

A PILOT EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEY OF PARASITIC PROBLEMS OF BOVINES IN DERAWAR FORT AREA, CHOLISTAN

K. Mehmood¹, A.W. Akhtar², M.T. Riaz¹, A.J. Sabir³, M. Ijaz³, A.Z. Durrani³ and M. Idris¹

¹University College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Islamia University of Bahawalpur, 63100 Bahawalpur, Pakistan; ²Cholistan Development Authority, 62300 Bahawalpur, Pakistan;

³University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Lahore, 54000 Lahore, Pakistan

Corresponding author: khalid.mehmood@iub.edu.pk

Economic surveys of Pakistan indicate that livestock sector contributes around 55.4% of the agriculture share and 11.9% to GDP of Pakistan, during 2012-2013. The cattle and buffalo population have been estimated to be around 38.3 and 33.7 million (M) respectively which yield 38.3 Mt of milk and 1.8 Mt of beef during 2012-2013 for human consumption. Keeping in view the utilization of bovines in the country, a pilot epidemiological survey was conducted to find out the major parasitic problems of bovines in Derawar fort area, Cholistan. Data of 963 bovines including 947 cattle and 16 buffaloes were collected from 25 tobas of Cholistan from June 2012 to June 2013. The data regarding external parasites, deworming history and feeding was collected on register while 5 gm faecal sample was collected from each animal for GIT parasite determination. The data were statistically analyzed by chi-square test. Out of 963 cattle, 582 (61.5%) were positive for gastrointestinal parasites while 17 (1.8%) were positive for external parasites including mange and ticks 12 (1.3%) and 5 (0.5%), respectively. Out of 16 buffaloes, 7 (43.8%) were positive for gastrointestinal parasites while 2 (12.5%) were positive for external parasites including mange and ticks 1 (6.3%) and 1 (6.3%) respectively. The high prevalence of parasites in the study area may be attributed to illiteracy, poor management and lack of deworming practices. It is concluded that parasitic infestation both external and internal is significant in bovines in the study area and proper control measures should be adopted.

Keywords: Bovine, Cholistan, Parasite, Surveillance