

BABESIOSIS IN A TIGRESS**K.P. Sinha, Mukti Sinha, N.K. Pankaj and V.K. Singh***Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Ranchi, Bihar 7, India.*

Babesiosis is a serious disease of domestic animals including dogs. Its incidence in wild animals is rarely recognised (Bourdeau, 1996). Tigress (Geeta) was brought to our notice for treatment by the Director of Bhagwan Birsa Jaivik Udyan, Ranchi on 13 November 1994. The tigress was off feed. A red trickle with urine was observed. After transferring the animal into a squeeze cage, her body temperature was recorded to be 105°F. Hyperpyrexia confirmed clinically a case of babesiosis.

The tigress was treated with Berenil (Diminazene aceturate, Hoechst) 1.5 g. dissolved in 15 ml. of water (Booth & Donald, 1988) and injected at two sites in equal halves, intramuscularly. Avil (10 ml.) and Belamy (1-10 ml.) was administered intramuscularly prior to the administration of Berenil. The animal returned back to feeding, and the colour of the urine became normal on the very next day.

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*Received on 8 April 2000**Accepted on 30 June 2000***SUDDEN DEATH OF A LEOPARD
(*PANTHERA PARDUS*) DUE TO BABESIOSIS****S.V. Upadhye and V.M. Dhoot***Assistant Professor (Veterinary Science), College of Agriculture, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India.**Officer-in-charge, Maharajbag Zoo, College of Agriculture, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India.*

A male Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) named Rahul aged about 15 years suddenly died on 18 March 1998. The animal did not show any signs of illness except anorexia on 17 March 1998. The carcass was sent for post-mortem examination to ascertain the cause of death.

The post-mortem examination revealed froth in trachea with edematous lungs, hypostatic congestion in left lung, icteric liver with haemorrhages and an enlarged spleen (3-4 times the normal) with cyanotic changes. The peripheral and heart blood smears revealed *Babesia* spp. infection.

Babesiosis is a tick-borne infectious haemoprotozoan disease caused by *Babesia* sp. and is clinically characterised by pyrexia, haemolytic anaemia, haemoglobinuria, jaundice and death (Arora, 1994).

Babesiosis in Leopard was reported by Shortt (1940) and in a white Tiger by Khurana (1969). The treatment of the disease with Diminazene aceturate @ 5-10 mg/kg or Imidocarb 0.5 to 1.0 mg/kg is reported to be highly effective (Arora, 1994). However, in the present case, the Leopard did not show the typical signs of babesiosis such as pyrexia, haemoglobinuria and jaundice. The jaundice, enlarged spleen and presence of *Babesia* protozoa in peripheral and heart smears could only be noticed after post-mortem examination. Hence treatment could not be prescribed.

Reference

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