

since the remaining calves and the sire had been slaughtered before our examination began.

Of the 8 calves examined four showed 1/29 translocation in the heterozygous state, one animal showed this translocation in the homozygous state and the remaining three calves were free of this aberration. None of the dams showed translocation. It is of interest to note that some quantitative cytogenetic data (counts of cells with breaks or gaps) obtained for the calves corresponded to those obtained for their dams.

The cytogenetic findings are interpreted as indicating random association of two inherited health disorders.

## R-Banding studies in *Bos taurus* and *Ovis aries*

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The chromosomes of *Bos taurus* and *Ovis aries* have been studied using the R-banding technique (DUTRILLAUX and LÉJEUNE, 1971). The banding pattern obtained allows an accurate identification of chromosome pairs, including those of *Ovis aries* involved in the centromeric fusion.

But the most striking observation concerns the centromeres. All centromeres appear darkly stained, just as if C-banding had been used. As a control, human chromosomes were stained in identical conditions, in the same containers than the *Bovoidea* chromosomes: the usual R-banding pattern of Man was observed. This shows first that the centromeric staining of *Bos taurus* and *Ovis aries* is not an artefact, second that very likely it is not constitutive heterochromatin that has been detected.

Should R and C-banding be linked with the nature of the chromosomal DNA (eu — or heterochromatin, repetitive short or long DNA sequences, etc.), the present observation is suggestive of the presence of more than one kind of DNA at the centromeric region of the *Bovoidea*.

## Fertility of sires born as dizygotic twins and sex ratio in their progeny groups

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Often reduced fertility and deviating sex ratios in progeny groups have been reported for bulls born as dizygotic twins. Experience from the last 20 years' of A.I. work within the *Swedish Red and White* cattle breed is reported. A total of 33 bulls born as dizygotic twins and divided into three groups according to sampling method, were investigated with respect to semen quality and quantity, conception rate at first service, non-return (NR) rates of 28 and 56 days, and sex ratio of progeny groups. The information available neither point to deviating semen characteristics and reduced fertility of the bulls nor to deviating sex ratios of the progeny groups. Therefore the diagnosis « born as a twin » has hitherto been omitted from consideration in breeding work of cattle in Sweden.

## Disparition des cellules germinales et déroulement anormal de la méiose chez les fœtus de veau freemartins

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L'effet freemartin se manifeste au niveau des glandes génitales vers 49-52 j par un arrêt de leur croissance et par un ralentissement très marqué de l'augmentation du nombre des cellules germinales par rapport aux témoins. Le nombre des cellules germinales décroît à partir de 70 j et devient très faible à 150 j.