

A RARE CASE OF HOLOACARDIUS ACEPHALUS MONSTER IN A BUFFALO

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ABSTRACT

The present communication reports a rare case of Holoacardius acephalus monster in a buffalo.

Key words: Holoacardius acephalus, Monster, Asymmetrical twins, Buffalo

INTRODUCTION

The condition Holoacardius acephalus involves birth of asymmetrical twins, one normal and the other very imperfect individual with congenital abnormalities; the small non viable twin has a trunk and two hindlegs but head, neck, heart are absent (Leipold and Dennis, 1986). This report presents one of such rare cases.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

A pluriparous Murrah buffalo of 7 years was reported to have dystocia. Per vaginal delivery was successful. The monster was a female twin, the very imperfect individual consisting of trunk, buttocks and hindlimbs, attached to a normal live calf (Fig). The calf was unable to stand due to the weight of nonviable twin hanging with the umbilical cord; an intestinal hernia was present near the attachment. The calf could not survive beyond 3 hrs.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

The monster conformed the typical morphology of Holoacardius acephalus as described by Leipold and Dennis (1986). Reports of such cases are scarce. Dhami et al. (2000) reported one of such rare cases but the twin was conjoined in their report while in the present case, the nonviable twin was separate but attached with the umbilical cord. According to Roberts (1971) such malformations arise due to abnormal duplication of the embryonic germinal area giving rise to fetuses whose



Fig: A Holoacardius acephalus monster

body structures are partially but not completely duplicated.

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