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Summary only

STORAGE OF RAM SEMEN AT AMBIENT TEMPERATURES

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TRIALS were outlined in which Caprogen (Shannon, 1968) was tested as a diluent for ambient temperature storage of ram semen. Motility of spermatozoa was maintained for up to eleven days of storage.

In one trial, fresh semen was diluted 1:1 with Caprogen and held in a dialysis sack surrounded by approximately 50 ml of diluent. Intracervical insemination on the day of semen collection and the day after, resulted in 7/17 ewes and 0/5 ewes, respectively, with fertilized eggs. Semen stored in Caprogen was inseminated into the rostral end of the uterus. On the day of semen collection eggs in 13/14 ewes were fertilized; the day after 1/1; two days after 7/11; and three days after 0/8.

In another trial, semen was diluted to 30 ml in Caprogen and reconcentrated by centrifugation just before insemination. After intracervical insemination on the day of semen collection, 8/10 ewes had fertilized eggs but only 2/19 ewes lambed after being inseminated with spermatozoa stored for 48 hours.

REFERENCE

Shannon, P., 1968: *Proc. N.Z. Soc. Anim. Prod.*, 28: 23.