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Etiology and effects of subclinical mastitis in Buffaloes (*Bubalus bubalus*) and therapeutic potential of *Achyranthes aspera*

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Mastitis has been recognized as one of the major problem in dairy animals which results in great economic losses to the farmers due to reduced productivity, milk quality and cost of treatment. An investigation was carried out to determine the commonly occurring subclinical mastitis pathogens and the relationship between chemical parameters of milk and therapeutic potential of *Achyranthes aspera* was assessed. A total of 1650 milk samples from buffaloes of different dairy farm were randomly screened for prevalence of subclinical mastitis by indirect test like Somatic Cell Count (SCC). The SCC of individual quarter milk samples increased significantly ($P < 0.01$) 1.52 to 3.98×10^5 cells as compared 1.00×10^5 cells in per ml milk. A direct correlation was established between elevated SCC and quality of milk was established. The significant is $p < 0.05$ elevated levels of protein and sodium ion concentration whereas non-significant increase of pH was recorded with increased SCC in milk samples. Significant decrease in milk fat %, lactose % and potassium ion concentration was recorded in infected animals. The occurrence of major etiological agent in the study was *Staphylococcus* spp. with occurrence rate of 41.51%. Methanolic extract of *Achyranthes aspera* @ 400mg/kg body wt. orally once daily for 7 days was found to be an effective control measure for amelioration of subclinical mastitis in buffaloes.