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A CASE OF OBSTRUCTIVE ASPHYXIA IN PYTHON (PYTHON MOLURUS)

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The Apex Centre, Jaipur received a carcass of python in the month of January 1998 from the Zoological Park, Jaipur. With the animal going off-feed during the winter months on account of hibernation, the zoo authorities apparently could not note of the deteriorating health condition of the snake. The general body condition of the carcass was good and the animal measured about 8 feet 6 inch in length. The carcass had no external marks of injury.

The clinical history, post mortem examinations and laboratory investigation were suggestive of obstructive asphyxia as the cause of death in the Python. Rao et al. (1980) reported concomitant occurrence of Corynbacterium pyogenes and Pseudomonas aruginosa in mouth lesions of cobra. Kaura et al. (1972), Sethi et al. (1980a&b) and, Mishra and Verma (1981) have also reported the presence of enteric bacteria in python and other snakes.

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References