

Sodo Regional Veterinary Laboratory Prevalence and Associated Risk Factors of Bovine Trypanosomiasis in Gurage Zone Abishige Wereda, Snnpr, Ethiopia

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Km² of arable land is infested with five species of tsetse flies: namely *Glossina pallidipes*, *G. m. submorsitans*, *G. fuscipes*, *G. tachinoides* and *G. longipennis* (NTTICC [21]). According to Leta et al. [22], the prevalence of bovine trypanosomiasis in Ethiopia range from 1.38 to 17.15 %. The most important trypanosome species affecting livestock in Ethiopia are *T. congolense*, *T. vivax* and *T. brucei* in cattle, sheep and goats, *T. evansi* in camels and *T. equiperdum* in horses (Getachew [23]; Hagos [17]). In Ethiopia, the direct loss (mortality) due to trypanosomiasis is estimated to amount 1.5 to 2 billion Birr per year (FAO [24]).

Statement of problem

In Gurage zone as a general and Abshege Wereda particular, trypanosomiasis is one of the most important livestock diseases, which poses a serious threat to the lives and livelihood of entire communities and constitutes the greatest disease constraint to livestock production. To overcome the problem and to assess the epidemiology of trypanosomiasis, many researches are conducted previously in Gurage zone and surroundings by many researchers. They found the causative factors of trypanosomiasis. So to know the current status of bovine trypanosomiasis in the area, the current study needed to conduct and to address epidemiology of trypanosomiasis.

Objectives

General objectives

A general objective of this study was to determine the overall prevalence of trypanosomiasis and its associated risk factors in cattle in study area.

Specific objectives

- To estimate the prevalence of trypanosomiasis in study area
- To investigate associated risk factors that predisposes the occurrences of trypanosomiasis
- To identify species of trypanosoma from infected animals

Research questions

Trypanosomiasis raises several questions due to its etiological causes and associated risk factors. In this study trypanosomiasis has the following questions that should be solved accordingly after the relevant research conducted.

- What is the overall prevalence of trypanosomiasis in the cattle in the study area?
- What are the major risk factors associated with the disease in the study area?
- What are the major species of trypanosomiasis that causes infection in cattle in the study area?

Significance of study/benefit and beneficiary/

Bovine trypanosomiasis exerts a great negative impact on the socio-economic aspect especially for those of farmers' and private organizations whose income rely on ruminant production. So at the end, this research will identify the cause of the trypanosomiasis and associated risk factors. Subsequently the study will benefit farmers and small ruminant private organization by obtaining information pertinent to trypanosoma infection. The finding might also help to the researchers and as a baseline data for further researches activities.

The study will generate data for policy makers, governmental and non-governmental organization to undertake and develop different prevention and control strategies.

Scope of study/delimitation/

The current study will play a great role in estimating the prevalence of bovine trypanosomiasis, identification of species and its associated risk factors in the study area. Generally, this research needs a wider agro-ecology, a seasonal variation, a large study population, species and breeds diversification to identify exact root cause and associated factors to the societies and the government as a whole. But some of this aim will not achieve due to many reasons. Some of them are financial shortage, a non-suitable agro-ecology for transportation and short study period.

Materials and Methods

Description of study area

The present study was conducted in Gurage zone Abeshege Wereda, in southwestern part of Ethiopia and 200 km away from the capital Addis Ababa (Figure 1). These areas are collectively located between 37°52'.431 and 37°74'.235 East and between 7°96'.385 and 8°53'.347 North with altitude range from 1107-1923 meters above sea level (m.a.s.l.). The climate alternates with long summer rain fall (June-

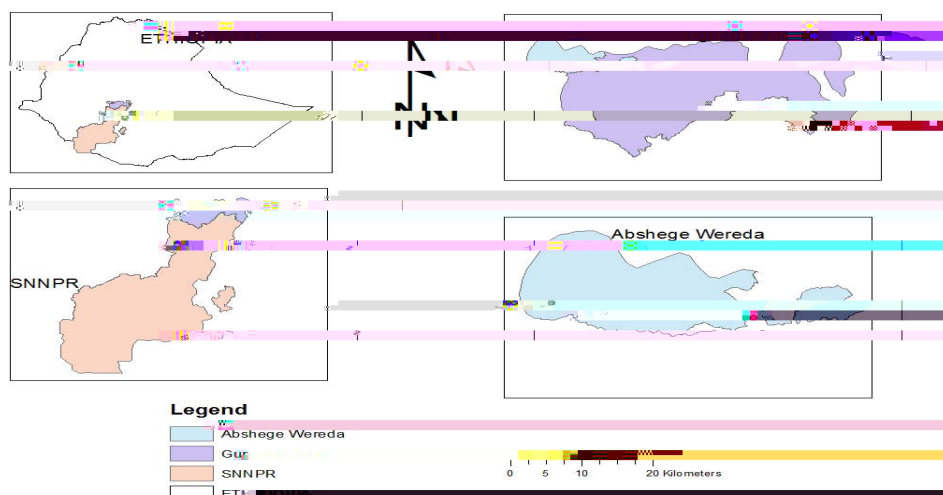


Figure 1: Map displaying study area.

September) and a winter dry season (October-May). The area receives a mean annual rainfall of 900 mm and the mean monthly maximum temperature ranging between 29.8°C and 44.0°C. The study sites are composed of cultivated land, grazing land, forest shrub, bush and wood land, water bodies and rural and urban settlement areas. These areas have the same altitude, same tsetse challenge and are adjacent to Ghibe River. The livestock population includes cattle, sheep, goats and equines which are an integral part of the livelihood. Mixed crop-livestock farming is the main source of livelihoods where Maize, Teff and hot-pepper are the main cash crops. The whole Gurage zone lies south west of the capital and are generally within the tsetse belt with relatively medium to high challenge.

Study population

The study animals were local breed of cattle which selected from study area that managed in extensive management system and consisting of different age, sex and body condition and will be selected from 4 purposely selected rural kebeles. During sampling, age, sex, and body conditions of the animals will be recorded. According to Gatenby [25] (1991) and Steele [26] the body condition scoring of animal classified as poor, medium and good and the age of animals will be estimated through dentition and categorized as young (< or = to one year) and adult (> than one year).

Study design

Cross-sectional study design was carried out from January 2021 to June 2021 to estimate the prevalence and associated risk factors of bovine trypanosomiasis.

Sampling technique

Sampling techniques used in this study are purposive sampling and simple random sampling technique. In purposive sampling technique, Wereda and study kebeles namely Ghibe, Borer, Hudad Arat, and Tawula Gefersa are selected based on transport access and animal population numbers. In simple random sampling technique animals will be sampled from selected kebeles.

Sample size determination

For estimation of the disease prevalence, the sample size was determined by assuming the expected prevalence to be 50%, the statistical confidence level 95%, while the desired precision taken is 5%. According to Kusturd (2018) formula the sample size calculated as the following.

$$n = \frac{Z^2 P_{exp} (1 - P_{exp})}{d^2}$$

Where: n = required sample size; P_{exp} = expected prevalence; d = desired absolute precision (5%). According to the above formula, the calculated sample size was 384. To increase precision and also to be representative, sample size was approximately increased 2 times.

Therefore, the total sample size required for this study was 623. Due to difference in cattle population in 4 selected kebeles, the sample size allocated proportionally based on number of cattle population.

Parasitological data collection

Packed cell volume (PCV) determination

After well straining of animal in the field, blood will be collected from an ear vein into heparinized micro-haematocrit capillary tubes. Each capillary tube will be filled to its last third and sealed with crystal seal at

one end and centrifuge immediately in a micro haematocrit centrifuge for five minutes at 1500rpm. After centrifugation, the capillary tubes are placed in a haematocrit reader. The length of the packed red blood cells column is expressed as a percentage of the total volume of blood. Then the packed cell volume (PCV) will be determined. Animals with PCV less than or equal to 24% are considered to be anemic (Radostitis et al. [27]).

Buffy coat technique

In Buffy Coat technique, blood will be collected from an ear vein using heparinized micro-haematocrit capillary tube and the tube will be sealed. A heparinized capillary tube containing blood will be centrifuged for 5 minutes at 12,000 rpm. After centrifugation, trypanosomes are usually found in or just above the buffy coat layer. The capillary tube will be cut using a diamond-tipped pen 1mm below the buffy coat to include the uppermost layers of the red blood cells and 3mm above to include the plasma. The content of the capillary tube will be expressed onto a slide and covered with a cover slip. The slide will be examined under x40 objective and x10 eye piece for movement of parasite. Trypanosome species are identified according to their morphological descriptions as well as movement in wet film preparations provided by OIE (OIE [28]).

Wet film blood smear

A small drop of blood from a micro haematocrit capillary tube will be applied to a clean slide and spread by using another clean slide at an angle of 45°. The smear was dried by moving it in the air and fixed for 2 minutes in methyl alcohol. The thin smear will be flooded with Giemsa stain (1:10 solution) for 30 minutes. Excess stain will be drained and washed by using distilled water. Then it will be allowed to dry and examined under the microscope (x100) oil immersion objective lens (OIE [28]).

Data management and analysis

Well-organized data and result of parasitological examination will be entered and managed in MS Excel work sheet and analyzed by using STATA version 14.2. The prevalence will be summarized by using descriptive statistics and association of bovine trypanosomiasis prevalence with different potential risk factors such as age, sex, and body condition score will be analyzed by chi-square. A p value of 5% is used as cut-off for statistical significance at 95% [TJ-0.023 Tw TeR21 Tw

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