

Short Communication .

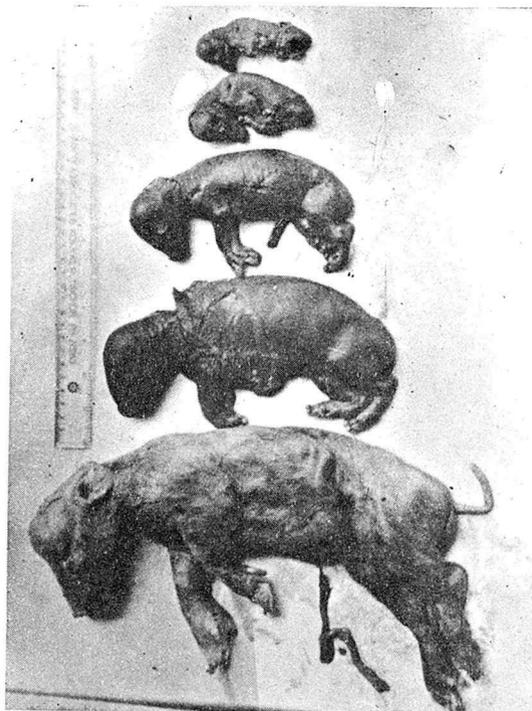
FOETAL MUMMIFICATION IN A PIG

Mummification of the foetus is a condition in which intrauterine death of the foetus is followed by resorption of the fluids of amnion, allantois and foetus. The dried and shrivelled foetal membranes become closely applied to the desiccated foetus. The uterus contracts and moulds it into a dry contorted mass. (Arthur *et al.*, 1989).

Carcase of a Large white yorkshire sow was presented for autopsy with a history that it had farrowed three normal sized dead foetuses on the

previous day. It had completed its gestation period after a natural service.

On postmortem the right uterine horn consisted of five foetuses in varying stages of mummification with the smallest one occupying the apex of the horn in the descending order of their size (Fig. 1). The left uterine horn was empty. One of the foetusES was fully grown with a hydrocephalic head. Further details of the foetuses are presented in Table-1.



Papyraceous mummification, a frequent occurrence in pigs (Gogoi *et al.*, 1990; Chinchkar and Hukeri, 1992) and goats (Markandeya *et al.*, 1991), is a major cause for the prenatal foetal loss

in these species. Roberts (1972) suggested that in swine, foetuses dying *in utero* from 40 to 90 days of gestation usually mummify and are expelled at parturition along with normal foetuses.

Table 1 Foetal characteristics

Foetus No.	Body weight (g)	Crown-rump length (cm)	Chest girth (cm)	Sex
1	411	34	20	Male
2	274	23.5	15	Male
3	106	19	15	Male
4	78	12.5	8	Indistinct
5	53	9	6.5	Indistinct

### Summary

A case of foetal mummification in a Large white yorkshire sow is reported.

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