

JOURNAL OF CAMEL PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

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Subscription : Annual subscribers are advised to send the subscription for the year 2007 and onwards in favour of “**Camel Publishing House**” Bikaner. Renewals should invariably be done before April every year so that the number of subscribers may be ascertained before the next issue of the Journal of Camel Practice and Research (JCPR) is published.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES - 2007

ANNUAL	Rs. 1200/- or US \$ 120
THREE YEARS	Rs. 3000/- or US \$ 350
LIFE MEMBER	Rs. 12,000/- or US \$ 1200

Note : Subscription in Rupees is applicable to Indian subscribers only.

Publisher : The **Journal of Camel Practice and Research** (biannual) is published by the “**Camel Publishing House**” 67, Gandhi Nagar West, Near Lalgarh Palace, Bikaner-334001, India.

Phone : 0091-151-2527029, email: tkedjcpr@datainfosys.net, tkcamelvet@yahoo.com

Cover Design: Dr. T.K. Gahlot

Cover Photo: Gangrenous udder, sonogram of heart of llama cria, cannulation of C₁, Camel cart in desert of Rajasthan, delegates on camel cart in International Camel Conference, Sheep in desert.

Printer: Sankhla Printers, Vinayak Shikhar, Near Polytechnic College, Bikaner-334003, India.

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CAMELID IgG VERSUS SNAKE BITES AND INTERNATIONAL CAMEL CONFERENCE- UNIQUE LANDMARKS

Camel is indeed made up for welfare of mankind. Camel's draft power, racing ability, bone, meat, milk, hair, dung and now blood which has unique IgG possessing tremendous potential is important in the snake bite treatment in humans. Dr. Robert A Harrison of Alistair Reid Venom Research Unit, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK in collaboration with Dr. U. Wernery, UAE and Prof. Gutierrez of Costa Rica, have collected sera from camels immunised with either a mixture or individual, venoms of the three most medically important snakes in West Africa that kill 20,000 people each year. Poly and monospecific antivenins will be manufactured and human clinical trials in West Africa will be performed. IgG (V_{HH}) possesses a rapid tissue ingress when injected intravenously, thus has an obvious potential in the treatment of the snake envenoming (See the manuscript published in this issue).

A large scale potential of marketing of camel milk and its products was stamped by a sizeable group of scientists in International Camel Conference. All Champions spearheading the campaign of camel milk marketing were present in the International Camel Conference which held at Bikaner from 16-17 February 2007. These were Ms Nancy Abeiderrahmane, Mauritania, Dr Ilse Köhler Rollefson, Dr U Wernery, UAE, Dr Peter Nagy, UAE and Dr Reuven Yagil, Israel. They brought milk products such as flavoured milk, cheese and ice cream and these products were largely tasted and appreciated by the camel scientists. The conference was attended by more than 175 delegates and had participation of many key scientists involved in camelid research. The organisers of the conference did not provide financial support to any delegate for their participation. The undersigned was organising secretary and had no difficulty in managing this mega event. ISOCARD could not support this conference. This strongly points to the need of organising camel conferences by the help of local resources and registration fee only. This would help gathering of only interested camelid scientists, who may be able to draw useful recommendations.

JCPR has entered in 14th year of publication, yet it could not be made more than a biannual journal. This is mainly due to limited research being done on camels, owing to a species restriction. Launching of any new journal on camelids would therefore not be a positive step as it might prove suicidal for JCPR as well as new journal because of sharing of limited manuscripts based on camelids. Many members of the editorial board of JCPR have resented the launching of a new journal, as it may not be a viable proposition. I look forward to see camel scientists to work in an organised manner thus creating a cohesive environment which remains directed towards strengthening the camel research at global level.

This issue of JCPR has interesting papers on dromedary camels and llama. The subjects covered are anatomy, physiology, nutrition, surgery, endocrinology, parasitology, infectious diseases, immunology, pathology, and genetics.

Good wishes



(Dr. T.K. Gahlot)

Editor

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JOURNAL OF CAMEL PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

(BIANNUAL IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE, JUNE AND DECEMBER ISSUE EVERY YEAR)

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