

## A case of atypical monster in a buffalo

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### ABSTRACT

A case of dystocia in a buffalo due to a rare typical monster with defective head relieved by partial fetotomy is reported.

**Key words:** Buffalo, fetotomy, monster

Monstrosities develop due to defective genetic makeup or exposure of the dam to teratogens during the period of organogenesis. A variety of fetal monstrosities have been recorded in cows and buffaloes causing dystocia at the time of calving (Chandolia *et al*, 2003; Shukla and Pandey, 2005), warranting immediate technical assistance. The present report puts on record a rarely observed fetal developmental abnormality in a buffalo causing dystocia.

### History, clinical examination and treatment

A buffalo of 10 years in age and in 6<sup>th</sup> gestation was presented to the veterinary clinics for the treatment of dystocia. The animal was served naturally and had completed full gestation period. There was no previous history of any monster born to this animal. Per-vaginal examination revealed right lateral deviation of head to be the cause of dystocia.

After epidural anesthesia and proper lubrication, attempted mutations failed to correct the deviation. Per-cutaneous fetotomy of the forelimb opposite to the side of, deviation was carried out for creation of some working space. The deviation of head was corrected and the fetus delivered following mild traction.

The fetus delivered was examined for any abnormality. Gross examination of the fetus revealed that it was female by sex having normal body and legs. The head was grossly deformed. Instead of upper jaw and nostrils, a trunk like structure was present (Fig 1). The lower jaw and eye sockets were missing. Eyes present below the trunk like structure, were bulged out. Ears were bigger and drooping downwards (Fig 2). Instead of buccal cavity, there was a small opening in between the ears. Dissection of neck revealed trachea and esophagus filled with amniotic fluid. The abdomen was distended due to accumulation of fluid in the rumen. The other abdominal organs were normal.

The developmental abnormality encountered in the present case is a rare one. No such monster could be found in the scanned literature. Craig (2000) has categorized head abnormalities in general as Perocephalus. The calving with fetal developmental defects/monsters is rarely normal and result into severe dystocia. This often warrants fetotomy or caesarean section to relieve it (Craig, 2000; Sharma *et al.*, 1992). Fetotomy has been found to be an effective procedure to treat dystocia due to monsters (Sharma *et al.*, 1992).

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In the present case, the defect was in the foetal head only while rest of the body was normal and could be delivered following amputation of one limb and correction of deviation.



Fig. 1 : Side view of the head of monst



Fig 2 : Front view of the head of monster

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