

Studies on Anaemia in Camels (*Camelus dromedarius*) Brought for Slaughter at Sokoto Metropolitan Abattoir: A Preliminary Report

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Abstract : This study was performed to determine the presence of anaemia in randomly selected apparently healthy camels (*Camelus dromedarius*) brought for slaughter at the Sokoto metropolitan abattoir, Sokoto State, Nigeria. The camels were derived from both sexes, different age groups, functional usages and kept at various localities within and outside Sokoto town. In the study area, studies involving camels were limited in particular the emphasis on the anaemic status of camels brought daily for human consumption. A total of eighty (80) blood samples were collected once a week from these camels within the period of eight (8) weeks to investigate the haematological variations especially packed cell volume (PCV). The PCV analysis revealed anaemia in more than fifty (50) % of the camels studied. However, the actual cause of the anaemia was not investigated but could be caused by infectious agent like protozoan parasite *Trypanosoma* specie and non-infectious cause such as nutritional deficiency. The PCV examination as a simple, inexpensive and reliable procedure could be part of the routine ante-mortem assessment to evaluate camels for the existence of anaemia since many of the causes of anaemia besides being affecting the meat quality could also be of zoonotic significance.

Keywords : anaemia, camels, packed cell volume, Sokoto abattoir

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