

## A Study on the Prevalence of Mange Among Arabian Camels in Najaf Province / Iraq

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### ABSTRACT

The study was carried out at Najaf abattoir and some nomadic areas, for a period of five months , between January and May 2000 . A total of (434) camels were examined clinically, and skin scrapings collected from suspected animals for laboratory investigation. Sarcoptic mange was diagnosed in (114) camels with an infestation rate of (25, 9%). The highest prevalence rate was recorded in January (38%), and the lowest was in May (14.8%).

The main clinical findings observed included easlessness, intensive itching, and the affected areas of the skin became hairless, thickened, corrugated and grey in color. Regarding affected regions of the body the highest incidence of mange lesions were recorded on the neck (60.5%) and the lowest incidence were on the tail (5.2%). There were no lesions observed on the hump.

Sex of animals showed no effect on the prevalence as well as the severity of the disease. Regarding age, the higher prevalence rate of the disease occurred in animals under 4 years of age.

### INTRODUCTION

Mange is a very common and widely spreading disease of camels in most camel rearing countries<sup>(1)</sup>, including Iraq<sup>(2)</sup>. It is a highly contagious obstinate and debilitating disease<sup>(3)</sup> and zoonotic one<sup>(4)</sup>. The causative mite, *Sarcoptes scabiei* var *camel*, is one of many definitive forms of *Sarcoptes scabiei*<sup>(1)</sup>. The cross infestation between different hosts occurred due to incomplete host specificity of parasite<sup>(5)</sup>. The disease transmitted either by direct contact of animals or by fomile like blankets or saddles. Climate and season of a year have great bearing on the occurrence and spreads of mange<sup>(3)</sup>. The disease is more common in wet and colour weather, and spread slowly during summer months<sup>(6)</sup>. This study was carried out in Najaf abattoir and some nomadic areas surrounding Najaf for a period of five months (January-May 2000) to determine the prevalence of sarcoptic mange in camel, the effect of weather

