

A Case Report of Schistosomus Reflex in a Maradi Goat

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Abstract

This paper presents a case of schistosomus reflexus in a Maradi goat. The only monster, a female in a set of triplets, was born alive while the two other kids were normal. There was no fusion of the linea alba, resulting in visceral eventration. Most of the viscera were of normal size, colour and consistency, except for the liver that was slightly enlarged. There was also ventral angulation and lateral deviation of the spine but no ankylosis. The monster also had anal atresia.

Keywords: Schistosomus reflexus, normal delivery, triplet, Maradi goat.

Introduction

Congenital teratologies have been reported to be due to autosomal recessive genes and they have been classified as either lethal or sublethal, depending on their manifestation and effect on the life of the foetus or neonate (Roberts, 1971). Schistosomus reflexus has been documented as one of the most common foetal monsters in domestic animals (Dennis & Mayer, 1965; Bedford, 1976; Gonnermann, 1978; Procter, 1982; Dobrescu, 1985; Berepubor and Ezeasor, 1978; Garba and Mohammed, 1993). Chromosomal involvement and exposure to teratogenic agents have been suggested as likely causes of schistosomus reflexus

(Berepubor and Ezeasor, 1987; Fatimah *et. al.*, 1981; Nicolson *et. al.*, 1985). Previous reports of the condition had been in single or multiple pregnancies mostly associated with dystocia (Garba *et. al.*, 1994). This paper discusses a case of schistosomus reflexus in a triplet pregnancy delivered alive per vaginam at term.

Case Report

The attention of the authors was drawn to a 3-year old Red Sokoto (Maradi) goat in labour. On arrival at the clinic, the dam had already delivered a monster and two other apparently normal male and female kids. History indicated that this was her third kidding:

she had a single kid and a set of twins from her first and second pregnancies respectively. She had no previous history of dystocia or monstrosities.

A closer observation of the monster revealed that it respired as evidenced by inward and outward movement of the thoracic cavity for about thirty minutes before it eventually ceased. The monster also made several attempts to bleat but these were inaudible. There was ventral angulation and lateral deviation of the spine resulting in approximation of the head and the pelvic region. The entire thoracic and abdominal contents were exposed (Fig. 1) as the linea alba did not form. The liver was slightly enlarged and the rumen contained some fluid. The monster was female and had anal atresia but no ankylosis. Based on these findings the monster was diagnosed to be a case of schistosomus reflexus.

Discussion and Conclusion

This is the first report of a schistosomus reflexus born alive without any obstetrical complications in the dam in this area. Moreover, there was no ankylosis, contrary to earlier findings (Amin 1995) who reported ankylosis and dystocia in schistosomus. Furthermore, although toxic plants or drugs, mycotic infections, irradiation and trace element imbalance have been incriminated as possible aetiologic agents (Garba and Mohammed 1993), the role of these factors is doubtful in this case, as all fetuses would have been similarly affected.

In conclusion, there seems to be an increase in the number of reported cases of schistosomus reflexus, particularly in

north-western Nigeria. We therefore call for more detailed studies into the incidence and aetiology of the condition as well as other teratological conditions with a view to evaluating their impact on the Nigerian livestock industry.

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Fig. 2 Schistosomus reflexus in a Maradi kid showing some of the viscera.