Lantana camara POISONING IN MEHSANA BUFFALOES: A PROFILE OF PHOTOSENSITIZATION

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Lantana Camara is poisonous weed. Recently three clinical cases of photosensitization in milking Mehsana buffaloes were presented for treatment at Hathwara village in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat state. History of case clearly indicated the possibility of Lantana Camara poisoning. Information given by the animal owners revealed that the Lantana Camara plants are present in surrounding of pasture, where animals were allowed to graze, which might have been consumed by animals during grazing. Clinical cases were characterized by anorexia, diarrhea, icterus, edema of the affected parts, serous fluid oozing out from affected skin lesions, sloughing off the superficial layer of skin. Animal showed tendency of itching. All the animals suffering from photosensitization were treated with antihistaminic (Injection Anhistamine 50 mg, IM) and antibiotic (gentamicin 5 mg/ kg IM) administrations. All the three animals recovered to normal healthy status within five days.

Key words: Lantana Camara, Photosensitization, Mehsana Buffaloes

There are many species of plant which cause photosensitization as a secondary disorder which is found in and around pasture land. Lantana camera is one of such commonly found toxic weed of tropical region and it is very extensively found in Sabarkantha, Banaskantha and Mehsana districts of north Gujarat and other states of India. Livestocks are being poisoned after ingesting the entire plants and suffered from liver damage, renal tubular disorder and showed secondary Photosensitization. Photosensitization occurs in almost all species of farm animal, including bovine, ovine and caprine but it is most common in cattle and sheep (Akhter et al., 1990; Black et al., 1985) It is due to accumulation of photodynamic agent in peripheral circulation either through ingestion, absorption through skin or by abnormal metabolism (Radostits et al., 2003; Casarett and Doull, 2001). In the present report, cases of secondary photosensitization are discussed in milking Mehsana buffaloes due to ingestion of Lantana camera plant. It is very extensively found in North Gujarat & other state of India

Case history and clinical symptoms

Three clinical cases of photosensitization in milking Mehsana buffaloes were reported at Hathwara village in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat state. Anamnesis of the case clearly indicated the possibility of Lantana camara poisoning, because the animal owners informed that the Lantana camara plant was present in surrounding of pasture, where animals were allowed to graze, same might have been consumed by animals during grazing. The plant contains toxic principle lantadene which causes cholestasis and circulation of photodynamic agent (phloerythrin) in peripheral circulation. Phylloerythrin interact with UV rays of sunlight and produces variety of sign and symptoms. Clinically cases were characterized by anorexia, diarrhea, icterus, edema of the affected parts, serous fluid oozing out from
affected skin lesions, sloughing off of the superficial layer of skin, particularly on the back, at ventral abdomen, neck, around eyes, udder and tail of the animal was observed along with tendency of itching.

TREATMENT AND CONCLUSIONS
All the cases of photosensitization were treated similarly with antihistaminic, Injection Anhistamine- 50 mg IM, antibiotic, Gentamicin- 5 mg/ kg body weight IM. Affected parts of the skin were dressed with Zinc oxide powder. Laxative- Magnesium sulphate 50 gm PO was given for three days (Garg, 2004; Clarke et al., 1981). All the three animals recovered to normal healthy status within five days after three days of continuous treatment.

Photosensitization is commonly encountered but rarely reported disorder due to Lantana camara poisoning, and etiology remains undiagnosed to field veterinarians. Farmers of the nation are also unaware of the fact leading to huge economic loss which could be prevented with early diagnosis and treatment as discussed above (Roy, 2003).

REFERENCES