

Short Communication

An Outbreak and Treatment of Trypanosomiasis in Jersey and Friesian Cows

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The Jersey and Friesian cows of different ages at Livestock Experimental Station, Bhunikey, Pattoki, Kasur, Pakistan manifested signs of dullness, anorexia, fluctuating temperature (102-106 F°), and nasal/ocular discharges during July and August, 1998. In advanced cases diarrhea and edema of hind legs/ventral part of the belly was observed. The animals had staggering gait and in-coordination of hind quarters. The animals did not respond to antibiotics and supporting therapy resulting in casual mortality in adult animals. Blood smears of the sick animals (n=172) stained with Giemsa's stain (MAFF, 1986) were examined microscopically. Trypanosomes were identified in the blood smears based on their morphology as described previously (Soulsby, 1982). It was found that 14 out of 43 (32.5 %) adult Jersey cows were positive for Trypanosomes; whereas, Jersey heifers (n=14) and sucklers (n=17) were found negative. Eleven out of 47 (23.4 %) Friesian adult cows and one out of 32 (3.1 %) Friesian heifers had Trypanosome infection; whereas, none of the sucklers were positive. Trypanosomiasis has been widely reported particularly in the *Tabanus* inhabiting regions of the world. The incidence of the disease, however, varies depending on the vector, availability of host and/or climatic conditions. For instance, an incidence of 0-61% in calves (Otte *et al.*, 1988) being higher in wet season, 44.4% in adult dairy cattle in New York, USA (Schlafer, 1979), 26% in cattle Iran (Niak, 1978), 3.1% in cattle in North coast of Colombia and 2.69% in buffaloes in India (Laha *et al.*, 1989).

All the animals positive for trypanosomiasis were treated with Isometamedium chloride (Samorin/Trypamedium; Rhone Merieux) @ 2.5 ml of 2% solution/100 kg body weight. The animals became

normal and parasite free. The efficacy (100%) of Trypamedium against trypanosomes has also been reported by Hoang-Thach *et al.* (1996) in cattle.

In conclusion, blood examination of all the suspected animals be carried out immediately in the situations like above to institute specific therapy instead of using non-specific drugs. Moreover, surveillance studies for having an explicit picture of the status of trypanosomiasis in indigenous animals are suggested.

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