Case Report

ATHELIA IN A NONDESCRIPT BUFFALO

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The aim of this paper is to report the incidence of Athelia in a nondescript buffalo. A five year old nondescript buffalo was presented with shrinking of fore quarters and normal sized hind quarters even after milking which is diagnosed as Athelia. Since surgical correction was not possible, the animal was discharged.

Keywords: Teat, Athelia, Buffalo

INTRODUCTION

Congenital absence of the mammary gland system in the bovine udder include many structural defects such as fusion of teats, large base or funnel shaped teats, improperly placed teats, imperforate teats, absence of teats (Athelia), supernumerary teats and cut up udder. The present paper communicates a rare case of Athelia in a nondescript buffalo.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

A five-year old nondescript buffalo around 4 months postpartum was presented at NSS program conducted in a nearby village with a history of shrinking of fore quarters and normal size of hind quarters even after milking. On clinical examination two teats were present on the fore quarters whereas no teats were found on hind quarters (Figures 1 and 2). By palpation fore quarters had normal consistency with alveolar and glandular tissue whereas hind quarters had hard consistency due to fibrosis of the tissue during previous lactation as observed

Figure 1: Lateral view Showing Teats on only Fore Quarters

Figure 2: Rear View Showing only Two Teats on Fore Quarters

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on palpation and persistence of the structure after milking.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION
Since surgical approach to make teat ducts was not possible, the animal was discharged. Complete absence of teats is a rare condition but isolated cases in which the teats were only represented by slight eminence have been met with (O’Connor, 1980). The presence of teats is undoubtedly controlled by genes either single, pair or a few pair of genes which may result in mutation as reported by Verma et al. (1983).

CONCLUSION
As per the literature available true athelia though not observed normally, in the present case athelia of hind quarters only may be a rare occurrence.

REFERENCES