

1077-34-239

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In this paper, we study the boundary value problem with fractional  $q$ -derivatives

$$-(D_q^\nu u)(t) = f(t, u), \quad t \in (0, 1),$$

$$(D_q^i u)(0) = 0, \quad i = 0, \dots, n-2, \quad (D_q u)(1) = \sum_{j=1}^m a_j (D_q u)(t_j) + \lambda,$$

where  $q \in (0, 1)$ ,  $m \geq 1$  and  $n \geq 3$  are integers,  $n-1 < \nu \leq n$ ,  $\lambda \geq 0$  is a parameter,  $f : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  is continuous,  $a_i \geq 0$  and  $t_i \in (0, 1)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, m$ , and  $D_q^\nu$  is the  $q$ -derivative of Riemann-Liouville type of order  $\nu$ . The uniqueness, existence, and nonexistence of positive solutions are investigated in terms of different ranges of  $\lambda$ . (Received August 16, 2011)