SLMY and CI in Sahiwal cattle. Contrary, Javed et al. (loc cit) found genetic correlation (0.46 ± 0.46) in Sahiwal cattle between SLMY and CI. It suggests that these two traits are governed by the same set of genes. In other words, selection for improvement in SLMY will cause prolonged CI.

Summary
The high positive genetic correlation of SLMY with LMY, PMY and LL were governed by similar genes. A non-significant genetic correlation between SLMY and AFC indicates that selection for higher SLMY will not increase the AFC which is economically advantageous. SLMY was negatively correlated with DP and CI in Gir cattle; suggesting the selection for higher SLMY will decrease DP and CI.

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Clinical Management of Ear-Sore Infection in Buffaloes
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Abstract
An outbreak of ear-sore infection caused by Stephanoﬁlaria in buffaloes reared in Tiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu is reported. High morbidity and production losses in terms delayed maturity and prolonged intercalving period were recorded. The lesions were mostly found at the base and inner aspect of ears. The animals were treated with Ivermectin injection along with topical ointment which resulted incomplete recovery within 8-14 days. The geographical location, vector population in the environment, type and nature of lesion in the affected buffaloes and the therapeutic response throws light on clinical diagnosis of the ear-sore infection.

Key words: Stephanoﬁlaria – Dermatitis – Ear-sore – Buffalo

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Ear-sore is a form of dermatitis mainly associated with filarids, belonging to the genus *Stephanofilaria*. *S. zaheeri* is reported to be the prominent species causing ear-sore in buffaloes (Agrawal and Dutt, 1977) affecting about 70-80% of the buffalo population in endemic areas. Though reported from various parts (Agrawal and Shah, 1984), the outbreak is very rare in India since 1990. The transmission of *Stephanofilaria* occurs mainly by a vector *Musca conducens*. The economic losses due to ear-sore may occur in terms of loss in draught power, delayed maturity, prolonged intercalving period (Rai et al., 2010).

**Case History and Observations**

A total of 120 buffaloes (aged 8 months – 6 years old) from Tiruvallur district (Tamil Nadu) with the history of dermatitis were examined during April - June 2014. On clinical examination, lesions pertaining to dermatitis were found particularly around the ears and in some cases on the ventral aspect and xiphoid region of the affected animals. Large number of flies feeding on the lesions mainly of house flies (*Musca domestica*) was also observed. The developed lesions were characterized by severe pruritis leading to nodule formation, ulceration and exudative inflammation. Alopecia and depigmentation was also observed in few cases depending on the severity of infection. Other parameters such as temperature, respiration and feeding behavior were normal.

**Treatment and Discussion**

In the present investigation, lesions were mostly confined to the base and inner aspect of ear as it is thin and easily abraded by the flies. Of 120 cases, severity of the infection ranged from mild (n=67) to moderate (n=41) and severe (n=12) lesions. In three adult animals, minor lesions extended up to hump and xiphoid region. In two cases the lesions turned into maggoted wound as the animals were not taken care of. Pandey et al. (2012) reported outer surface of the pinna to be the most affected area, while Agrawal et al. (1978) reported more lesions on the inner surface. In the current report, 52 and 24 animals showed lesions on the inner (Fig. 1) and outer surface of pinna, respectively. However, 15 animals showed lesions on both side. Moreover, 18 animals showed lacrimation and conjunctivitis. Though drugs like Organophosphorous compounds, Ivermectin, Diethylcarbamazine citrate, Levamisole hydrochloride were used against Stephanofilarial infection (Rai et al., loc. cit.), here the animals were treated with single shot of Ivermectin @ 200µg/kg body weight by subcutaneous route. For severe infections, topical ointment (LORAXENE) with anti-inflammatory and fly repellent activity was used. In conjunctivitis cases, Ofloxacin with dexamethasone eye drops was used. Treated animals completely recovered in 8-14 days (Fig. 2). Thus, the clinical picture, the presence of house flies on the animal body and the therapeutic response throws light on diagnosis of ear-sore infection.
Summary
Successful treatment of ear-sore infection in buffaloes of Tiruvallur district from Tamil Nadu with Ivermectin is reported.

References

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