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Authors: SCHLEGEL, M. W., and LEEGE, T. A.

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INJURIOUS ANTLER ANOMALY IN A ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK*

M. W. SCHLEGEL and T. A. LEEGE, Idaho Fish and Game Dept., Kamiah, Id. 83536, U.S.A.

R. F. LAPEN, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, Pullman, Washington 99163, U.S.A.

A mature bull elk (*Cervus canadensis nelsoni*) killed by hunters October 31, 1971, in the lower Lochsa River drainage, northern Idaho, had a physically damaging antler anomaly.

At necropsy, the carcass was extremely emaciated and had a foul odor. The bez tine or second eye guard of the four point left antler had grown caudally then ventrally from the main beam and penetrated the skin at the base of the left ear. A firm

globose enlargement with a diameter of approximately 11 cm was at the penetration site (Fig. 1). Caseopurulent exudate surrounded the 10 cm of tine embedded in the enlargement. The right antler was a typical six point and both antlers were partially in velvet.

A direct relationship between the antler induced lesion and the emaciation of the elk was not established.



FIGURE 1. Antler tine directed caudo-ventrally penetrating neck musculature.

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