## INTRODUCTION

The udder of the buffalo is composed of four quarters each of which is a separate unit and is considered as an independent compartment. Supernumerary teats, fused teats, teat fistula, teat spider and imperforate teat are certain congenital conditions of teat (Tyagi and Singh, 1999). Genetic and environmental factors are responsible for these congenital defects. The presence of congenital athelia with amastia and polythelia with polymastia is rare in buffaloes. Congenital athelia with amastia has not been reported so far in this literature as far as our knowledge is concerned.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Three buffaloes of age ranging between 4 to 6 years were presented to the Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex for treatment of other disorders. These anomalies were recorded during close clinical examination. In one case, the anomaly was recorded during surgical correction of upward fixation of patella. During medial patellar desmotomy, it was seen that the udder of the animal have only two teats with one quarter in each half (Figure 1). After detailed enquiry it was recorded that her dam also had two teats.

The other two buffaloes were having five and six functional quarters and teats. The buffalo having five teats had three functional quarters in right half and two functional quarters in left half (Figure 2). However, the buffalo having six teats had three functional quarters in each half (Figure 3).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Athelia and amastia is a very rare occurrence. Congenital mal-development of udder and teats could be an inherited trait as the anamnesis revealed that the dam of the presented animal



Figure 1. Buffalo udder showing only two teats with one quarter in each half.



Figure 2. Buffalo having five functional teats (three in right half and two in left half).



Figure 3. Buffalo having six teats (three functional quarters in each half).

also had two teats. During embryo development, mammary buds are formed by milk hillocks. The involution or regression of milk hillocks may result in fewer teats (Heidrich and Renk, 1967).

### REFERENCES

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