FETAL MUMMIFICATION IN A NON-DESCRIPT EWE

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ABSTRACT
Mummification of twin fetuses in a non-descript ewe is reported. The fetuses were brownish in color with thick fetal membranes.

Fetal mummification in sheep is occasionally observed as affecting single ovine fetus or both twin fetuses. Mummified fetuses with one or more viable fetuses are observed frequently in swine, occasionnally in dogs, cats, and horses (Roberts, 1971).

An non-descript multiparous ewe aged about 5 years was brought to the veterinary hospital with a history of vaginal discharges and constant straining. History revealed that the animal had normal lambings and bred by natural service. No mummification was reported during previous lambings. Vaginal examination of the ewe revealed presence of two small masses in the dilated cervix. The two fetuses were removed by gentle traction along with placental membranes. The fetuses were brownish in color and small in size. The were covered with stickly exudates and fetal membranes were thick in consistency. The cotyledons were small in size and dried (Fig.).

Markandeya et al. (1991) reported a case of fetal mummification in goat where one viable kid born along with two mummified fetuses. But, the present communique reports the mummification of both fetuses. Roberts (1971) opined that mummified fetuses will not effect the growth of other fetuses in multitocous animals. The brown colour exudates observed in the present case might be due to invasion of bacteria in to the uterus after mummification of fetuses. The greater loss of fluids from the placental membranes and fetuses indicate the longer duration of fetal mummification.

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REFERENCES
