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Mastitis in A Wild White-Tailed Deer

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A female white-tailed deer, (*Odocoileus virginianus borealis*), was killed in Long Lake, Hamilton County, on November 21, 1964. Several days later the eviscerated and frozen carcass was submitted for examination. Gross examination revealed a greatly swollen udder weighing 2634 grams. After thawing, it contained 1400 ml. of exudate. There was a mixture of blood and purulent exudate on one side and yellowish purulent material containing numerous small granules suggestive of actinobacillosis on the other. Many small rosettes exhibiting the typical club-like forms found in actinobacillosis were seen microscopically in crushed granules, but no organisms were observed.

Exudate from both sides of the udder was cultured aerobically at 37°C. on

equine blood agar plates. Gram-negative somewhat pleomorphic bacilli, which produced a bluish-green pigment characteristic of *Pseudomonas sp.* were recovered. The organism failed to ferment carbohydrates. It produced acid in glucose. Indole was not formed. Gelatine was rapidly liquified and the resulting fluid was bluish-green colored. Litmus milk was peptonized and showed an alkaline reaction.

Since actinobacilli were not recovered, the observation of rosettes in purulent material remained only suggestive evidence of the presence of those organisms. On the other hand, *Pseudomonas sp.* is common in nature and has been incriminated in bovine mastitis (Tucker, 1954, Cornell Vet. 44:110-124).

