

Dystocia due to *Dicephalus dipus tetrabrachius ischiopagus* conjoined monster in a she buffalo

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ABSTRACT

A rare case of *Dicephalus Dipus Tetrabrachius Ischiopagus* Conjoined monster case in a she buffalo is being reported here.

Key words : *Dicephalus dipus tetrabrachius ischiopagus* conjoined monster, she buffalo

Conjoined twins arise from a single ovum and are monozygotic. There is incomplete division of one embryo into two components. Hancock and Arthur (1954) reported the occurrence about once in 100000 bovine birth. They are reported in cattle but are seen rarely in sheep, pig, dogs and cats (Roberts, 1971). A case of ovine cephalopagus foetal monster has been reported by Krishnappa and Honappagol (2002).

This usually happens during the primitive streak stage of embryonic development (Noden and Lahunta, 1985). Duplication of body parts can occur at both cranial and caudal ends with the middle area of the foetal monster remaining single. Ischiopagus fetuses are joined at the lower pelvic region and the bodies extend in a straight line and the heads in the opposite direction.

Case History : A fourth calver full term pregnant she buffalo belonging to a local farmer was presented with a history of labour pains since last 12 hours. Physical examination revealed both fore limbs protruding from vulva. Per-vaginal examination revealed head of the foetus and two limbs in the pelvic cavity. It was suspected as a case of foetal monster and decided for caesarean section.

Surgical treatment : The animal was sedated with triflupromazine hydrochloride @ 0.2 mg/kg body weight. Posterior epidural anaesthesia and local infiltration analgesia of the right paramedian region was achieved, using 2 per cent xylocaine hydrochloride.

Laparohysterotomy was conducted under aseptic conditions employing oblique incision and monster foetus was taken out by traction. On careful examination of the



Fig.1. *Dicephalus dipus tetrabrachius Ischiopagus* conjoined monster of buffalo

foetus revealed a conjoined monster with two complete heads, two necks, 4 ears and six limbs. Out of six limbs, four were fore limbs applied to the thorax and remaining two were hind limbs. The two heads were on opposite direction (Fig. 1).

The uterine and laparotomy incisions were sutured as per standard techniques. The animal was treated with 5% dextrose normal saline 3 litres i/v following the operation. Antibiotics and analgesics were administered routinely for five days and skin sutures were removed after nine days. The classification of the monstrosities has been based on consideration of external

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features (Craig, 1952 and Roberts, 1971). According to Roberts classification the present monstrosity confirms to species *Dicephalus Dipus Tetrabrachius Ischiopagus*.

The blastocyst contains a portion of embryonic disc, which divides into two parts immediately before gastrulation. Following the gastrulation in the early stages of embryonic development the primitive streak will be formed. During this stage, if the twins are monozygotic then the division is known as Diplopagus. In the event of asymmetrical division of primitive streak the conjoined twins may develop into Cephalopagus,

thoracopagus, abdominopagus or pygopagus (Noden and Lahunts, 1985).

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