DYSTOCIA DUE TO DICEPHALUS MONSTOMUS MONSTER IN A CROSSBRED COW

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ABSTRACT

A rare case of dicephalus monstomus monster is reported and the anatomical structure of the monster is discussed.

Key words: Crossbred Cow, Dystocia, Dicephalus Monstomus monster

INTRODUCTION

Malformations of fetus are due to abnormal duplication of germinal area which gives rise to the fetus with partially duplicated body structures (Roberts, 1971). Dicephalus monster is one of the occasionally seen malformations in cattle. The present communiqué records a rare case of dicephalus monster in a crossbred cow.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

A five-year-old pluriparous crossbred cow was presented with a history of active labour since last three hours. Per vaginal examination revealed that the fetus was in anterior longitudinal presentation, dorso sacral position and extended fore limbs. Careful examination revealed that the fetus was having two heads deviated on lateral side.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

Both fore limbs were repelled into the uterus under epidural anesthesia. The birth canal was lubricated well with 2% Carboxy methylcellulose and the deviation of head was relieved by applying rope snare with gentle traction. The fore limbs were again brought in to the birth canal and the fetus was delivered by forcible traction.

The female monster was well developed and weighed 31.5 kgs. The fetus had two heads, which were united at the base of the head. The monster had abnormally long tail. Similarity in development of eyes, nostrils, muzzle and bony structures was observed in both heads except the head positioned on the right side had elevated frontal bones (Fig.). The monster was alive for ten minutes after the delivery.

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The cause of monstrocity might be due to duplication of the surface ectodermal cells forming neural tissue and craniofacial mesenchyma during primitive streak elongation as reported by Fischer *et al.* (1986) in lambs. Similar type of monster was also reported by Patil *et al.* (2004) in a non-descriptive cow. Adsul *et al.* (1992) recorded duplication of thoracic parts in dicephalic monster in a Dangi cow. Whereas Bakshi *et al*, (1992) reported duplication of cephalic parts with normal neck region in a crossbred cow.

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Fig. Female dicephlaic monster with two heads and normal trunk