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Prevalence of trypanosomosis in livestock and pet animals in Ikwuano L.G.A. of Abia State

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Out of 1142 animals sampled, 825(72.2%) were positive for one or more of the hemoparasites. Prevalence of the parasites in the LGA was: *Trypanosomes*, 3.2% *Babesia*, 48.4% and *Anaplasma* 20.7%. Oboro clan had haemoparasite prevalence of 74.8% and was the only clan where trypanosomes were detected. Prevalence of haemoparasites in animals in Oloko, Ibere, Ariam and Usaka communities were 8.9%, 7.4%, 3.5% and 2.8% respectively. Least prevalence of the hemoparasites (1.7%) was recorded among animals in farms of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike located in the LGA. Out of the animals sampled, dogs had prevalence of *Trypanosomes*, 2.1%, *Babesia* 39.6% and *Anaplasma* species 18.5%. Sheep and goats had prevalence of 2.1% *Trypanosomes*, 24.4% *Babesia* and 8.8% *Anaplasma*. Cattle had prevalence of zero *Trypanosomes*, 0.6% *Babesia* and 0.1% *Anaplasma*. None of the hemoparasites screened for was detected in pigs. Significantly ($P \leq 0.05$) higher prevalence of the haemoparasites was recorded in December 96.4%, March 92.8% and November 92.3%. Prevalence of the haemoparasites in April, May and June were 79.5%, 60% and 54.0% respectively. Least prevalence rates of the haemoparasites were recorded in July (44.8%) and August (32.4%). Of 811 female animals sampled, 681 (84.0%) were positive for the hemoparasites thus giving significantly ($P \leq 0.05$) higher prevalence than 52.9% in males (75 out of 331). Means of PCV and Hb (17.39 ± 2.2 and 7.39 ± 2.3) of Goats/Sheep infected with *Trypanosomes* were significantly ($P \leq 0.05$) lower than 28.12 ± 5.1 and12.39 ± 2.2 of animals that were negative for the Trypanosomes. Similar observations were made in Cattle and Dogs infected with *Trypanosomes*, *Babesia* and *Anaplasma*. PCV and Hb of goats/sheep with mixed infections were significantly ($P \leq 0.05$) lower 15.39 ± 5.2 and 5.15 ± 3.4 than those with just single infection. This was also observed in cattle and dogs. Hemoparasites cause disease in the domestic animals but most importantly their infection would reduce productivity of the food animals thus contributing to scarcity of animal protein.

Biography

Rosemary Nwoha is a Lecturer 1 in small animal unit, Department of Veterinary Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike, Nigeria. She is a master's degree holder in small animal medicine with a Ph.D. degree in view at University of Nigeria Nsukka. She is presently a second year student of the fellowship of Nigeria Veterinary Surgeons. Rosemary Nwoha is a team leader of a research group on the prevalence of haemoparasites in Livestock and Pets within Ikwuano L.G.A. of Abia state where the University was domiciled sponsored by the Education Trust Fund.

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