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Evaluating the Role of Homeopathic Remedies in the Management of Reproductive Disorders in Livestock: A Scientific Review

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ABSTRACT

Homeopathy has been increasingly investigated as a complementary approach in the management of reproductive disorders in livestock. Several studies in dairy cattle and buffaloes have demonstrated the efficacy of homeopathic complexes, administered in various potencies (*e.g.*, 30C, 200C, 6C, 30X and MK), in managing conditions such as true anoestrus, ovarian inactivity, cystic ovarian disease, postpartum anestrus and endometritis. These remedies, including *Calcarea phosphorica, Sepia, Pulsatilla, Aletris farinosa* and *Oophorinum,* appear to exert regulatory effects on the hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal (HPG) axis, improving ovarian cyclicity, estrus induction and conception rates. Additionally, some homeopathic formulations have shown potential in modulating mineral metabolism, supporting follicular development and restoring hormonal balance. Beyond female fertility, emerging evidence highlights the potential role of homeopathy in enhancing male fertility by improving mitochondrial bioenergetics, sperm motility and semen quality. Complexes such as *Ubichinon compositum*®, *Coenzyme compositum*® and individualized remedies like *Sulphur, Phosphorus, Lycopodium, Argentum nitricum* and *Pulsatilla* have demonstrated promising effects on sperm function and cryopreservation outcomes in bulls. Collectively, these findings suggest that homeopathy, through endocrine modulation, metabolic support and cellular bioenergetics enhancement, holds promise as a safe and viable alternative or adjunct therapy for improving reproductive performance in farm animals.

Key words: Anoestrus, Buffaloes, Dairy cows, Homeopathy, Infertility, Male fertility, Repeat breeding condition, Reproductive management.

Reproductive efficiency in livestock production systems is crucial for economic sustainability and herd health. Conventional treatments for reproductive disorders such as anoestrus, cystic ovarian disease and postpartum uterine infections typically rely on hormonal therapy or antibiotics, which may lead to withdrawal periods or consumer concerns about residue in animal products (Chand *et al.,* 2018; Rajamanickam *et al.,* 2022). Complementary and Alternative Medicine, particularly homeopathy, has emerged as a gentle yet promising approach for reproductive management in animals (Kumar *et al.,* 2020).

Homeopathy is founded on the principle of *similia similibus curentur* ("like cures like") and the "law of minimum dose," where highly diluted substances are believed to stimulate the body's innate healing responses (Schmidt, 2021). In homeopathy, different dilution scales or potency scales are used to prepare remedies, each denoted by specific notations. The centesimal scale, represented as C or CH, refers to a 1:100 dilution ratio and follows the Hahnemannian method, involving stepwise dilution and vigorous shaking (succussion) at each stage. The decimal scale, denoted as X or D, uses a 1:10 dilution ratio, making it less diluted compared to the centesimal scale (Baumgartner *et al.,* 1998). Another form, the LM or Q potencies, represents a much higher dilution factor of 1:50,000 and is designed to deliver gentler, micro-doses suitable for sensitive individuals or chronic conditions (Nayak *et al.,* 2012). Additionally, very high potencies, indicated by notations such as M or MK, refer to remedies that have undergone 1,000 or more centesimal dilutions, resulting in extremely diluted preparations used for deep-seated or long-standing ailments.

Homeopathy is increasingly being explored in veterinary reproductive medicine as a holistic and non-invasive alternative or adjunct to conventional therapies, with particular relevance in livestock farming systems that aim to minimize pharmaceutical inputs or comply with organic certification standards (Hektoen, 2005). Conventional

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reproductive management often depends on hormones, antibiotics and pharmacological agents, which, while effective, can produce side effects, contribute to antimicrobial resistance and primarily provide symptomatic relief without addressing underlying causative factors. In contrast, homeopathic approaches emphasize individualized treatment that considers the animal's physiological, behavioral and environmental context, offering a more comprehensive framework for reproductive health management (Doehring and Sundrum, 2016).

Evidence from small-scale clinical trials and case reports indicates that homeopathy may benefit livestock reproductive performance. Reported applications include correction of anoestrus, regulation of estrous cycles, improvement of conception rates and management of postpartum reproductive disorders. For instance, cows with postpartum anoestrus treated with homeopathic complexes have shown significantly higher estrus induction and conception rates than untreated controls, with some studies noting conception success rates exceeding 80% (Sathyabama *et al.,* 2024). In sheep, homeopathic remedies have been associated with estrus regulation and improved lambing rates (Benvenuti *et al.,* 2011), while individualized homeopathic protocols have been shown to enhance semen quality in bulls experiencing cryopreservation failures (de Souza *et al.,* 2012). These findings are particularly important for organic livestock systems, where the non-residual, hormone- and antibiotic-free nature of homeopathy aligns with both regulatory requirements and consumer expectations.

Among homeopathic veterinary medicines, Fertigo is specifically formulated to improve conception rates in cattle by supporting hormonal balance, maintaining optimal pH for sperm motility and enhancing genital organ tone. It combines key remedies such as *Aurum Metallicum, Apis Mellifica, Borax, Sepia, Murex Purpurea, Palladium* and *Agnus Castus*, which target ovarian, uterine and reproductive health issues including infertility, repeat breeding, cysts and uterine atonicity. Fertigo is administered orally at a dose of 5 mL daily, either mixed with jaggery or water. Another preparation, Hit-O-Gen, is designed to regulate the estrous cycle and induce heat in anoestrus cattle, buffalo, sheep and goats, showing particular effectiveness in cases of physiological anoestrus and ovarian cystic disorders. Containing remedies such as *Alteris Farinosa, Folliculinum, Oophorinum and Pituitary* in 1M potency, Hit-O-Gen works to correct hormonal imbalance, stimulate reproductive activity and support ovarian and uterine function, with a recommended dosage of two tablets daily. Both Fertigo and Hit-O-Gen are available as OTC (over-the-counter) preparations, meaning they can be safely used without a veterinary prescription. Being non-prescription, natural and free from side effects, they can be administered alongside other treatments, making them a dependable choice for restoring fertility and maintaining reproductive regularity in female animals (Chandel *et al.,* 2009a). Remedies like *Calcarea phosphorica, Aletris farinosa, Sepia, Pulsatilla, Oophorinum and Aurum muriaticum natronatum* have been used individually or as complexes to stimulate ovarian function and induce estrus in cows and buffaloes with true anestrus or ovarian inactivity (Rajkumar *et al.,* 2006; Kumar *et al.,* 2022). Common dosing forms include oral pills, oral drops, drenches or injectable preparations (subcutaneously or intramuscularly), administered over a period of 5-21 days. These homeopathic interventions appear to influence reproductive physiology by modulating the HPG axis, restoring ovarian cyclicity, enhancing serum estradiol and progesterone levels and improving mineral metabolism. In comparative studies, homeopathic treatments have shown comparable or superior efficacy to herbal and hormonal therapies, particularly when combined with essential nutritional support and parasitic management (Riley *et al.,* 2001).

Furthermore, emerging research suggests that homeopathy positively affects male reproductive function. Remedies such as *Pulsatilla, Sulphur* and organotherapy agents like *Ubichinon compositum*® and *Coenzyme compositum*® have been associated with improved sperm mitochondrial activity, motility and fertilizing capacity in bulls (Aziz *et al.,* 2012). These benefits are particularly relevant for artificial insemination programs, where semen quality and cryopreservation resilience are critical factors.

The broad therapeutic applications of homeopathy in reproductive management, coupled with its minimal risk profile, make it a valuable adjunct in holistic herd fertility programs. This review critically examines the scientific rationale, mechanisms of action and therapeutic efficacy of homeopathic medicines, with a particular focus on their role in managing reproductive problems in livestock.

Broader applications and mechanistic insights in female fertility

A study was conducted to scientifically evaluate a homeopathic complex in the treatment of true anoestrus, in which crossbred cows diagnosed with ovarian inactivity received a formulation containing *Calcarea phosphorica 30C, Aletris farinosa 30C, Pulsatilla 30C, Aurum muriaticum natronatum 30C, Sepia 30C* and *Phosphorus 30C*. The remedy was administered orally in equal proportion (15 pills twice daily) over a 10-day period (Rajkumar *et al.,* 2006). All treated animals showed estrus signs and responded positively to breeding with a conception rate of 54.5%. A notable increase in serum estradiol levels was observed post-treatment, contrasting with the relatively stable levels in the non-treated group (Rajkumar *et al.,* 2006). Kumar *et al.* (2004) found that the remedy induced estrus in 68% of postpartum acyclic cows and 50% of buffaloes. These findings suggest that the homeopathic combination may have influenced the hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal axis, thereby restoring ovarian cyclicity and promoting estrus expression.

Further, Williamson *et al.* (1995) reported that *Sepia 200C* administered day 14 postpartum significantly reduced the calving-to-conception interval in postpartum cows. In another study conducted by Kumar *et al.* (2020), efficacy of homeopathic medicine was compared with herbal and hormonal interventions in managing postpartum anoestrus in dairy cows. The homeopathic group received *Sepia 30C* at a dosage of ten oral drops daily for 10 consecutive days. The results demonstrated that *Sepia 30C* administration significantly resumed the ovarian cyclical activity and improved conception rate in estrus-induced cows, indicating a favourable impact on reproductive efficiency. This finding was consistent with other reports highlighting the effectiveness of Sepia in restoring reproductive cyclicity through endocrine modulation. The study substantiates the role of homeopathic therapy, particularly *Sepia 30C*, as a potent alternative for enhancing fertility in postpartum anoestrus cows when used alongside basic nutritional support and deworming. More recently, Sathyabama *et al.* (2024) showed that both *Sepia 30C and Pulsatilla 30C* as a drench at the dose rate of 20 mL twice daily for 8 days achieved 100% estrus induction in postpartum cows. Interestingly, the *Pulsatilla*-treated cows exhibited superior fertility outcomes, possibly due to enhanced post-treatment progesterone secretion.

A comparative study evaluated the effects of herbal (*Aegle marmelos* powder), homeopathic (*Oophorinum 30C*; 10 drops orally for 10 days) and hormonal therapies hydroxyprogesterone caproate (100 mg/day, subcutaneously) in postpartum anoestrous buffaloes (Kumar *et al.,* 2021). All animals received deworming and mineral mixture supplementation. Estrus induction occurred in 50% of buffaloes in the *Aegle marmelos* group, 100% in the *Oophorinum* group and 33.33% in the progesterone-treated group. Notably, serum calcium and phosphorus levels increased significantly in the *Oophorinum* group post-treatment, underscoring its role in mineral metabolism and endocrine restoration (Kumar *et al.,* 2021). Conception rates among the estrus-induced buffaloes were highest in the progesterone group (100%), followed by *Oophorinum* (83.33%) and *Aegle marmelos* (66.66%). These results suggest that both homeopathic and herbal therapies have tangible effects on reproductive physiology and can serve as viable alternatives to synthetic hormones. Ferreira *et al.* (2022) reported that a homeopathic complex *Pró-Cio*® 20 g/ animal/day administered with ground corn from Day-18 to Day 20, improved follicular development and corpus luteum vascularization in heifers subjected to fixed-time artificial insemination, though it did not significantly influence estrus manifestation or conception rates. The *Pró-Cio* group had greater diameters of the dominant follicle, pre-ovulatory follicle and larger CL area than the non-treated group. Muratbayev *et al.* (2018) demonstrated effective treatment of ovarian cysts and hypovarianism using a combination of *Gabivit, Liarsin* and *Ovariovit*. Gabivit is a vitamin preparation that likely contains B-complex vitamins along with vitamins A, D and E. It plays a crucial role in supporting metabolism, improving energy balance and enhancing reproductive health in cows. Gabivit is particularly beneficial in correcting metabolic disorders that may contribute to ovarian inactivity. The recommended dosage is 15 ml administered either intramuscularly (IM) or subcutaneously (SC), with a treatment course of 1 to 3 injections given at 5-day intervals.

Ovariovit is a homeopathic preparation that typically includes ovarian tissue extracts and other hormonal regulators. It is used to stimulate ovarian activity and promote follicular development, making it especially useful in cases of functional ovarian hypofunction. The standard dose of Ovariovit is 5 ml, administered IM or SC, usually following the same schedule as Gabivit, with 1 to 3 injections given at 5-day intervals. These two preparations are often used together to enhance the therapeutic effect.

Liarsin, another homeopathic remedy, acts as a detoxifier, often containing sulfur compounds. It supports liver detoxification and metabolic functions, thereby improving the hormonal response and aiding general recovery in chronic conditions such as hypovarianism. The typical dose of Liarsin ranges from 5 to 10 ml given IM or SC and it can be administered alongside Gabivit and Ovariovit. Liarsin may be repeated every 3 to 5 days depending on the cow's response.

A general treatment protocol may involve administering Gabivit (15 ml), Ovariovit (5 ml) and Liarsin (5-10 ml) on Day 0, followed by repeat injections on Day 5 and Day 10. While some cows may respond sufficiently after 1 or 2 injections, others may require the full three-dose protocol to achieve optimal ovarian function.

Ovariovit is also useful in managing ovarian dysfunction like follicular ovarian cysts and persistent corpus luteum. Its mechanism of action is based on improving the endocrine regulation of the reproductive system, supporting follicular development, ovulation and luteolysis. In cows diagnosed with ovarian cysts, Ovariovit and Liarsin® are commonly used as part of a supportive homeopathic treatment strategy to regulate ovarian function and promote the resolution of cystic structures. Ovariovit is administered at a dose of 5 ml once a week, with a treatment course consisting of 3 to 4 injections, depending on the cow's response. Liarsin® is also administered at a dose of 5 ml which works synergistically to promote ovarian recovery, regulate estrous cycles and improve overall reproductive performance.

Jahangirbasha *et al.* (2014) described successful outcomes in repeat breeding cattle and buffalo heifers having underdeveloped genitalia using combinations *i.e.* each heifer was administered orally (sublingually) a combination of *Alfalfa 30X* and Five *Phos 30X*, with a dosage of 10 pills twice daily, using 60 mm-sized pills, for a period of 20 days. This was followed by a second regimen consisting of *Thyroidinum 30X, Agnus castus 200X and Aurum iodatum 200X*, also at 60 mm size and 10 pills

twice daily, for one month. As a result, all heifers exhibited signs of estrus and successfully conceived following the first or second insemination, except for a few individuals that were culled.

Postpartum reproductive disorders such as puerperal metritis in dairy animals can be managed using homeopathic remedies (Kumar *et al.,* 2018). *Aconitum napellus 6C* is administered in six doses at intervals of 30 minutes, while *Echinacea 3X and Sabina 6C* are given in four doses at 2-hour intervals. Additionally, *Secale 30C and Lachesis* are recommended three times daily for four consecutive days to aid recovery (Boericke, 1901). Various other remedies, including *Hydrastis 30C, Caulophyllum 30C, Sepia 200C, Calcarea phosphorica 30C, Pulsatilla 30C, Platina 6C* and *Apis 30C*, have been employed for managing endometritis and pyometra conditions in cattle (MacLeod, 1975).

Homeopathy has also demonstrated immunomodulatory potential. Bogdan *et al.* (2009) evaluated the therapeutic efficacy of two homeopathic preparations in the treatment of chronic endometritis in dairy cows. In this study, animals in two groups received subcutaneous injections of *Lachesis compositum N*. (5 ml per dose, administered five times at 72-hour intervals) and *Mucosa compositum* (10 ml per dose, administered three times at 72-hour intervals). The clinical cure rates were higher than those observed in control groups (treated with oxytetracycline antibiotic). Moreover, analysis of metabolic and immunological parameters revealed marked stimulation of the immune system, which corresponded with the observed clinical improvement of uterine health.

Arlt *et al.* (2009) observed no significant improvement in reproductive performance or prevention of endometritis in dairy cows when homeopathic prophylaxis was administered postpartum, suggesting that outcomes may vary depending on clinical condition, formulation and timing of administration. The homeopathic formulations evaluated included *Lachesis compositum (Lachesis), Carduus compositum (Carduus)* and *Traumeel LT (Traumeel)*. Boitor *et al.* (1994) treated cows suffering from puerperal endometritis with 10 mL of *Lachesis compositum (comp.) ad usum (us.) veterinarium (vet.)* subcutaneously and observed significant improvement in involution of the uterus, enhanced phagocytosis and days open.

The Homeocyst protocol, developed for treating cystic ovarian disease in dairy cows (Castilhos *et al.,* 2003), involves the use of *Apis mellifera 6CH* combined with *Oophorinum 6CH* for right ovarian cysts and *Thuja occidentalis 6CH* with *Oophorinum 6CH* for left-sided or bilateral ovarian cysts. In this approach, *Apis mellifera 6CH* shows a preferential effect on the right ovary, whereas *Thuja occidentalis 6CH* predominantly influences the left ovary (Table 1). Organotherapy, as exemplified by the use of *Oophorinum*, prepared from healthy ovarian tissue, has shown to stimulate ovarian function and improve fertility outcomes.

The average treatment duration was 13-14 days. Administration or treatment continued until the manifestation of clinical signs of estrus. The animals were then artificially inseminated 8 to 12 hours later. For cases where cystic ovarian conditions are associated with nymphomania, homeopathic agents such as *Murex purpurea 30C* and *Colocynthis 6C* have demonstrated therapeutic efficacy. *Palladium 6C* is particularly indicated when the pathology is confined to the right ovary (Castilhos *et al.,* 2003). In conditions of uterine atony, where there is a risk of prolapse, *Sepia 200C, Folliculinum 6C* and *Aletris farinosa 30C* are recommended. For true anestrus, *Iodum 30C* is the remedy of choice. Additionally, *Viburnum opulus 30C* administered weekly for three weeks has been reported as an effective intervention for preventing non-specific abortions, particularly during the early stages of gestation.

Moreover, Fertisule tablets comprising a synergistic blend of homeopathic medicines such as *Aletris farinosa 30, Aurum metallicum 30, Apis mellifica 30, Borax 30, Calcarea phosphorica 30, Colocynthis 30, Folliculinum 30, Iodum 30, Murex 30, Oophorinum 30, Palladium 30, Platinum 30, Pulsatilla 30* and *Sepia 200*, have shown promising results in addressing repeat breeding problems. According to Chandel *et al.* (2009b), buffaloes exhibited a more favorable response to this formulation compared to cattle suffering from repeat breeding issues. Fertisule is a 21-day course that begins with five tablets on the first day and continues with five tablets daily. If the animal comes in heat during the course, treatment is continued to maintain the tonicity of the uterus for better conception. Homeopathy has demonstrated potential benefits in enhancing reproductive efficiency in intensive pig production systems (Deni *et al.,* 2015). In this study, sows received monthly oral administration of homeopathic complex consisting of *Borax 10 MK* and *Lycopodium 10MK*. The results indicated that sows treated with the homeopathic preparation exhibited a reduced number of repeat services and shortened weaning-to-estrus interval and weaning-to-service interval.

Table 1: Homeocyst protocol.

Ovarian condition	Medicine	Potency	Volume	Final volume	Route of administration
Right cystic ovary	Apis mellifera + Oophorinum	6CH + 6CH	1 mL + 1 mL	2 mL	Intravaginal
Left cystic ovary	Thuja occidentalis + Oophorinum	6CH + 6CH	1 mL + 1 mL	2 mL	Intravaginal
Bilateral cysts (right and left)	Thuja occidentalis + Oophorinum	6CH each	1 mL each	2 mL	Intravaginal

Cellular mechanisms and application in male fertility

The biological activity of homeopathic remedies extends beyond observable reproductive outcomes and into cellular function. Aziz *et al.* (2012) investigated the effect of two homeopathic complexes, *Ubichinon compositum*® (Ubi comp) and *Coenzyme compositum* ad us. vet.® (CoQ10 comp), on bovine sperm function. A HEPES-0.1% BSA solution was used to dilute the semen samples. For each tested complex, two dilutions were prepared: 1:9 and 1:4 (drug: HEPES–BSA, v/v). Their findings revealed enhanced mitochondrial activity, a key factor in sperm motility and fertilizing capacity, without detrimental effects on sperm *via*bility, chromatin structure, or acrosomal integrity. This highlights a potential application of homeopathy in improving sperm bioenergetics, particularly relevant for artificial insemination programs. Further evidence from Lobreiro (2007) demonstrated that *Pulsatilla nigricans 200 CH* (10 drops diluted in 1 ml of distilled water given orally once a day for 30 days) improved semen quality in a Nelore bull previously considered infertile. Although semen quality declined upon discontinuation of the treatment, resumption of therapy restored it, indicating a reversible, yet responsive physiological modulation. Similarly, de Souza *et al.* (2012) reported that homeopathic treatment individualized to the bull using remedies such as *Sulphur, Phosphorus, Lycopodium* and *Argentum nitricum,* all in 30CH dilution significantlyimproved the production of *via*ble doses of semen straws per ejaculate from bulls with previous freezing problems and poor semen quality. The homeopathic medicines dissolved in a 70% alcohol solution, were mixed into a calcium carbonate base. For every kg of calcium carbonate, 10% of this solution was used. Ten grams of the homeopathic medicine were added to the calcium carbonate vehicle, which was then mixed with the feed and given once daily.

Soto *et al.* (2011) conducted a study to assess the impact of three different homeopathic formulations on the viability of boar spermatozoa. The treatments included *Pulsatila* CH6, a combination of *Pulsatila* and *Avena* CH6 and *Avena* CH6 alone. These were administrated as globules manipulated according Brazilian Homeopathic Pharmacology. Each globule weighted 30 mg and one dose of two globules was added per 100 mL of diluted boar semen samples, which were then stored under cooling conditions for 24 or 48 hours. The results demonstrated that none of the homeopathic treatments had a beneficial effect on semen viability when compared to the non-treated group.

CONCLUSION

In summary, homeopathy emerges as a promising complementary approach for improving reproductive efficiency in both female and male farm animals. By modulating endocrine balance, enhancing immune competence and supporting cellular bioenergetics, it offers a holistic means of restoring fertility and reproductive performance. The demonstrated benefits on estrus induction, ovarian function, semen quality and sperm vitality highlight its multifaceted biological impact. Moreover, its safety, affordability and adaptability make it suitable for integration into herd health programs. Despite existing variability in clinical responses, ongoing research is progressively clarifying its mechanisms and therapeutic potential. Strengthening the scientific evidence base through controlled studies will further validate its practical application. Ultimately, homeopathy holds potential as a sustainable and integrative tool in modern livestock reproductive management.

Conflict of interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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