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Relationship of Spermatozoal Migration in Cervical Mucus to Bovine Fertility

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Frozen bovine semen from males of well-established, generally high fertility levels was thawed and used in three experiments for in vitro capillary tube migration through cervical mucus. Bovine cervical mucus from individual heifers or a group of heifers was evaluated in these assays. Correlations between spermatozoal migration and bull fertility were small and not significant. Significant differences in spermatozoal migration distances were due to bulls, source of mucus, and storage time of mucus before use in the assay. These differences did not appear to affect the correlations obtained, but they require that the sperm migration test be standardized relative to sources of mucus and storage time if different seminal specimens are to be compared.

Key words: spermatozoa, bovine cervical mucus, sperm migration, fertility

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