

SHORT COMMUNICATION

BALANOPOSTHITIS IN GOATS ASSOCIATED WITH *MYCOPLASMA AGALACTIAE*

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In a recent investigation of vulvovaginitis syndrome among goats in Kwara State of Nigeria (Chima *et al.*, 1981), *Mycoplasma agalactiae* was isolated from four. One of the goats that was pregnant eventually delivered an apparently normal and healthy male kid.

Approximately 2½ months after birth, however, the kid showed signs of dullness with rough coat and purulent nasal discharge. A closer examination revealed mucopurulent discharge from the preputial orifice accompanied by an inflammation of the glans penis and preputial mucosa. Other lesions observed included swollen testicles and paraphimosis.

Preputial swabs were taken for mycoplasmal and bacterial isolations. Details of microbiological examination technique had been described elsewhere (Chima *et al.*, 1981). The growth inhibition test (Clyde, 1964) and the indirect immunofluorescence technique (Rosendal and Black, 1972) were used to identify the mycoplasma organism isolated.

Large number of mycoplasma organisms and a few colonies of *Staphylococcus aureus* were isolated. The mycoplasma organism was identified as *Mycoplasma agalactiae*.

Mycoplasmas have been commonly isolated from genital tracts of cattle, sheep and goats (Erno *et al.*, 1967; Onoviran *et al.*, 1975). Boegel and others (1962) also isolated a *Mycoplasma* designated M.I. Strain from a bull with balanoposthitis. Although the authors are *Nigerian Journal of Animal Production* 8(1) 1981.

not aware of any previous report of isolation of *Mycoplasma agalactiae* from goats with balanoposthitis, the epizootiological significance of this report in relation to the transmission of vulvovaginitis in goats is worthy of note.

Transuterine infection of the foetus from the dam is not uncommon with mycoplasma infection (Jasper, 1967). Likewise the infection in the kid probably was acquired intrauterine. Other possible means could be during suckling, and parturition in maturing animals and through the habit of vulva "sniffing" at estrus in adult animals. Studies are currently in progress to determine the pathogenicity of the organism and the exact mode of transmission to kids and within adults.

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