

A CEBOCEPHALUS (CYCLOPIA) MONSTER IN A CROSS-BRED COW

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ABSTRACT

A cebocephalus / cyclopia monster with epitheliogenesis imperfecta over the forehead and body, having rudimentary and separate eye balls and atypical deformed ears and jaw was delivered by traction in an HF crossbred cow.

Key words: Monster, Cebocephalus, Dystocia, Cow

INTRODUCTION

Cyclopia has been reported in many species and known to be due to ingestion of *veratrum californicum* in sheep. (Binns *et al.*, 1960 and 1963). Cyclopia has also been reported in goat (Ashokan *et al.*, 1990) and is classified under teratological defects of embryonic development (Roberts, 1971).

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATION

An HF cross bred cow aged seven years in its third parity was reported with a complaint that inspite of signs of labour since morning animal had not delivered the calf. The earlier two deliveries were normal with normal female calves.

On gynaeco-clinical examination it was found that the water bags were ruptured and a dead fetus in anterior longitudinal presentation, dorso-sacral position was present in birth canal. The fetus head was observed.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

The fetus was delivered by traction after proper lubrication. It was cebocephalus monster with epitheliogenesis imperfecta over the forehead and entire body (Fig.). Both the eye balls were separate and rudimentary. Eyelids were absent and the nose was in the form of an overgrowth over the head like a small tubular appendage covered with skin. This rudimentary

nose did not communicate with the pharynx. The lower jaw was long and the upper jaw small. The ears were atypical and long. The skin over the forehead was open exposing a musculature mass and there was rudimentary visible eyes. The entire body of the calf was hairless, except scanty hair found at chin. This was probably due to anomalies in this calf. Gupta and Anand (2002) also reported a cebocephalus (Cyclopia) monster in a non descript cow and noted that both the eyeballs were rudimentary and fused.

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Fig. : Facial view of the Cyclopa monster fetus of a crossbred cow

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