

## CLINICAL

# Homeopathic treatment for infertility in a prize Nelore bull

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**Treatments for infertility in bulls are not described in homeopathic literature. A few treatments, such as changing the protein content of the diet, giving extra minerals, etc have been proposed. This case report describes homeopathic treatment for infertility in a prize bull. A Nelore bull, considered infertile for 3 years, was treated with homeopathic *Pulsatilla nigricans* 200 CH. Decreased total sperm defects, increased sperm motility and a very impressive increased number of doses of semen produced were observed. The bull relapsed after treatment was withdrawn, but again responded when it was resumed. Since only one animal was observed one cannot assume that the observed changes were due only to this treatment. Further studies may establish the real benefits of a homeopathic medicine in bull infertility. *Homeopathy* (2007) 96, 49–51.**

**Keywords:** bull infertility; homeopathic medicine; nelore bull; homeopathy

## Introduction

Definitive treatments for temporary bull infertility are not described in the homeopathic literature. A number of treatments for this clinical problem have been described: changing the protein content of the diet,<sup>1–4</sup> extra minerals,<sup>5–8</sup> growth hormone,<sup>9</sup> and vitamin A alone,<sup>10</sup> or in addition to selenium.<sup>11</sup> *In vitro* semen treatments have also been attempted using Prostaglandin F<sub>2</sub>alpha alone,<sup>12</sup> or combined with oxytocin and hydroxytoluene butylate.<sup>13</sup> This paper describes homeopathic treatment for a temporarily infertile high value bull, based on the hypothesis that the homeopathic simillimum medicine may cure him of his temporary infertility.

## Case history

A Nelore bull had been considered temporarily infertile for 3 years after producing high percentages of

seminal abnormalities. From 10 August 2001 to 14 December 2003 only 73 doses of commercially viable semen were produced. Changing the protein content in the diet, giving extra minerals and administering vitamin A alone and with selenium was unsuccessful.

## Clinical examination

The animal responded to its name, turning its head towards the person calling him. When caressed, the animal not only promptly accepted it, but also followed the caressing person. In spite of being a heavy (935 kg), strong animal, the bull had a feminine looking head. There was frequent lachrymation with string-like filaments 10–12 cm long in both eyes, which could be seen meters away. Compared to others, the bull drank more. When feeding, it was selective and careful with the food, first taking its preferred food-stuff. Restless behaviour was observed prior to storms. It did not like being washed or being exposed to rain or thunderstorms, it always searched for housing in such circumstances. The bull did not accept being restrained in the containing 'crush', which made physical examination almost impossible. Once released the animal did not object to being examined.

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## Physical examination

Palpation revealed soft testes twisted on the long axis, varicose veins at scrotal, posterior thigh and low abdominal regions. No abnormalities were detected by rectal palpation.

**Clinical diagnosis:** Mild testicular degeneration.

**Miasmatic diagnosis**<sup>14</sup>: Predominantly syphilitic miasm.

**Symptoms considered**<sup>15</sup>: Affectionate; Company, desire for; Sensitive; Weeping, involuntary; Abdomen, vein, varicose; Softening of testes; Varices, leg; Bathing, dread of; Varicose veins, swollen; Windy and stormy weather, aggravates.

**Electronic Repertorising**<sup>16</sup>

*Puls, Apis, Phos and Sulph* were the homeopathic medicines suggested by the repertory software. Puls covered the majority of symptoms (7 out of 10) and was chosen as the homeopathic simillimum medicine for that animal<sup>17</sup>.

**Therapeutic plan**

*Pulsatilla nigricans* 200 CH, in 30% ethanol, 10 drops diluted in 1 ml of distilled water was given orally once a day for 30 days.

## Follow-up

The bull was followed-up over 3 years, divided into 4 periods:

- (1) before homeopathic treatment, when the bull was kept on a farm and received other therapeutic treatments (from 10 August 2001 to 14 December 2003);
- (2) during and immediately after homeopathic treatment;
- (3) intentional withdrawal of the homeopathic treatment to check presence and/or absence of homeopathic treatment effects (25 May 2004-26 June 2004);
- (4) resumption of homeopathic treatment 01 July 2004-16 August 2004). Semen and sperm variables were compared between periods, and analyzed by Student's *T*-Test<sup>18</sup> (Table 1)

## Results and discussion

The change in the number of doses of semen produced while on treatment with *Pulsatilla nigricans* is striking, and given the high quality of the annual, has large economic implications.

## Conclusions

Since only one animal was treated, one cannot infer with certainty that the observed changes were due to

Table 1 Main sperm variation over 3 years

Periods	Total sperm defect (%) X ± SD	Sperm motility (%) X ± SD	No of doses of semen produced	Semen value (US \$)
Before homeopathic treatment	44.4 ± 14.5	47.3 ± 15.3	73	3318
Homeopathic treatment	32.3 ± 15.7*	63.0 ± 11.4*	2777	126,227
Homeopathic treatment stopped	52.5 ± 14.5	58.7 ± 6.3	0	0
Homeopathic treatment resumed	39.7 ± 15.8	60.7 ± 14.6	530	24,090

\*P<0.01.

the homeopathic treatment. Further studies may establish the real benefit of homeopathic medicine to cure infertility in bulls.

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