

## **Keratosi of the Skin in Cattle.**

By H. H. CURSON, F.R.C.V.S., Dr. Med. Vet., Veterinary Research Officer, Onderstepoort.

MARTINAGLIA (1932) has recently drawn attention to a bovine skin affection which is to be encountered throughout Central and South Africa. In Central Africa particularly, various forms of dermatitis are exceedingly common (Curson, 1920) and offer a profitable field of study for the research veterinarian. Bee (1903) also met with the condition in question in Scotland and a photograph accompanies his note.



Fig. 1. Keratosis of Skin in Cattle.

“Vuursiekte”, as Keratosis is sometimes called, was noticed in several head of cattle in the Eastern Cape Province in 1920, and the accompanying figure (Fig. 1) shows a lesion occurring on the right hump of a Friesland heifer. It should be added that the term “Vuursiekte” may be applied not only to any dermatitis, but also to Anthrax! As remarked by Martinaglia, the unpigmented skin is, as a rule, affected, but in the case of especially Keratosis due to branding, pigmented skin may be involved. Ox 1878 (Onderstepoort) although reddish-brown in colour, shows Keratosis, the numeral “8” in both instances being concerned.

Martinaglia also shows (Fig. 3, p. 140) a photograph of a condition encountered by the writer on several occasions in Ngamiland in 1930. It is the presence in the nasal region (just above the muzzle) of a thickening of the skin, apparently a lesion produced artificially by the natives in order to prevent weaned calves from suckling.

## KERATOSIS OF SKIN IN CATTLE.

Further to the foregoing, an extract, referring to yet another form of bovine dermatitis, taken from the author's (Sept., 1920) monthly report from Grahamstown, C.P., is appended (Grahamstown Vet. Lab., File 76):—

“Two cases seen during the month presented the following appearances. The unpigmented skin (both animals were black and white) was bright red and painful to the touch. The coat was thin in some areas and in other places a complete loss of hair had resulted. What hair remained was dull and stood erect and obstinate ulcers had formed in the middle portion of some of the non-pigmented patches. Flakes of desquamated epidermal cells were also loosely adhering to the skin and these were easily removed by rubbing with the fingers.

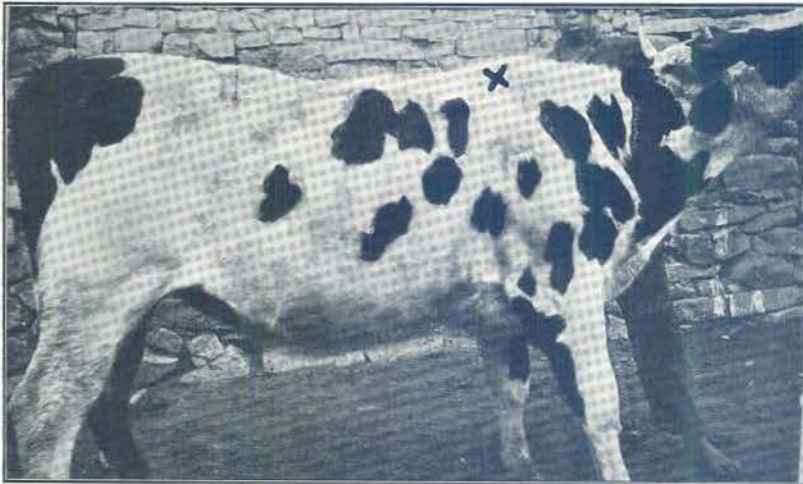


Fig. 2. Right side showing ulcer at X. The entire trunk (unpigmented) is involved.

It is important to note that there was no serious exudation such as is seen in 'Saria' of Central Africa. Although the influence of solar rays as a possible cause must not be overlooked, yet it is interesting that the disease first appeared in mid-winter. On microscopic examination of scrapings and hairs no organisms could be detected." (See Fig. 2.)

There were, in addition, in both cases, foot lesions which took the form of a ring around each of the hoofs. The rings varied in width and depth.

### REFERENCES.

- BEE, J. (1903). Horny Tumour in the Skin of a Cow. *Vet. Rec.*, 3rd Jan., 1903, p. 414.
- CURSON, H. H. (1920). Saria. *Vet. Jnl.*, Nov., 1920, pp. 405-412. It is convenient to mention here that this article contains three photographs. Three headings, meant to explain the photographs, were in error incorporated in the text. Two headings (referring to Figs. 1 and 2) occur on p. 409 and the third "Rinderpest Skin Lesions" on p. 410 should have been placed under Fig. 3.
- MARTINAGLIA, G. (1932). Keratosis of the Skin in Cattle. *Jnl. S.A.V.M.A.*, Sept., 1932, pp. 138-141.