

**AHC -25**

**Fatal Haemorrhagic Enteritis due to Helminthosis in One-Year- Old Male-Camel-Calf  
(*Camelus dromedarius*): A Case Report**

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**Abstract**

The carcass of a one- year - old male camel-calf was presented for postmortem examination with the chief complaint of sudden death on the course of treatment. History revealed the Calf had been ill and passing diarrhea for two weeks prior to death during which period it was under treatment with Levozanplus<sup>®</sup> orally, Tylosin<sup>®</sup> and Multivitamin<sup>®</sup> injections. Fecal sample examined prior to treatment indicated *Trichuris* eggs (+++ and above). Postmortem findings revealed immature and adult worms in the large intestine, sloughed haemorrhagic intestinal mucosa as well as peritonitis. The worms were identified as *Trichuris spp*, while the condition was diagnosed as severe haemorrhagic enteritis due to helminthosis.

**Keywords:** Camel calf, *Trichuris* and postmortem findings

**Introduction**

The gastrointestinal (GIT) parasites are helminthes organisms which affect Camel and other ruminants. The predisposing factors and pattern of infection to helminthes parasites may expose Camels to severe helminthosis which include; poor husbandry and management practices, climatic changes, and sub-optimal feeding. Concurrent infections with many parasites has been reported and associated with great economic losses (Swai *et al.*, 2011).

**Materials and Methods**

The carcass of a one- year- old camel- calf was presented for postmortem examination with the chief complaint of sudden death on the course of treatment. History revealed the calf had been ill and passing diarrhea for two weeks prior to death during which period it was under treatment with Levozan plus<sup>®</sup> orally (50 ml once), Tylosin<sup>®</sup> (5 ml × 3) and multivitamin<sup>®</sup> (10 ml× 3) injections. Fecal sample examined prior to treatment revealed *Trichuris* eggs (+++ and above).

Postmortem findings showed immature and adult worms in the large intestine, sloughed haemorrhagic intestinal mucosa as well as peritonitis. The worms were identified as *Trichuris spp* (Plate 1 and 2), while the condition was diagnosed as severe haemorrhagic enteritis due to helminthosis.

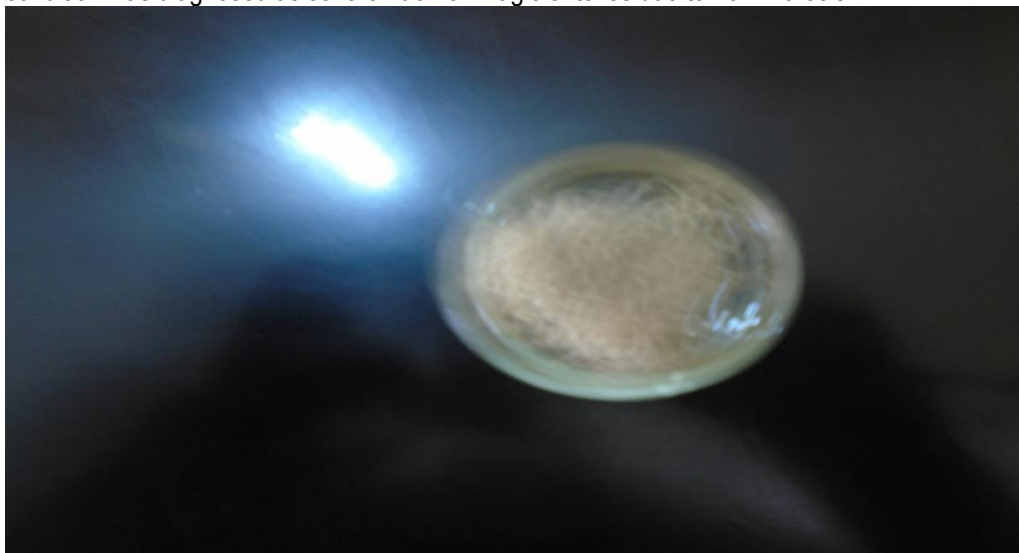


Plate I: *Trichuris* worms isolated from large intestine of a year old male camel calf in Shika- Zaria, Nigeria

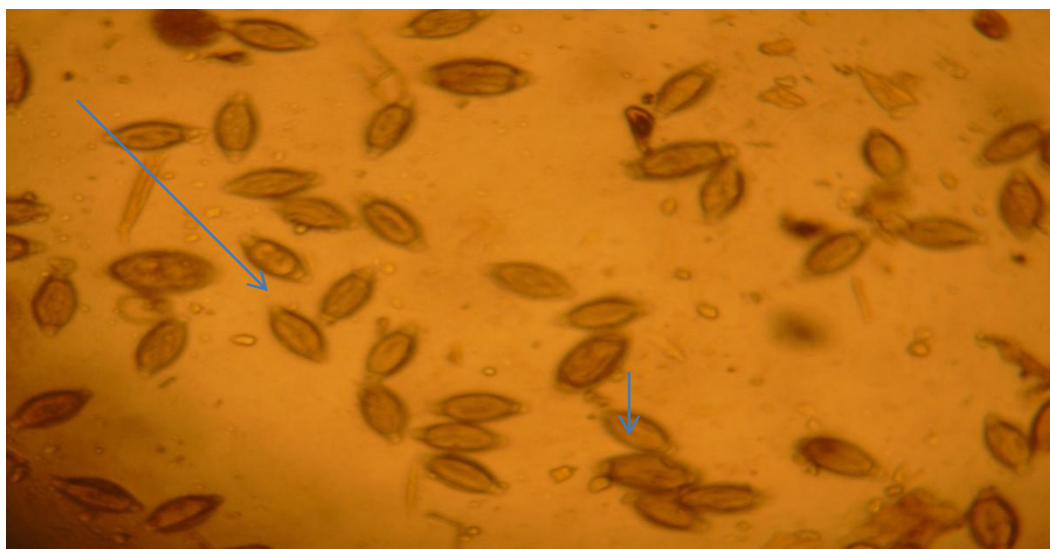


Plate VI: *Trichuris* eggs identified from the faecal sample of a year old male camel calf in Shika- Zaria, Nigeria at ( $\times 400$ ) magnification.

### Discussion

The pathological findings in this case report were in line with previously reported cases of helminthosis in Camels of less than 3 years of age and severity depends on degree and duration of the disease (Mahmuda *et al.*, 2014; Ilona, 2010). The emaciated carcass observed might be due to nutrients malabsorption following damage to blood capillaries caused by the matured worms resulting in sloughed intestinal mucosa (Roman, 2010).

### Conclusion and Recommendation

It is concluded from this particular case report that, favorable environment, conditions for parasite multiplication and camel infection exist in Nigeria. Routine and proper deworming of camels should be emphasized.

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