A COMPARISON OF FIELD OUTBREAK OF CAMELPX AND CAMEL CONTAGIOUS ECTHYMA IN CAMELS (CAMELUS DROMEDARIUS) IN KENYA

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UNE COMPARAISON DES EPIDEMIES DE VARIOLE CAMELINE ET D'ECTHYMA CONTAGIEUX CAMELIN (CAMELUS DROMEDARIUS) AU KENYA

Résumé
La variole cameline et l'ecthyma contagieux camelin sont deux maladies différentes mais cliniquement similaires, qui affectent les dromadaires, en particulier les jeunes. Dans une enquête conduite à Turkana et à Samburu sur les deux maladies, on a observé la variole cameline chez deux troupeaux de jeunes dromadaires à Turkana. La variole cameline était également présente chez deux troupeaux de jeunes dromadaires à Samburu et chez deux troupeaux d'adultes dans la même région. Toutefois, l'ecthyma contagieux camelin ne se répandait que dans le district de Turkana où de graves épisodes frappaient quatre troupeaux. Les principales lésions observées pour les deux maladies étaient les pustules autour du museau, mais chez les dromadaires adultes, il y avait plus la tumeur de la tête et du cou à cause de l'infection de la variole cameline.
Il y avait 100% de morbidité dans chaque troupeau affecté. Alors que la variole cameline était associée au sevrage chez les jeunes dromadaires et à un déplacement sur une longue distance chez les adultes, l'ecthyma contagieux camelin était associé en même temps à l'infection de la variole caprine lors des quatre épizooties. On pouvait faire la distinction entre ces deux dernières maladies à l'aide d'un microscope électronique.

Summary
Camelpox and camel contagious ecthyma are two different but clinically similar diseases that affect camels especially when they are young. In an investigation of the two conditions in Turkana and Samburu, camelpox was found in two young herds in Turkana. Camelpox was also found in two herds of young camels in Samburu as well as in two adult herds in the same area. However, camel contagious ecthyma was only found in Turkana District where four herds had serious outbreaks. The main lesions in both conditions were localised on the mouth area as pustules but in addition, there was swelling of the head and neck in adults with camelpox infection.
In each affected herd, there was 100% morbidity. While camelpox was associated with weaning in the young camels and long distance travel in the adults, camel contagious ecthyma was associated with concurrent caprine parapox infection in the four outbreaks. The two latter conditions could be differentiated by electron microscopy.

Introduction
Camel calf mortality is reported to be the most serious problem facing camel husbandry and can at times get to fifty percent1. Although competition with siblings for the dam's milk is known to be a major factor for such deaths, the role of disease is little understood.
In Kenya, camelpox and camel contagious ecthyma present as cutaneous eruptions around the nose and mouth but while camelpox is caused by an orthopoxvirus, camel contagious ecthyma is caused by a parapox virus2, similar to a strain which Roslyakov refers to as "Auzduk"3. The two conditions have however been reported to have very closely resembling and sometimes indistinguishable clinical manifestation4,5,6,7.
Outbreaks of the two conditions were therefore investigated in Turkana and Samburu, two main camel-rearing areas in Kenya. The prevalence and clinical manifestation were then compared.

Materials and Methods
Epidemiology
The two districts were chosen as they represent two different agro-ecological zones that camels are reared in, that is arid and semi-arid. Turkana