An outbreak of pasteurellosis in ducks

Pasteurellosis is a serious problem in ducks as it usually results in high mortality. Reports of this disease amongst ducklings and ducks have been described in different parts of India [Mulbagal et al., 1972; Panda et al., 1981; Karim, 1987] and also abroad (Hart, 1963; Mustafa and Miak, 1985). An outbreak of duck pasteurellosis in few villages of Hoogly district of West Bengal is reported here.

During January 1981, large number of indigenous ducks of 12 to 16 weeks of age died around Setbaria village of Hoogly district. The main symptoms noticed were lameness, whitish diarrhoea, and in few cases dyspnoea was also observed.

On postmortem examination, kidney, liver and spleen were congested. Pin point haemorrhages were seen in the intestinal tract. Chalky white deposits were noticed around the heart. Caecum contained white chalky material. Smears from heart blood and impression smears from liver and spleen revealed bi-polar staining organisms.

*Pasteurella multocida* was isolated in pure culture using blood agar plates and identified by cultural and biochemical tests. *In vitro* antibiotic susceptibility test as per Bauer et al. [1966] was conducted using paper discs [Hi media/Pateur biologicals, India] with amikacin [30 mcg], cephalaxin [30 mcg], chloramphenicol [30 mcg], chlortetracycline [30 mcg], nitrofurantoin [300 mcg], neomycin [30 mcg], Penicillin-G [10 u], sulphonamide [300 mcg] erythromycin [10 mcg], amoxycillin [10 mcg], gentamicin [10 mcg] streptomycin [10 mcg] and tetracycline [30 mcg].

The isolate was susceptible to sulphonamide, chloramphenical, tetracycline, streptomycin, amikacin, neomycin, gentamicin, nitrofurantoin respectively in descending order. Mass treatment of the affected and contact birds was undertaken with hostacycline [Hoechst 5 gms in 4.5 litres of drinking water] for 4 days followed by half of the dose in the next 4 days. This treatment completely controlled the disease among these ducks.

In the present report, the condition was cured by treatment with hostacycline. Sensitivity of the organism to tetracycline has already been reported [Choudhury et al., 1985]. Panda et al., [1981] have successfully controlled pasteurellosis in poultry by treating them with aureomycin and hostacycline. But, in the present study, use of hostacycline alone was able to control the disease.
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References


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