

HYPODERMATOSIS IN BUFFALOES

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Hypodermatosis is an important disease of cattle in Pakistan. It inflicts considerable economic losses to leather industry by lowering down the market value of hides. Other losses include lowered milk production and degrading of meat quality (Soulsby, 1982). The prevalence of disease in cattle and goats has been reported from various parts of the country (Hussain *et al.*, 1981; Khan *et al.*, 1991, 1994, 1997; Ayaz, 1998; Ayaz *et al.*, 1999). This report describes the occurrence of hypodermatosis in buffaloes in Dera Ghazi Khan district.

A total of 3,000 buffaloes maintained along the both banks of river Indus in Dera Ghazi Khan district were included in the study. Every herd was checked fortnightly from July 1998 to February 1999 for the appearance of warbles (nodules) on all parts of the body. Warbles were examined through hand palpation method on the back of infested animals and were recorded. First appearance of nodules and dropping of larvae on the ground was also recorded. From different body regions of the infected animal number of larvae were recorded.

Out of 3,000 buffaloes examined, seven were found infected with warbles. The age of the infected buffaloes ranged from 2-10 years. The nodule formation started in last week of September and perforation in the skin was noticed by the last week of October to 1st week of November. By November 26 all the larvae had fallen on the ground. The number of nodules on the infested animal ranged from 2-13. The nodules were observed on back region, flank region and hump of animals.

Hypodermatosis is an endemic disease of cattle and goats in Pakistan. Its prevalence in cattle and goats has been reported almost all parts of the world. However, information about its occurrence in buffaloes is lacking. The managerial practices of cattle and buffaloes are alike in most parts of our country. Therefore, presumably, buffaloes are equally

exposed to the warble fly attack as cattle. But the disease was never reported in this species before. There are a lot of many water channels spread in the whole country but hypodermatosis has been observed only along the both banks of the river Indus alone in district Dera Ghazi Khan. Disease has never been reported from any of the other riverine belts.

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