HEAVY INFESTATION OF TRYPANOSOMES IN TWO CROSS-BRED CATTLE

SIR: We would like to report a case of heavy infestation of *Trypanosoma evansi* in the blood samples of two adult female Friesian Sahiwal cattle from a farm located near Bukit Cahaya, Shah Alam, Selangor. A few deaths were reported among its population of 70 cattle. Clinical signs included intermittent fever, pyrexia, blindness, enlargement of the superficial lymph nodes, swollen joints and chronic emaciation. Two calves were born blind.

Three blood samples, collected in EDTA, were submitted for blood parasites. Dark ground microscopic examination of wet blood films revealed active organisms resembling trypanosomes in two samples. Following examinations of thick and thin blood and buffy coat smears stained with Leishmann stain, all four developmental stages of trypanosomes were identified. The cases were thus diagnosed as trypanosomiasis.

It was noticed that the farm was surrounded by swampland with numerous midges identified as *Hematobia exigua,* synonyms *Lyperosia exigua* (Fadzil *et al.*, 1986) or commonly known as Buffalo fly. They could be a possible vector of trypanosomiasis in Malaysia (Soulsby, 1982). The affected cattle were treated with Triquin, and subsequent blood samples were negative for trypanosomes.

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ISOLATION OF *SALMONELLA POTSDAM* FROM OSTRICH WITH YOLK SAC INFECTION

SIR: Yolk sac infection or omphalitis is a common disease problem in newly hatched chicks. The infection is particularly associated with *Escherichia coli* but other microorganisms such as *Bacillus cereus, Staphylococcus* sp., *Pseudomonas* sp., *Proteus* sp. and *Clostridium* sp. have also been isolated (Jordan, 1990). In ostrich chicks, the common microorganisms isolated from affected yolk were *E. coli, Klebsiella* and *Streptococcus faecalis* (Hallam, 1992). We wish to report the isolation of *Salmonella potsdam* from an ostrich with yolk sac infection.

A two-week old ostrich chick with ruffled feathers and distended abdomen was submitted for post-mortem examination. The ostrich had enlarged, congested and oedematous yolk sac, which contained fetid, yellowish-green content. The lungs, kidneys and liver were congested. *Salmonella potsdam* was isolated in pure culture from the yolk.

We believe that this is the first isolation of *S. potsdam* in ostrich with yolk sac infection and conclude that it is the causative organism of the disease in this ostrich. The observations made in this study warrants further elucidation of the pathogenicity of this microorganism as well as the source of infection, transmission and possible zoonotic significance.

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