

SHORT COMMUNICATION

COMBINED CHORIOPTIC MANGE AND DERMATOPHILOSIS IN A DAIRY CATTLE HERD. CASE REPORT.

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SUMMARY : *Chorioptes texanus* and *Dermatophilus congolensis* were diagnosed from skin scrapings in a dairy cattle herd from the State of Minas Gerais with desquamation, crusts and matted hair. Lesions were seen in the root of the tail and around hocks of the feet in stabled cows and heifers but not calves.

KEY WORDS: *Chorioptes texanus*, *Dermatophilus congolensis*, Acari, mange, cattle.

Chorioptes texanus Hirst, 1924 was originally described from goats in USA. Since then, it has been reported from reindeer in Canada (SWEATMAN, 1958), zebu cattle and sheep in Brazil (FACCINI & MASSARD, 1976; FACCINI *et alii.*, 1991) and Friesian and beef cattle in Israel (ROSEN *et alii.*, 1989; YERUHAM *et alii.*, 1992).

Dermatophilosis is a cosmopolitan disease caused by the actinomycete *Dermatophilus congolensis* with lesions rather similar to mange. This note reports the combined occurrence of *C. texanus* and *D. congolensis* in a stabled Friesian herd of 85 cows, 60 heifers and 40 calves located in the State of Minas Gerais, Southeastern Brazil. Mites and the bacterium were diagnosed by standard laboratory methods. Only milking cows and heifers were affected. Lesions consisted of desquamation, crusts, and matted hairs and were diagnosed mainly in the root of the tail (Fig. 1) and fetlock region until cattle were turned out to pastures. All stages of mite development were present onto the lesions indicating active reproduction. Milk production and reproduction were not affected. This report plus those previously published suggest that *C. texanus* is an cosmopolitan species as *C. bovis* (Hering, 1845), the most common species associated with chorioptic mange in domestic animals worldwide. For differential diagnosis of both species the readers are referred to the papers of FACCINI & MASSARD (1976) and ROSEN *et alii.* (1989).

Mange in dairy herds due to *C. texanus* appears to be common in Israel. Prevalence of 47% (83 out of 103 herds examined) and 81% (93 out of 198 herds examined) have been reported by ROSEN *et alii.* (1989) and YERUHAM *et alii.* (1992), respectively. These authors have also found the root of the tail as the commonest site of infestation but they have not mentioned the association with *D. congolensis*. Otherwise, the report of VESTWEBER & KENNEDY (1992) on an outbreak of hind feet dermatitis on dairy cows from USA caused by *D. congolensis* is of note. According to the authors, histopathological examination of lesions revealed the presence of a mite in the tissues, tentatively identified as *C. bovis*, the cattle leg mange in USA.

SUMÁRIO

Chorioptes texanus e *Dermatophilus congolensis* foram diagnosticados em raspados de pele de um rebanho de bovinos leiteiros do Estado de Minas Gerais apresentando descamação, crostas e pêlos aglutinados. As lesões eram restritas à base da cauda e região do boleto, sendo diagnosticadas somente em vacas e novilhas estabuladas.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: *Chorioptes texanus*, *Dermatophilus congolensis*, Acari, mange, cattle.

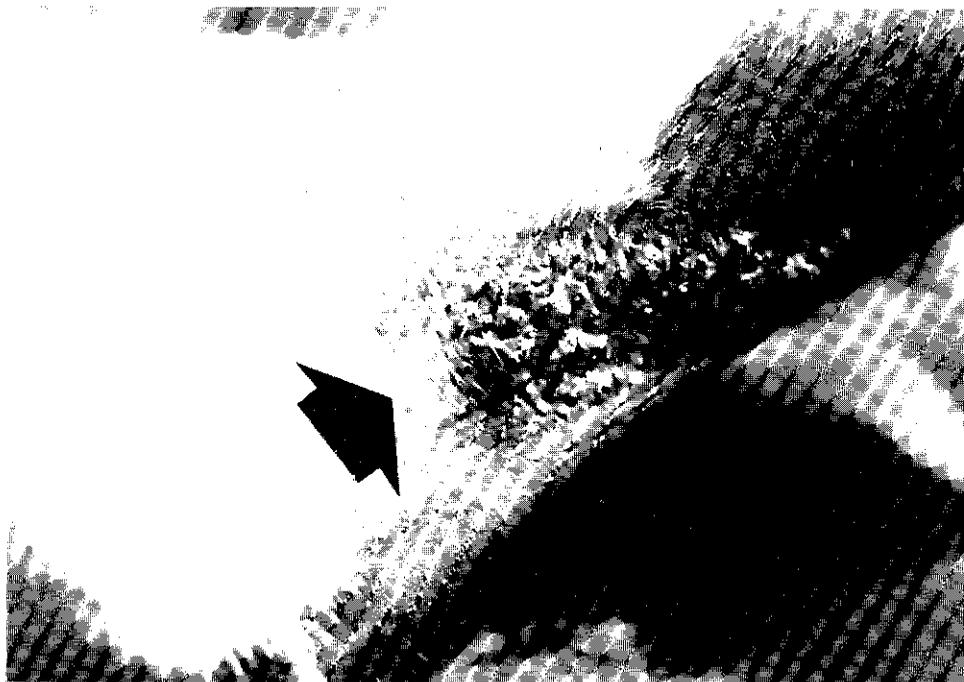


Fig. 1 - Root of the tail of a Fresian cow showing thick, crusty scab lesions where *Chorioptes texanus* and *Dermatophilus congolensis* were diagnosed.

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