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## **Anaesthesia of the Horn in Buffaloes**

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*With 4 figures*

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Although many papers have been devoted to the subject of horn anaesthesia in cattle (EMMERSON, 1933; BROWNE, 1938; WHEAT, 1951; SCHREIBER, 1955) and one in goats (VITUMS, 1954), nothing is available concerning buffaloes.

In our practice, veterinarians are not infrequently called upon to perform operations of a painful nature on the horn region or sometimes to dehorn buffaloes. The purpose of this communication is to describe the technique for perineural anaesthesia in buffaloes.

### **Anatomical Considerations**

According to KAMEL and MOUSTAFA (1966) the horn cores are better developed in buffaloes (*Bos bubalus*) than in cattle (*Bos taurus*). They arise half way between the posterior border of the supraorbital process and the parieto-occipital articulation. They are directed laterally over the temporal fossa, then ventrally and backward. Moreover, in our studies the lateral ridge of the frontal bone was found to be shorter than in cattle (Figs. 1 and 2).

The distribution of the sensory nerves supplying the horn in buffaloes was carefully studied before attempting to block them. Four formol-fixed heads of adult Egyptian buffaloes were used for dissection of the areas of the forehead, periorbita, temporal and base of the horn.

Dissection revealed that the horn corium and skin around its base were supplied mainly by the cornual branches of the zygomaticotemporal nerve, coming from the ophthalmic nerve as in cattle (GETTY, 1975). In addition, twigs from the infratrochlear nerve of the nasociliary division of the ophthalmic nerve were found to take an integral part in horn innervation in buffalo.

The zygomatico-temporal nerve in buffalo courses caudally over the orbit and traverses the retro-orbital fat pad. It then proceeds parallel to the lateral ridge of the frontal bone. About 2.5 cm. below the cranial border of the base of the horn, it becomes superficial and divides into two smaller and