Efficacy of Scavon in mange of rabbits

Rabbits suffer from a variety of parasitic infections/infestations, among which the incidence of mange is high. Mange affecting the rabbits has become a major constraint in rabbit production in India (Singh and Gill, 1989). It is well known fact that traditional indigenous veterinary remedies (Folklore treatment) are routinely practiced in the rural areas. Dakshinkar et al. (1992) tried crude extracts of medicinal plants for ear mange.

In the present study it is envisaged to explore the therapeutic effect of Scavon - a herbal formulation for mange in rabbits.

Materials and Methods

Fifteen rabbits of Experimental Animal House, Veterinary College, Bangalore were affected with mange and showed loss of hair, white crust like growths near the mouth, ears, eyes and feet regions. Skin scrapings revealed presence of Psoroptes and Notoederes species of mites.

Among the affected, ten were treated with Scavon (The Himalaya Drug Company, Bangalore).

Each 50 gms cream contained:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tulasi (Ocimum tenciflorum)</td>
<td>0.6 gms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacha (Acorus calamus)</td>
<td>0.4 gms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tailaparna (Eucalyptus globulus)</td>
<td>1.5 gms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kumari (Aloe barbendis)</td>
<td>6.5 gms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yashada (Bhasma)</td>
<td>0.9 gms in base q.s.</td>
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The cream is applied by gentle rubbing over the lesions, twice daily for 7 days with the help of used tooth brush while other five rabbits served as untreated controls. During the course of treatment the skin scrapings were collected and examined for mites on 0, 7 and 14 days after the first treatment. Day 0 was considered as the day of first medication. The observations were made from day 0 of treatment until 20 days of post-treatment. The efficacy of medication was evaluated in terms of clinical signs, skin scrapping and histological changes in the skin. Skin biopsy were obtained from these animals on day 7, preserved in 10% neutral buffered formalin. Sections of 5 µ thickness were cut and stained with Hematoxylin-Eosin method.

Results & Discussion

The presence of mite was noticed in all the fifteen rabbits subjected for skin scrapping. The biopsy of skin samples from these animals showed hyper keratosis, acanthosis and presence of mite in the epidermis. The rabbits treated with Scavon showed absence of mites and skin lesions 15 days after application. The hair growth was noticed 20 days post-treatment with Scavon. The untreated control animals showed presence of mites and histological changes.
Scavon is a herbal anti-inflammatory and dermatological cream evaluated extensively both in laboratory and field conditions. Ocimum tenuiflorum, Acorus calamus and Eucalyptus globulus are known to possess insecticidal, antiseptic and wound healing properties (Sathyavathi et. al., 1976).

The exact mechanism by which Scavon has shown to reduce the mite population and restricting the histological damage is undergoing further research. Further, investigations in this regard are done keeping in mind the pharmacological activities of the individual ingredients of Scavon.

**Summary**

Efficacy of 'Scavon', a herbal formulation in the treatment of mange in rabbits is reported.

**References**

