Camels are animals of pride and performance in desert of Arab peninsula. This species of animals is under threat to new diseases due to international movement of animals. Here we report Contagious Ecthyma (CE) or Sore mouth in Dromedary camels in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The disease was notified in early summer of 2009. At first, the disease was observed at one milking camel farm but within a period of 45 days it widened to camels at different geographical locations of Abu Dhabi Emirate.

The animals of all breeds and ages were affected but disease was more severe in milking camels. The affected animals developed mild to severe fever, anorexia, swollen head and classical CE skin lesions mainly at the upper and lower lips and muzzle areas. The skin lesions were of raised, circular type, 1-2 cm in diameter, and at various stages of development, i.e. from papules, pustules, to crusted scabs. The CE lesions were mainly localized at the face except in few percentages of animals where they extended to other body parts as well. The edematous swelling was mainly at the face and extended up to throat region with, in some, inflammation of lymph nodes. Those camels with extensive skin lesions were more dejected compared to having milder lesions. The CBC analysis indicated mild leukocytosis with neutrophilia lasting for few days. The average morbidity was 80% and mortality of 2%. The facial edema was exceptional and was not reported with CE in other species of animals. The current CE virus appeared specie specific as the disease was not observed in close by sheep and goats.

The skin scraping and scabs were collected for further investigations.