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Ethno-veterinary remedy for placental retention in cows

[1] U Umadevi, [2] P Madhu Mathi, [3] T Umakanthan

[1]Assistant professor, Dept. of Botany Specialized with Plant Biotechnology, The Standard Fireworks Rajarathinam college for women, Sivakasi, Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu, India
[2] Veterinarian, Subject Matter Expert Level I, ACIS – A company of Allianz, Technopark Campus, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India
[3] Veterinary Surgeon, Veterinary hospital, Sattur, Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract
Fourteen cows of different calving age and breed clinically presented for retained placenta after 24 hours of calving were taken into the study. Eight cows kept as control group with no treatment. Remaining ten cows of trial group were administered orally once with finely powdered *Abrus precatorius* seeds mixed with boiled and minced *Solanum melongena*. Control animals shed placenta in the next 12-18 hrs with an offensive odour. Eight of the trial group cows shed placenta within 4 hrs of giving the mixture and remaining two cows in the next 8 – 18 hours.

Keywords: Cows, retained placenta, *Abrus precatorius*, *Solanum melongena*

1. Introduction
The goal of an ideal therapy for retained foetal membranes would be to hasten the separation of the placenta and its expulsion from the uterine cavity and eliminate ion of the bacterial contamination of the uterus. Such a successful ethno-veterinary remedy has been identified and presented in this paper.

2. Material and method
Fourteen cows aged between 2nd and 5th calving and of different breed were presented for partial or complete retention of foetal membranes for more than 24 hours after calving, either dystocia or eutocia. Clincal examination revealed hanging foetal membranes from vulva and foul-smelling discharge depending on the cases.
Four cows formed control group with no treatment. Remaining ten cows formed trial group.
Trial cows were once orally given the mixture of finely powdered *Abrus precatorius* seeds, 3 in numbers, with boiled and minced *Solanum melongena* 500 gm.

3. Result and Discussion
Control animals shed placenta in 12-18 hrs of calving with an offensive odour. Eight of the trial group cows shed placenta within 4 hrs of giving the mixture and remaining two cows in 8-18 hours. Thus the herbal mixture was found 80% effective in bringing out the retained foetal membranes.
Retention of foetal membranes, or retained placenta, usually is defined as failure to expel fetal membranes within 24 hr after parturition. Normally, expulsion occurs within 3-8 hr after calf delivery. There are several potential causes for placental retention but the effects on the general health of the cow and subsequent reproductive performance are costly events to the dairyman. Cows with retained fetal membranes are at increased risk of developing metritis, ketosis, mastitis, and even abortion in a subsequent pregnancy [1].
Several trials of interventions after calving have attempted to reduce the incidence of retained placenta. Oxytocin has long been advocated to expel the placenta after delivery. If the placenta is not detached from the caruncles oxytocin will not hasten its passage. Also no satisfactory results with the use of Lutalyse (PGF2α) [1].
Many medications have been placed into the uterus of cows with retained placenta. Veterinarians have sometimes devised very detailed protocols requiring sequential placement of antibiotics and other chemicals into the uterus on various days after calving. To date there is no data supporting the beneficial effects of intrauterine therapy for retained placenta [1].
Also when PGF injection was given later than 1 hour after calving, it was ineffective in preventing fetal membrane retention [2].
The following actions of tried herbal mixture could benefit the cows with retained placenta.
Abrus precatorius: an abortifacient and antiseptic [3]. It was used to induce abortion [4]. In veterinary medicine, whole plant extract given orally for retained placenta [5].
Solanum melongena: Obstruction of *Placenta* After childbirth if *placenta* gets stuck, rub root of eggplant (*Solanum melongena*) with some water [6]. Also it has properties of antianemic, antioxidant, antibacterial, sedative and calmative, used to treat water retention [7].

4. Summary
A typical, easy and effective protocol for retained placenta in cows is proved 80% effective and thus recommended for practice.

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