

Summary of the MSc thesis No.11711 , Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Urmia University

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Title of thesis:

Study on ixodid ticks infestation on equids in Ardabil suburb

Abstract:

Ticks are important ectoparasites in equids which causes economic losses in animal husbandry of Iran and worldwide. This study was aimed to determine frequency and species diversity of hard ticks in equids in Ardabil suburb, from winter 2020 to winter 2021. A total of 240 equids (187 horses, 53 donkeys) were randomly selected and examined Ixodid ticks were collected from body surface of examined animals and identified. Of all examined equids, 32.5% horses, and 4.58% donkeys were infested with a total number of 412 ixodid ticks. Tick indices (tick number per animal) were 4.62. The highest prevalence of hard ticks was found in ≥ 3 years-old equids in the region. There was significant difference between prevalence and different age groups of infested animals. Of all examined ticks (357), three genera including *Hyalomma* spp., *Rhipicephalus* spp .and *Dermacentor* spp. with four species. *i.e.* *Hyalomma anatolicum* (73.05%), *H. marginatum* (17.23%), *Rhipicephalus bursa* (7.74%) and *Dermacentor marginatus* (1.94%) were identified. Ixodid ticks' infestations occurred throughout the year with the highest prevalence in spring. There was significant difference between prevalence of hard ticks and seasons in this study. The results revealed that species diversity and ixodid ticks' infestations were prevalent in the equids, which further studies to investigate the potential tick vectors involved in the transmission of hemoparasites in equids in the region.

Keywords: Hard ticks, Equids , Ardabil