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[behzad\\_sh1987@yahoo.com](mailto:behzad_sh1987@yahoo.com))

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Physiology and Functional Biology of Systems

**Firew Tegegn**

Bahir Dar University, ETHIOPIA (Email: [firewtegegne@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:firewtegegne@yahoo.co.uk))

Animal Nutritionist

**Ferdaus Mohd. Altaf Hossain**

DVM, Sylhet Agricultural University, Bangladesh; not shah Jalal University of Science & Technology, BANGLADESH (Email:

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PhD, Seoul National University, SOUTH KOREA (Email: [mengistietaye@yahoo.com](mailto:mengistietaye@yahoo.com))

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[mkurtu2002@yahoo.com](mailto:mkurtu2002@yahoo.com))

Animal Science, Nutrition

**Muhammad Saeed**

PhD candidate, Northwest A&F University, Yangling, 712100, CHINA (Email: [muhammad.saeed@nwsuaf.edu.cn](mailto:muhammad.saeed@nwsuaf.edu.cn))

Nutrition - Ruminants

**Naser Maheri Sis**

PhD, Assistant Prof., Dept. Anim. Sci., I.A.U.-Shabestar, IRAN ([Website](#); Emails: [maherisis@iaushab.ac.ir](mailto:maherisis@iaushab.ac.ir);

[nama1349@gmail.com](mailto:nama1349@gmail.com))

Nutrition - Ruminants, Nutritive Value, Utilization of Feeds

**Nilüfer SABUNCUOĞLU ÇOBAN**

PhD, Professor, Department of Animal Science and Production, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Atatürk University, TURKEY

([Website](#); Email: [ncoban@atauni.edu.tr](mailto:ncoban@atauni.edu.tr))

Animal Hygiene, Physiology, Animal Welfare

**Ömer ÇOBAN**

PhD, Professor, Department of Animal Science and Production, Atatürk University, TURKEY ([Website](#);

[ocoban@atauni.edu.tr](mailto:ocoban@atauni.edu.tr))

Nutrition - Ruminants

**Paola Roncada**

PhD, Associate Professor, Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Bologna, ITALY (Email:

[paola.roncada@unibo.it](mailto:paola.roncada@unibo.it))

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PhD, Assistant Prof., Department of Rural Economics and Development, University of Gezira, SUDAN (Email:

[ragaelzaki@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ragaelzaki@yahoo.co.uk))

Animal-feed interactions, Nutritive value

**Saeid Chekani Azar**

PhD, Dept. Anim. Sci., Facult. Vet. Med., Atatürk University, TURKEY (Emails: [saeid.azar@atauni.edu.tr](mailto:saeid.azar@atauni.edu.tr);

[schekani@gmail.com](mailto:schekani@gmail.com))

Physiology, Product Quality, Human Health and Well-Being,

**Shahin Eghbal-Saeid**

PhD, Associate Prof., Dep. Anim. Sci., I.A.U., Khorasgan (Isfahan), IRAN (Email: [shahin.eghbal@khuif.ac.ir](mailto:shahin.eghbal@khuif.ac.ir))

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**Shahin Hassanpour**

Dept. Physiology, Facult. Vet. Med., I.A.U., Shabestar, IRAN (Email: [shahin.hassanpour@yahoo.com](mailto:shahin.hassanpour@yahoo.com))

Physiology and Functional Biology of Systems

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PhD student, University for Development Studies-Ghana and Harper Adams University College, UK (Email:

[ansahterry@yahoo.com](mailto:ansahterry@yahoo.com))

Nutrition - Ruminants

#### Tohid Vahdatpour

PhD, Assistant Prof., Department of Physiology, I.A.U.-Shabestar, IRAN ([Website](#); [Scopus](#); [Google Scholar](#); Emails:

[vahdatpour@iaushab.ac.ir](mailto:vahdatpour@iaushab.ac.ir); [tvahdatpour@gmail.com](mailto:tvahdatpour@gmail.com))

Physiology and Functional Biology of Systems

#### Ümit Acar

Research Asistant and PhD, Department of Aquaculture, Faculty of Fisheries, Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, TURKEY

(Email: [umitacar@mu.edu.tr](mailto:umitacar@mu.edu.tr))

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PhD, Department of Porcine Medicine, University of Thessaly, Trikalon str 224, GR 43100, GREECE (Email:

[vpapatsiros@yahoo.com](mailto:vpapatsiros@yahoo.com))

Dietary input, Animal and Feed interactions

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PhD, Associate Prof., Poultry and Rabbit Diseases Department, Cairo University, Giza, EGYPT (Email:

[wafaa.ghany@yahoo.com](mailto:wafaa.ghany@yahoo.com))

Poultry and Rabbit Diseases

#### Wesley Lyevertton Correia Ribeiro

MSc, DVM, College of Veterinary, Medicine, State University of Ceará, Av. Paranjana, 1700, Fortaleza, BRAZIL (Email:

[wesleylyevertton@yahoo.com.br](mailto:wesleylyevertton@yahoo.com.br))

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PhD, Young Researchers Club and Elites, Khorasgan Branch, Islamic Azad University, Khorasgan, IRAN (Email:

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TURKEY (Email: [yavuzgurbuz33@gmail.com](mailto:yavuzgurbuz33@gmail.com))

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PhD, Department of Plant Biology, Atatürk University, Erzurum, TURKEY (Email: [zohreh.yousefi12@ogr.atauni.edu.tr](mailto:zohreh.yousefi12@ogr.atauni.edu.tr))

Biology, Botanical Biosystematic, Genetic

#### Zewdu Edea

Chungbuk National University, SOUTH KOREA (Email: [zededeaget@gmail.com](mailto:zededeaget@gmail.com))

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## Volume 8 (1); 25 January 2018

**Case Report****Prevalence of black quarter (BQ) disease in private dairy farm in Hyderabad, Sindh province of Pakistan.**

Yousaf A, Rais M-ul-N, Mushtaq A, Jamil T.

*Online J. Anim. Feed Res.*, 8(1): 01-04, 201; pii: S222877011800001-8**Abstract**

A sporadic incident of Clostridial disease that affected Holstein Friesian (HF) cross bred cows (n=8) at an organized dairy farm was investigated. Detailed clinical investigations and treatment were carried out on all the affected animals. Complete blood count (CBC) and plasma biochemistry were performed on survived animals (n=6). The needle biopsy samples were subjected to culture and identification of the organism by Gram staining. Two cows were died before instituting the treatment in this clinical incident. The carcasses were seen with typical bloated appearance immediately after death, laying one side with affected leg stuck out. Postmortem of the carcasses were not been carried out. Pertinent findings of the CBC were a relative neutrophilia whilst a normal total leucocyte count and lowered Hb. Plasma biochemical parameters revealed significant increase in the mean activity of a separate amino transferase while alanine amino transferase levels were within limits. Gram's staining of the inoculated culture revealed the presence of small gram positive rods with sub terminal spores. Clinical treatment of the cases was performed with administration of heavy dose of crystalline penicillin and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS). Clinical recoveries of the cases were good and cessation of spread within the herd confining itself as a sporadic clinical incident. Sporadic Clostridiosis (BQ) of eight cross bred dairy cows was dealt in the present case study by including the details of its alterations in hematological parameters, Plasma biochemical parameters, observation of characteristic clinical signs of the disease and employment of empirical treatment with Penicillin.

**Keywords:** Black Quarter, Clostridium, Clostridium chauvoei, Dairy, HF Crossbred Dairy Cattle, Sporadic Clostridiosis

[Full text-[PDF](#)]

**Research Paper****Effect of seed proportions on morphological characteristics of forage mixture in North Gondar, Ethiopia. *Online J. Anim. Feed Res.*, 8(1): 05-11. [www.ojafr.ir](http://www.ojafr.ir)**

Birhan M.

*Online J. Anim. Feed Res.*, 8(1): 05-11, 2018; pii: S222877011800002-8**Abstract**

The experiment was carried out on forage mixture triticale (X Triticosecale wittmack) and vetch (*Vicia villosa* R.) under rain fed condition of Dembya district. Forage mixture grown under different seeding rates during 2016 cropping season in the study area. The objectives of the research were; to evaluate the optimum seeding rates for maximum forage biomass yield of the mixture and to assess the morphological and phenological efficiency of forage biomass yield in the mixture. The experimental design employed during the research was a randomized complete block design (RCBD) with five treatments and replicated five times with the total of 25 treatments/plots. The forage treatment include with five different proportions of seeding rates (SP) in the ratio of (triticale /vetch) 100:0 (SP1), 75:25 (SP2) 50:50 (SP3) 25:75 (SP4) and 0:100 (SP5) and the plot size was 2m x 5m width and length. Data was subjected to analysis as variance using MSTATC statistical procedure for morphological characteristics of forage yield and quality parameters. Higher forage DMY of the mixture (11.85t/ha) was observed at SP3. The research depicted that, SP3 for triticale was found to have highly significant at ( $P < 0.01$ ) in leaf area, leaf length and leaf to stem ratio than any other SPs in the forage mixture. With all these findings the experiment result of this study was found the combination of SP3 could be considered as the best association of triticale/vetch for better forage mixture as it resulted in highest, leaf area, leaf length and leaf to stem ratio and better DMY would be a benefit for forage biomass production in the mixture.

**Keywords:** Effect, Seed Proportions, Morphology, Mixture, Ethiopia



Triticale x Triticosecale Wittmack

Vicia villosa

Birhan M. (2018). Effect of seed proportions on morphological characteristics of forage mixture in North Gondar, Ethiopia. *Online J. Anim. Feed Res.*, 8(1): 05-11. [www.ojafr.ir](http://www.ojafr.ir)

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## Research Paper

### Comparative efficacy of two different brands of ivermectin against gastrointestinal nematodes and ectoparasites of sheep in Gondar town, Northwest Ethiopia.

Aduḡna W, Mengistu A, Demissew A and Mekonnen N.

Online J. Anim. Feed Res., 8(1): 12-19, 2018; pii: S222877011800003-8

#### Abstract

Gastrointestinal nematodes and ectoparasites are endemic in Ethiopia. Giving appropriate treatment for these infestations will reduce the damage that could occur from them. The current experimental study aimed to see the efficacy of two Ivermectin formulations for the purpose of this parasite in Gondar town. For the study 58 local sheep aged from 6 months to 2 years from small holder farmers were selected and randomly allocated as two treatment and one control groups. Ivermectin bolus and injection formulations were used for this efficacy assessment. For assessment of efficacy against gastrointestinal nematodes, 45 sheep were used and divided into three groups; for ectoparasite evaluation, 13 sheep were involved. Feces from each sheep were taken before and after each drug administration and egg per gram of feces were determined and larval cultures were done on day zero before treatment and on day 14 post-treatment. Ivermectin efficacy was investigated by the Fecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT). Ivermectin injection and bolus were reduced FEC by 95.06% (95%CI: 87.8, 98.5%) and 98.8% (95%CI: 90.3, 100%), respectively. The therapeutic efficacies of both ivermectin formulations against ticks and lice infestations were 100% after 7 days of treatment and remained effective up to 28<sup>th</sup> days of post treatment. To the contrary, these parasites were increased gradually on 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> days of post treatment in the control group. Coproculture revealed four GIN genera which were *Haemonchus*, *Trichostrongylus*, *Oesophagostomum* and *Trichuris*. The identified genera of ticks and louse were *Bophilus* and *Linognathus*, respectively. The bolus form of ivermectin showed better efficacy against nematodes than the injectable and ectoparasites were cleared totally by the drug. Detailed studies are suggested to verify the efficacy of the formulations and searching optional drugs for those developing resistance.

**Keywords:** Ectoparasite, Efficacy, Gastrointestinal nematode, Ivermectin

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# PREVALENCE OF BLACK QUARTER (BQ) DISEASE IN PRIVATE DAIRY FARM IN HYDERABAD, SINDH PROVINCE OF PAKISTAN

Adnan YOUSAF<sup>1✉</sup>, Mehar-ul-Nissa RAIS<sup>2</sup>, Aamerzish MUSHTAQ<sup>3</sup>, Tahseen JAMIL<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Salman Poultry (Pvt) Limited, Rawalpindi, Pakistan

<sup>2</sup>Department of Agriculture Economics, Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam, Pakistan

<sup>3</sup>Faculty of Veterinary and Animals Sciences, PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, Pakistan

<sup>4</sup>Department of veterinary Physiology and Bio chemistry, Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam, Pakistan

✉ Email: dr.adnan011@gmail.com

**ABSTRACT:** A sporadic incident of Clostridial disease that affected Holstein Friesian (HF) cross bred cows (n=8) at an organized dairy farm was investigated. Detailed clinical investigations and treatment were carried out on all the affected animals. Complete blood count (CBC) and plasma biochemistry were performed on survived animals (n=6). The needle biopsy samples were subjected to culture and identification of the organism by Gram staining. Two cows were died before instituting the treatment in this clinical incident. The carcasses were seen with typical bloated appearance immediately after death, laying one side with affected leg stuck out. Postmortem of the carcasses were not been carried out. Pertinent findings of the CBC were a relative neutrophilia whilst a normal total leucocyte count and lowered Hb. Plasma biochemical parameters revealed significant increase in the mean activity of a separate amino transferase while alanine amino transferase levels were within limits. Gram's staining of the inoculated culture revealed the presence of small gram positive rods with sub terminal spores. Clinical treatment of the cases was performed with administration of heavy dose of crystalline penicillin and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). Clinical recoveries of the cases were good and cessation of spread within the herd confining itself as a sporadic clinical incident. Sporadic Clostridiosis (BQ) of eight cross bred dairy cows was dealt in the present case study by including the details of its alterations in hematological parameters, Plasma biochemical parameters, observation of characteristic clinical signs of the disease and employment of empirical treatment with Penicillin.

**Keywords:** Black Quarter, Clostridium, Clostridium chauvoei, Dairy, HF Crossbred Dairy Cattle, Sporadic Clostridiosis

**CASE REPORT**  
 pii: S2228770118000018  
 Received 23 Aug. 2017  
 Accepted 26 Dec. 2017

## INTRODUCTION

Clostridium spp are the group of anaerobic bacteria that are of considerable medical and veterinary importance. Clostridiosis commonly referred to a variety of diseases of economic importance caused by the bacteria of this genus (Divers et al., 2008). Clostridium chauvoei, the causative agent of blackleg and malignant edema in cattle, sheep and other ruminants is a gram positive, spore forming, rod shaped bacterium (Sultana et al., 2008). The clostridial myositis of skeletal muscles is characterized by the appearance of crepitating sounds with fluctuating swelling causing myonecrosis in of one or more limb quarters, severe toxemia and followed by rapid death (Radostits et al., 2000). The spores of which survive for several years without losing their pathogenicity. It is a soil borne infection, portal of entry is through alimentary tract after ingestion of contaminated feed, fodder and soil (Robson et al., 2012). It is an economically important disease among the marginal dairy farmers of India though preventable by vaccination but occurs sporadically.

## CASE DESCRIPTION

A sporadic outbreak of Clostridial disease (black quarter, BQ) was investigated in HF cross bred cows (n=8) maintained at an organized dairy farm unit in the District Hyderabad, Sindh. All the affected were of aged 3 years and in their first lactation. The unit herd was having a population of seventy five cows at the time of this sporadic



incident. The farm population has been purchased from the Karachi as mid to late term pregnant heifers and been transferred to acclimatize prior to calving. All the animals at the time of purchase were immunized against foot and mouth disease (FMD), black quarter (BQ) and hemorrhagic septicemia (HS). This combine vaccine formulation contains BQ component as formaldehyde inactivated clostridium chauvoei culture. The cows were housed at tie stall barns and are intensively managed. The animals were fed with concentrate mash, chopped green fodder and mixed fodder silage. The unit herd had a history of foot and mouth disease affection a month back. Among the herd, eight cows were observed with sudden onset of lameness and swelling in the gluteal and lumbar muscles. On clinical examination the cows were found depressed, febrile, lame (on one limb) with acute swelling of gluteal muscles, anorectic, with complete rumen stasis, high fever ( $>104^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) and a pulse rate of above 110/min. Palpation of the swollen area emitted crackling/crepitating sounds. All the animals were clinically affected within a period of two days indicating the sudden onset and loss of two cows on the first day. Herd check and isolation of the affected was performed. The laboratory clinical investigations were performed and intensive clinical therapy was instituted on the survived cows. The unit herd was observed carefully for any other inclusion of herd mates with similar signs over a period of few weeks.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Ethical approval

This experiment was performed according to all ethics and animal rights (Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam-Pakistan).

From a total of eight affected cows two were died exhibiting clinical signs on the first day of this sporadic incident before even the treatment instituted. Post-mortem of the carcasses were not been carried out with the fear of spread of bacteria. The clinical investigation further continued with collection of blood samples from the six cows. To perform CBC and smears blood samples were collected using disodium salt of ethylene diaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) as anticoagulant for estimation of hematological parameters (Coles, 1980) and to check for any haemoprotozoan infection. Blood samples were also collected in heparinized vials for estimation of plasma biochemical parameters of clinical importance by utilizing DT60IIR Dry chemistry analyzer (Johnson and Johnson, USA). Needle biopsy samples were obtained for microbiological identification to identify the suspected cause of organism. Such samples were taken from the swollen muscles of gluteal and lumbar region inoculated into Robertson's cooked meat media. The culture was incubated in the anaerobic chamber for 48 hours. Upon completion of the tenured time, Gram's staining of the culture was performed to identify the microbe involved in this sporadic clinical incident.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The acute onset of the clinical signs and loss of two cows on the initial day were predictably suggesting the involvement of any acute/per acute clinical causes/ disease of cattle. As mentioned above the characteristic clinical signs are consistent with the descriptions by (Radostits et al., 2000, Coles, 1980) for the blackleg disease such as occurrence of sudden lameness, reluctance to move, swelling on the one or more quarters involving major group of muscles, anorectic, with complete rumen stasis, high fever ( $>104^{\circ}\text{F}$ ), pulse rate of above 110/min and culminating fatally. In addition, upon palpation of the swollen muscles emitted crackling/crepitating sounds. A presumptive clinical diagnosis of Clostridiosis (BQ) was made, based on the acute onset and characteristic clinical signs suggesting the etiological involvement of Clostridium chauvoei in these sporadic Clostridiosis. The two dead carcasses were observed with the bloated appearance, with the limbs spread apart and pointing upwards, due to the rapid accumulation of gas under the skin/body cavity. Postmortem examination (PM) of the carcasses were not been carried with the fear of bacterial spread and consequent contamination of the environment by formation of spores. It is suggested, performing PM of carcasses is considered optional or should not be performed and the decision weighed on the husbandry/clinical situation in BQ (Robson, 2012). The portal of entry of this organism in cattle is through ingestion of bacterial spores originating from contaminated feed or soil. The ingested spores enter the circulation upon essential anaerobic situations these spores germinate and multiply. The bacteria produce toxins, which in turn actively circulates in blood and causes damage such as severe necrotizing myositis locally in the skeletal muscle and systemic toxemia (Sultana et al., 2008, Radostits, 2010). The organism invariably causes lesions other than the skeletal muscles were the base of tongue, heart muscle, diaphragm, psoas muscles, on brisket and udder. Among the other possible conditions that are considered in the list of differentials are as abscess, seroma and hematoma, all are possibly ruled out by the characteristic clinical sign.

The results of the complete blood count of the six cows as follows, Hemoglobin (Hb)  $7.40 \pm 0.20$  gm. % and Total leucocyte content (TLC)  $8783 \pm 1356$  cells/ mm<sup>3</sup>. Results of the differential count of the WBC's were noted as neutrophil count (N)  $56.67 \pm 3.25\%$ , Lymphocytes (L)  $42.33 \pm 3.7\%$ , and eosinophil (E)  $1.00 \pm 0.68\%$ . The results indicate presence of a relative neutrophilia whilst with normal range of TLC, anemia and an absence of any haemoprotzoan disease among the survived cows. Plasma biochemical concentrations of aspartate amino-transferase (AST) was  $238 \pm 25$  U/L and alanine amino-transferase (ALT) levels were found to be  $8 \pm 3$  U/L. The present study results are in agreement with the hematological changes that are been observed with two to three days post infection experimentally on the hill bulls of two to three year olds except the lowered Hb in this study (Singh *et al.*, 1993) The present study results recorded a moderate anemia among the survived and those are in the treatment could be attributed due to the fact, that the cows were also suffered with an incident of FMD a month back whilst the unit herd which was duly immunized against both of these diseases at the time of purchase. The reasons behind this occurrence of both the diseases could possibly be due to the failure of vaccine that arise out of poor handling and administration of the vaccine by field staff. Microbial identification out of the gram staining of the inoculated culture revealed the presence of small gram-positive rods with sub terminal spores. This finding had clearly supported the empirical decision to employ heavy doses (44,000 U/kg body weight IM) of crystalline penicillin twice daily for seven days. The agent was also injected locally in to the affected muscles for enhanced efficacy, added the cows were given NSAIDs to aid in pain relief from the lameness and febrile. Occurrence of BQ is predominant in warmer months (Robson, 2012). Usually the disease culminates fatally without the possible chances to employ treatment and see the recovery of the affected. This sporadic clostridiosis occurred in the winter month such as December equating to an atypical BQ where in the temperature of the location of the unite herd are around 10°C and within the herd of seventy five it affected only eight cows among which two were died. It is important to know that the unit herd operates under intensive system with zero grazing and predictably the level of spore's contamination in to their feed/ fodder.

## CONCLUSION

Clostridiosis in dairy cattle can cause considerable losses in terms of loss of herd and loss of production. Sporadic Clostridiosis (BQ) of eight cross bred dairy cows was dealt in the present case study by including the details of its alterations in hematological parameters, plasma biochemical parameters, observation of characteristic clinical signs of the disease and employment of empirical treatment with Penicillin. Microbial identification should be among the top tool of clinical investigations of any clinical disease situation to a herd. The present study emphasizes the need of proper vaccine handling and administration to the herd by the veterinary team in the field against such important diseases.

## DECLARATIONS

### Authors' contribution

Dr. Adnan Yousaf was the main researcher, Madam Mehar- ul-Nissa Rais was research supervisor, Dr. Tahseen Jamil revised the article and Dr. Aamerzish Mushtaq contributions in statistics, and other activities related to the research.

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### Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publications of this article.

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# EFFECT OF SEED PROPORTIONS ON MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF FORAGE MIXTURE IN NORTH GONDAR, ETHIOPIA

Malede BIRHAN 

University of Gondar, Collage of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences, Department of Animal Production and Extension, P.O.Box, 196, Gondar, Ethiopia

Email: birhan1975@gmail.com; maledeb@yahoo.com

**ABSTRACT:** The experiment was carried out on forage mixture triticale (X Triticosecale wittmack) and vetch (*Vicia villosa* R.) under rain fed condition of Dembya district. Forage mixture grown under different seeding rates during 2016 cropping season in the study area. The objectives of the research were; to evaluate the optimum seeding rates for maximum forage biomass yield of the mixture and to assess the morphological and phenological efficiency of forage biomass yield in the mixture. The experimental design employed during the research was a randomized complete block design (RCBD) with five treatments and replicated five times with the total of 25 treatments/plots. The forage treatment include with five different proportions of seeding rates (SP) in the ratio of (triticale /vetch) 100:0 (SP1), 75:25 (SP2) 50:50 (SP3) 25:75 (SP4) and 0:100 (SP5) and the plot size was 2m x 5m width and length. Data was subjected to analysis as variance using MSTATC statistical procedure for morphological characteristics of forage yield and quality parameters. Higher forage DMY of the mixture (11.85t/ha) was observed at SP3. The research depicted that, SP3 for triticale was found to have highly significant at ( $P<0.01$ ) in leaf area, leaf length and leaf to stem ratio than any other SPs in the forage mixture. With all these findings the experiment result of this study was found the combination of SP3 could be considered as the best association of triticale/vetch for better forage mixture as it resulted in highest, leaf area, leaf length and leaf to stem ratio and better DMY would be a benefit for forage biomass production in the mixture.

**Keywords:** Effect, Seed Proportions, Morphology, Mixture, Ethiopia

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## INTRODUCTION

Land resource stress in the tropics and sub-tropical countries has increased as the number of people supported by the land has risen. Thus, cultivation of uplands, which are marginally suited to annual crops, has led to diminishing of soil fertility and crop yields (Bimrew, 2008). Continuous cultivation of the same types of crop has led to the development of intransigent problems of diseases, pest and weed infestation (Dawit, 2013). Tropical forages are playing a vital role in the development of sustainable cropping system, and a best methods of forage improvement has arisen by using intercropping of annuals crops and perennial legumes in sole cropping patterns makes it possible to manipulate the outcome of competition (Humphrey, 1994).

Livestock production in the tropics can be increased through increasing the productivity per animal and per unit of area land. A major factor in increasing livestock productivity will be the improvement of animal nutrition and feed supplies, especially in case of ruminant animals that must provide better nutrition (Whitman et al., 1980). Natural grazing land of the area consists of largely wide range of grasses, legumes and other herbaceous species. According to Daniel (1990) the existing feed stuffs in Ethiopia, native pasture and crop residues are poor in quality and provide insufficient protein, energy, vitamins and minerals. Animals' thrive predominantly on high-fiber feeds,

which are incomplete in nutrients (nitrogen, sulfur, phosphorus, etc) necessary for microbial fermentation (Osuji et al., 1993).

If the price of animal products rises, farmers may adjust their planting schedules in favor of forage crops and commercial livestock production could be only achieved through the feeding of quality forage (FAO, 2011). Moreover, the important feature of the mixture is enhancement of seasonal distribution of forages, because legumes remain green long in the dry season (Prasad and Singh, 1991). The performance of the mixture depends on their compatibility and initial seed rate proportions of grass and legume species (Willey and Rao, 1980). Low seed rate results in a poor stand and prolonged time required for development of satisfactory grass-legume mixed pasture and high seed rates are in conspicuous because it incurs higher cost (Prasad and Singh, 1991).

Even though, information on their agronomic management of optimum level of seeding rate for maximum biomass production for mixed pastures to improve yield and quality of forage is generally inadequate. In addition, the ministry of agriculture for adoption by dairy cattle owners is testing the different legume species (Charles et al., 2012). The mixture has been identified to have a promising potential for pasture improvement. Therefore, this study was designed with the following specific objectives:

- 1-To study the optimum seeding rates for maximum biomass yield of forages in the mixture.
- 2-To assess the morphological and phonological efficiency of forage yield and quality in the mixture.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **Description of the study area**

The investigation was conducted at Dembia district of North Western part of Ethiopia, 736 km North of Addis Ababa, and 36 km from Gondar to Gorgora Tana road. The area experiences one main rainy (unimodal) with long rainy season extending from half of March to the mid October, but the effective rainfall is from May to half October. The mean annual rainfall was 1150 mm with a peak in June and July having an average of 105 rainy days. The area lies at an altitude of 2004 m.a.s.l. between. The major criteria used for the selection of the experimental area were the proportion of livestock especially local dairy cows and crossbred dairy cattle are more available in the study area at the radius of 5km from the farming area to the town, in addition there is a shortage of improved forage species and due to grazing land has been shifting of in to crop land as human population increased as geometric rate. Topography of the site was gentle slope and well drained in which the farmer used the area to frequently cultivated for crop alternatively in year round (CSA, 2011).

### **Land preparation and sowing**

The varieties of forages were triticale (x *Tritico secale witt mack*): Vetch (*Vicia vilosa r.*) using 120 kg and 25 kg seed rate for triticale and vetch correspondingly. In both varieties the plot size was 2m x 5m for the treatments. The seed was purified; select the weed, and other dead, irregular in shape for to increased germination percentage. Therefore, the seed was mixed according to their respective seed proportion treatment combination and broadcasted on a well-prepared seedbed on the experimental site.

### **Experimental design and treatments**

The experiment was conducted with five seed rate proportions on well prepared plots of mixed soil type and replicated five times with the total of 25 treatments were put in randomized complete block design (RCBD) in the study area.

### **Treatments of the seed proportion**

Triticale alone which were; 100% (SP1), Triticale 75% + 25% Vetch which was (SP2), Triticale 50% + 50% Vetch (SP3), Triticale 25% + 75%Vetch (SP4) and Vetch alone 100% (SP5).

### **Seedling and tiller counts**

Seedling counts for both species were done one week after emergence from the quadrants having (0.5 m x 0.5 m) area from each plot. It was carried out initial plant stand after seven days of growth by measuring quadrants and summarized the mean value at the different seed proportion treatments taken from each plot for both triticale and vetch mixture. Tillering count for triticale was measured at 45 days of growth by taking 0.5m x 0.5m sample area from each the entire plots and count the number of tillers found from individual plants.

### **Plant height, dry matter accumulations and heading date**

Ten plants of triticale and ten plants of vetch were harvested every 20 days from ground level, to measure the height, fresh and dry matter weight and measured to assess the rate of change of height and dry matter



accumulation over the growing period and height was expressed in centimeters by every 20 days of interval of plant growth. Dry matter accumulation was also determined every 20 days of plant growth and measured the changes in g/10 plants. For dry matter yield determination, the fresh weight of each plot was measured in the field using 20 kg measuring capacity balance in the field just after cutting. Sub-samples of each treatment were dried in the oven at 65 °C for 72 hours to determine the dry matter contents of the forages at [Holeta Animal Nutrition Laboratory Tilahun \(2002\)](#).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Number of leaves for Triticale and branches for Vetch

The number of leaf for triticale significantly affected ( $P<0.01$ ) by the different seed proportion (Table 1). SP1 with seed proportion two did not showed significant variations ( $P>0.05$ ) in the number of leaves for triticale. The number of branches for vetch was significant different ( $P<0.01$ ) in the different seed proportion and the highest and the lowest number of branches of vetch were measured SP5 and SP2 respectively. As the seed proportion of triticale decreased the numbers of branches of vetch become increased ([Melese et al., 2014](#)).

### Seedling count for both forages and tiller counts in the mixture

Seedling counts after one week of emergency for both forage species showed significant variation ( $P<0.01$ ) at the different seed proportions combination in Table 2. Higher seedling counts for triticale was obtained at SP1 and the lower seedling count at SP4 with values ranging from 135 to 44 seedlings / m<sup>2</sup> with a difference of 91 seedlings. The highest seedling count of vetch was measured at SP5 with the value of 55 seedling / m<sup>2</sup> but SP2 and SP3 did not indicate statistically significant variation at ( $P>0.05$ ) in the seedling count of legume species. Analysis of variance data indicated that, tillering capacity of triticale in the growing period was significantly affected ( $P<0.01$ ) by the different seed proportion treatments. The tillering capacity of triticale increased as the proportion of vetch increased and the maximum number of tiller was recorded at SP4 and the lower number of tiller at SP1 with the values of 210 and 135 tillers / m<sup>2</sup> respectively ([Yeshitila et al., 2008](#)).

### Ground cover and Vigor Scores for Triticale and Vetch

Analysis of variance of data indicated that, the ground cover decreased with the decrease in the relative proportions of the seeds of each crop in the forage mixture and similar findings with [Zewdie \(2010\)](#).

The ground cover for different seed proportions of triticale were significantly affected by one to the other and higher at SP1 than SP3 and SP3 were also higher than SP4. The ground cover of vetch was also significantly affected ( $P<0.01$ ) by the various seed proportion, however, SP5 was higher than that of SP2, SP3 and SP4. But seed proportion one with seed proportion two and seed proportion two with seed proportion three did not indicate statistically significant effect ( $P>0.05$ ) on the vigourousity of triticale in the growing period.

### Height, heading and Flowering Days of Triticale and Vetch

Data revealed that, heading days for triticale significantly affected ( $P<0.01$ ) by the different seed proportion. Significantly higher result was obtained at SP3 with the value of 70.06 days. But SP1 and SP2 did not showed significant variation ( $P<0.01$ ).

Flowering days for vetch also showed significantly influenced at ( $P<0.01$ ) by the different seed proportions. However, SP3 and SP4 did not showed significant different at ( $P>0.05$ ) one to the other and SP2 obtained higher flowering days as compare to the other SP. The lower days for flowering of vetches components at SP5 might be the higher proportion of vetch inclusion with triticale may enhance the growth and the plant could attain early maturing of its full development. Analysis of variance indicated that the height of triticale at the 20<sup>th</sup> days of cutting showed significant variation at ( $P<0.01$ ) at the various seed proportions. The highest and the lowest height of triticale were observed at SP1 and SP2 with the values of 26.33 and 22.11cm correspondingly, this finding had a similar output with [Malede \(2013\)](#).

At the 40<sup>th</sup> days of plant growth plant height also significantly affected by the different seed proportion and the highest height of triticale was recorded at SP1 and the lowest at SP2 which measured 44.45 and 40.33 cm respectively. Analysis of variance data revealed that, there was statistically significant variation ( $P<0.01$ ) in the height of triticale at the 60<sup>th</sup> days of plant growth. The highest height was also found at SP1 and the lowest at SP3 measuring with the value of 75.89 and 68.67 cm indicated with the different of 7.22 ([Chinedum and Evans, 2001](#)).

Analysis of variance data at the 20<sup>th</sup> days measurement, the height of vetch indicated that, there was significantly affected at ( $P<0.01$ ) in the different SP and the highest height was measured at SP5 and the lowest at SP2. Seed proportion three, seed proportion four and five indicated statistically non-significant different ( $P>0.05$ ) from each other.

At the 40<sup>th</sup> days of plant height measurement statistically significant variation ( $P<0.01$ ) was found at the different seed proportion and the highest and the lowest plant height were measured at SP5 and SP4 with the value of 43.33 and 38.89 cm correspondingly. In the 60<sup>th</sup> days of plant growth height indicated significant different ( $P<0.01$ ) in the various seed proportion.

Significantly higher leaf area was obtained at seed proportion three as compared to the other seed proportions. Leaf area showed an increasing tendency from seed proportions one to seed proportion three with the value of 18.44 to 26.54 cm<sup>2</sup>. Analysis of variance data discovered that leaf length significantly influenced ( $P<0.01$ ) by the different seed proportions. The highest leaf length was measured at seed proportion two and the lowest at seed proportion one measuring with the value of 45.64 and 38.60 cm respectively (Tsige, 2000).

**Table 1 - Number of leaves for triticale and vetch as affected by seed proportion**

Seeding rates (SP)	Number of leaf for triticale	Number of branches for vetch
SP1	3.03 <sup>c</sup>	-
SP2	3.0 <sup>c</sup>	11.04 <sup>c</sup>
SP3	4.03 <sup>a</sup>	13.00 <sup>b</sup>
SP4	3.65 <sup>b</sup>	13.64 <sup>b</sup>
SP5	-	14.62 <sup>a</sup>
Mean	3.43	13.10
SE(±)	0.03	0.01
LSD	0.03	1.07
CV (%)	3.17	5.34

SE = standard error, LSD = Least significant Different CV = Coefficient of Variations, Seed Proportion from 1 to 5, means with different letter within the columns are indicated significant different, whereas means with the same letter showed no significant variation.

**Table 2 - Seedling counts (m<sup>2</sup>) for both crops and tillering for triticale**

Seeding rates (SP)	Emergency		Tillering
	Triticale /m <sup>2</sup>	Vetch /m <sup>2</sup>	Triticale /m <sup>2</sup>
SP1	135 <sup>a</sup>	-	135 <sup>c</sup>
SP2	115 <sup>a</sup>	18 <sup>c</sup>	195 <sup>b</sup>
SP3	91 <sup>b</sup>	25 <sup>c</sup>	210 <sup>ab</sup>
SP4	44 <sup>c</sup>	40 <sup>b</sup>	231 <sup>a</sup>
SP5	-	55 <sup>a</sup>	-
Mean	96.25	34.5	192.75
SE(±)	0.123	0.824	2.451
LSD	23.561	6.586	28.661
CV (%)	11.36	9.6	8.6

**Table 3 - Ground cover and the vigorous of after one month of seed proportion**

Seeding rates (SP)	Ground cover		Vigor	
	Triticale	Vetch	Triticale	Vetch
SP1	4.5 <sup>a</sup>	-	4.5 <sup>a</sup>	-
SP2	4.2 <sup>b</sup>	2.5 <sup>c</sup>	4.1 <sup>ab</sup>	3.4 <sup>a</sup>
SP3	3.8 <sup>c</sup>	3.8 <sup>b</sup>	3.8 <sup>bc</sup>	3.1 <sup>a</sup>
SP4	3.0 <sup>d</sup>	3.8 <sup>b</sup>	3.5 <sup>cd</sup>	3.6 <sup>a</sup>
SP5	-	4.2 <sup>a</sup>	-	4.0 <sup>a</sup>
Mean	3.88	3.58	3.98	3.53
SE(±)	0.354	0.417	0.1254	0.834
LSD	0.201	0.102	0.585	NS
CV (%)	13.51	13.51	13.51	13.51

SE = standard error, LSD = Least significant Different CV = Coefficient of Variations, Seed Proportion from 1 to 5, means with different letter within the columns are indicated significant different, whereas means with the same letter showed no significant variation.

**Table 4 - Days to heading for triticale and days to flowering for vetch**

Seeding rates (SP)	Heading days	Flowering days
	Triticale	Vetch
SP1	60.22 <sup>c</sup>	-
SP2	62.56 <sup>c</sup>	95.66 <sup>a</sup>
SP3	70.06 <sup>a</sup>	91.84 <sup>b</sup>
SP4	67.00 <sup>b</sup>	90.88 <sup>c</sup>
SP5	-	88.86 <sup>c</sup>
Mean	65	91.81
SE(±)	1.03	0.86
LSD	3.52	2.552
CV (%)	11.99	5.365

SE = standard error, LSD = Least significant Different CV = Coefficient of Variations, Seed Proportion from 1 to 5, means with different letter within the columns are indicated significant different, whereas means with the same letter showed no significant variation.

**Table 5 - Plant height (cm) for triticale as affected by seed proportions**

Seeding rates (SP)	Harvesting days			
	20	40	60	80
SP1	26.33 <sup>a</sup>	44.45 <sup>a</sup>	75.89 <sup>a</sup>	-
SP2	22.11 <sup>b</sup>	40.33 <sup>b</sup>	70.35 <sup>b</sup>	-
SP3	25.34 <sup>a</sup>	41.00 <sup>ab</sup>	68.67 <sup>b</sup>	110.27 <sup>a</sup>
SP4	23.33 <sup>b</sup>	44.22 <sup>a</sup>	69.22 <sup>b</sup>	123.00 <sup>a</sup>
SP5	-	-	-	-
Mean	24.3	42.5	71.03	120.1
SE(±)	0.243	0.786	0.66	3.546
LSD	1.270	3.821	3.721	NS
CV (%)	3.45	6.56	3.88	12.12

**Table 6 - Plant height (cm) of vetch as affected by seed proportions**

Seeding rates (SP)	Harvesting date			
	20	40	60	80
SP1	-	-	-	-
SP2	20.56 <sup>b</sup>	39.56 <sup>b</sup>	67.22 <sup>b</sup>	114.22 <sup>a</sup>
SP3	21.86 <sup>ab</sup>	41.11 <sup>ab</sup>	66.33 <sup>b</sup>	118.67 <sup>a</sup>
SP4	22.22 <sup>ab</sup>	38.89 <sup>b</sup>	72.11 <sup>a</sup>	116.86 <sup>a</sup>
SP5	24.56 <sup>a</sup>	43.33 <sup>a</sup>	72.33 <sup>a</sup>	112.78 <sup>a</sup>
Mean	22.3	40.72	69.5	115.63
SE(±)	1.85	0.86	1.46	3.52
LSD	3.31	3.34	4.62	NS
CV (%)	10.58	8.52	4.99	11.64

**Table 7 - Leaf area, leaf length and leaf to stem ratio of triticale**

Seeding rates (SP)	Leaf area (cm)	Leaf length (cm)	Leaf to stem ratio
SP1	18.44 <sup>d</sup>	38.60 <sup>d</sup>	0.84 <sup>b</sup>
SP2	24.21 <sup>c</sup>	45.64 <sup>a</sup>	1.04 <sup>b</sup>
SP3	26.54 <sup>a</sup>	42.64 <sup>b</sup>	1.44 <sup>a</sup>
SP4	25.04 <sup>b</sup>	40.20 <sup>c</sup>	1.01 <sup>b</sup>
SP5	-	-	-
Mean	23.60	41.80	1.08
SE(±)	1.06	1.04	0.44
LSD	0.82	0.55	0.26
CV (%)	4.84	12.00	7.12

## Conflict of interests

The authors have not declared any conflict of interests.

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# COMPARATIVE EFFICACY OF TWO DIFFERENT BRANDS OF IVERMECTIN AGAINST GASTROINTESTINAL NEMATODES AND ECTOPARASITES OF SHEEP IN GONDAR TOWN, NORTHWEST ETHIOPIA

Worku ADUGNA<sup>1</sup>, Araya MENGISTU<sup>1✉</sup>, Yitayew DEMESSIE<sup>1</sup> and Natnael MEKONNEN<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>College of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences, University of Gondar, Ethiopia

<sup>2</sup>Private Pharmaceurticals Importers, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

✉Email: armen.kassa@gmail.com

**ABSTRACT:** Gastrointestinal nematodes and ectoparasites are endemic in Ethiopia. Giving appropriate treatment for these infestations will reduce the damage that could occur from them. The current experimental study aimed to see the efficacy of two Ivermectin formulations for the purpose of this parasite in Gondar town. For the study 58 local sheep aged from 6 months to 2 years from small holder farmers were selected and randomly allocated as two treatment and one control groups. Ivermectin bolus and injection formulations were used for this efficacy assessment. For assessment of efficacy against gastrointestinal nematodes, 45 sheep were used and divided into three groups; for ectoparasite evaluation, 13 sheep were involved. Feces from each sheep were taken before and after each drug administration and egg per gram of feces were determined and larval cultures were done on day zero before treatment and on day 14 post-treatment. Ivermectin efficacy was investigated by the Fecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT). Ivermectin injection and bolus were reduced FEC by 95.06% (95%CI: 87.8, 98.5%) and 98.8% (95%CI: 90.3, 100%), respectively. The therapeutic efficacies of both ivermectin formulations against ticks and lice infestations were 100% after 7 days of treatment and remained effective up to 28<sup>th</sup> days of post treatment. To the contrary, these parasites were increased gradually on 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> days of post treatment in the control group. Coproculture revealed four GIN genera which were *Haemonchus*, *Trichostrongylus*, *Oesophagostomum* and *Trichuris*. The identified genera of ticks and louse were *Bophilus* and *Linognathus*, respectively. The bolus form of ivermectin showed better efficacy against nematodes than the injectable and ectoparasites were cleared totally by the drug. Detailed studies are suggested to verify the efficacy of the formulations and searching optional drugs for those developing resistance.

**Keywords:** Ectoparasite, Efficacy, Gastrointestinal nematode, Ivermectin

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## INTRODUCTION

In Ethiopia, small ruminants are important sources of income for the rural communities, however they are affected by many factors (Abebe and Esayas, 2001; Biffa et al., 2006; Sisay et al., 2006). Studies in different parts of the country have shown that ovine gastrointestinal parasites are found to be major problems that are causing considerable losses (Abebe and Esayas, 2001; Biffa et al., 2006; Tembely et al., 1997). There are over 20 different species of gastrointestinal nematodes (GINs) of sheep that can cause clinical or subclinical disease with reduced growth rate, body condition and milk production. Of these, *Haemonchus*, *Strongyloides*, *Trichostrongylus*, *Nematodirus*, and *Trichuris* are the major gastrointestinal nematode species reported in sheep (Razzaq et al., 2013). Besides, GINs, ectoparasites are very common and widely distributed in all agro-ecological zones of Ethiopia (Kumssa and Mekonnen, 2011; Kumssa et al., 2012), causing a wide range of health problems that confront sheep productivity. It is reported that 35% of sheep and 56% of goat skin rejections in Ethiopia are attributed to ectoparasites (Kassa, 2006).

Several anthelmintic preparations imported and distributed in the country; majority of them have been utilized frequently for two or more decades; possible cause of drug resistance (George et al., 2011) and the increase in the prevalence of GIN infections could also be attributed to the development of anthelmintic resistance (AR) (Martínez-Valladares et al., 2015). In small ruminants, GINs can generally be controlled using broad-spectrum

anthelmintics. Macrocyclic lactones (ivermectin and milbemycins), benzimidazole, and imidazothiazoles levamisole and hydantoin derivatives (pyrantel/morantel) are some of the commonly used anthelmintics in Ethiopia. Among these anthelmintics ivermectin is the one that display a novel mode of action against nematode and arthropod parasites of animals. Its broad spectrum activity against GINs (Egerton et al., 1997) and ectoparasites (Cambell et al., 1983); with a wide safety of margin has made it the drug of choice in cattle, sheep, goat, swine and horses (Ademola et al., 2003). However, in Ethiopia, there are limited reports on the efficacy of these anthelmintics against economically important parasites (Bersissa and Abebe, 2006) and there is no published report on the comparative efficacy of two different brands of ivermectin to control GINs as well as ectoparasites of sheep in North Gondar as well as in Ethiopia. Therefore, the study aimed to evaluate the efficacy of Ivermectin formulations for the treatment of gastrointestinal nematodes and ectoparasites of sheep in Gondar town, Northwestern parts of Amhara regional state, Ethiopia.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **Study area**

The study was conducted in Gondar town; Amhara region, northwest Ethiopia from January 2016 to April 2016. Gondar town is located on 35° 7' N and 13° 8' E and lies at an altitude of 2,200 meter above sea level. It is found 748km north of Addis Ababa. The area receives mean annual rain fall of 1,172 mm mainly in rainy season with average temperature of 19.7 °C. Being a highland area, the city is spread on different mountains, slopes and in valleys and has three small rivers, many streams and a lake. According to Zone Office of Agriculture and Rural Development, the population size of Gondar town in 2008 is about 112,249 out of which 60,883 are males and 51,366 are females [17-18]. The livestock population in North Gondar zone comprises of cattle (2, 771, 7 0 1), sheep (815, 7 1 6), goats (1,251,867), horses (27,248), mules (9, 695) and donkeys (376,841) (CSA, 2013).

### **Study animals and management**

A total of 58 local breed sheep, kept under semi intensive management system sourced from private smallholder farmers with the age between six month and two years were used for the study. The sheep were purposively selected, which have not been treated in the previous 8 to 12 weeks were considered for the study. A young lamb that was not weaned and did not begin feeding on pasture was totally excluded from ivermectin efficacy trial. Sheep allocated for the study were identified by ear tags. Altogether those animals were shepherded together for the most part and grazed on permanent communal pastures. The animals also shared the same watering point during day time and housed in pens during night on their respective farms. The production system was based on traditional practices and no controlled mating (Eda, 2012), breeding occurring year round with two lambing cycles a year for many ewes. Feed supplements were not known except hay, crop residues which were available after harvesting season and a rare supply of common salts (NaCl) for selected animals. The ethical clearance was obtained from the ethical review committee of the college of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences, University of Gondar and permission was obtained from the sheep owners.

### **Study design and treatment of animals**

An experimental study design was conducted from January 2016 to April 2016 to investigate the efficacy of different brands of ivermectin against gastrointestinal nematodes and ectoparasites through fecal egg count reduction test and ectoparasite number with direct physical or visual examination, respectively in naturally infected sheep in Gondar town. Before the experiment fecal samples were collected from all sheep and examined for nematode infestations. The positive sheep were randomly allocated into three experimental groups. The first group was treated with ivermectin of china (1ml/50kg BW) subcutaneously; the second with ivermectin of India in the form of bolus (200mcg/kg BW) orally and the third was left untreated (control). The randomization also holds true for the purpose of the drug efficacy trail for ectoparasites. A control (untreated) group should be used to allow for natural changes in egg/ectoparasite counts during the test.

### **Sampling procedures and laboratory investigation**

Fecal samples were collected from each animal for pre-screening of animals for sufficient egg counts. Feces were collected from each animal directly from the rectum using rubber gloves. The same procedure was followed at the post-treatment sampling. Samples were placed in individually sealed containers and labeled with specific identification mark, then return rapidly to the University of Gondar parasitological laboratory for egg counts. Fecal specimen was also subjected to coprological examination using standard fecal examination techniques (Shah-Fischer and Say, 1989; Hansen and Perry, 1994). Positive samples for parasite eggs was subjected to eggs per gram (EPG) determination using Modified McMaster egg counting method described by Coles et al. (1992).

Many nematode eggs are alike and species differentiations for the genera of *Haemonchus*, *Ostertagia*, *Trichostrongylus*, *Cooperia*, *Bunostomum*, and *Oesophagostomum* cannot be clearly differentiated from the eggs in fecal samples. These parasites, differentiation can be achieved by the use of fecal cultures. Fecal samples from each sheep were collected on each sampling day (before and after treatment) and composite fecal cultures were made for each group. Small amount of water was added to moisten, and the samples left for 14 days at room temperature in sampling bottle by adding small amounts of water as necessary. Third stage larvae (L3) were recovered from the cultures by the Wide-mouthed Jar (Bayou, 2005), differentiated to the generic level, and identified under a compound microscope (at magnification 40x) using morphological keys (MAFF, 1971; Van Wyk et al., 2004).

The ectoparasites (ticks and lice) were detected by physical examination of the animals and the presences of the ectoparasites were visualized and recorded. Tick and lice infestations were examined physically on individual animals. These parasites were counted on different body regions (abdominal and thigh region) and an area of 5×4 i.e. 20 square cm was selected. The selected areas were marked with a permanent color and ticks and lice within this area were counted before treatment (day 0) and post-treatment (7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> day) periods. The severity of infestation of ectoparasites (ticks and lice) was observed by counting the number of ectoparasites in a selected area of the individual sheep. Ectoparasites including ticks and lice were collected by hand from their attachment sites, put in universal bottle containing 70% methanol (Soulsby, 1982). Samples were then transported to University of Gondar, Veterinary parasitological laboratory for further identification of the parasites. Tick and lice specimens were placed on Petri-dish and examined under stereomicroscope for morphological species classifications (Walker et al., 2003; Wall and Shearer, 2001).

### **Fecal egg count reduction test**

Fecal egg count reduction test (FECRT) was used for the evaluation of the effects of the drug. The most commonly used field detection methods for anthelmintic resistance or efficacy is the fecal egg count reduction test (FECRT). This method can be adapted for use as a screening agent for Veterinarians and producers to identify less than desired clearance of the parasites after anthelmintic treatment (Gasbarre et al., 2009). The procedure compares the pre-treatment parasite level with the parasite levels after treatment. The efficacy of two brands of ivermectin was determined by comparing the FECRT from a group of animals before and after treatment (Coles et al., 2006).

Arithmetic means of pre and post treatment FECs were used to calculate the percentage efficacy of ivermectin using a formula;  $FECR\% = 100 (1 - T_2/C_2)$  where T<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>2</sub> are arithmetic mean egg per gram of feces (EPG) in the treated and untreated groups, respectively at day 14 post treatment. The efficacy of each ivermectin formulation was tested and interpreted according to the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP) recommendations for efficacy evaluations of anthelmintics. Similarly anthelmintic effectiveness was based on the FECR (%) and the lower 95% confidence limits. Reduction in the efficacy and presence of anthelmintic resistance is considered to exist, if the FECRT percentage of an anthelmintic treatment is < 95% and the lower confidence limit for the reductions is <90% (Coles et al., 1992). If only one of the two criteria is met, reduction in efficacy is suspected.

### **Efficacy of ivermectin against ectoparasite**

In this study the efficacy of ivermectin is assessed by the comparison of ectoparasite numbers on groups of treated and untreated sheep. Ectoparasite (tick and louse) counts should be conducted on day 1 or day 0 prior to treatment, on day 7 and at 7-day intervals thereafter until study termination period. Geometric means of pre and post treatment ectoparasite counts were used to calculate the percentage efficacy of ivermectin using a formula as described by Abbott's formula:  $100 [(C - T)/C]$  where parasite mean counts of the treated (T) and control (C) occur (Abbott, 1925). In contrast to endoparasites, where an accurate measure of present populations can be made at necropsy, the assessment of louse and tick burdens by examination of selected areas of skin surface is less precise. Therefore, a measurement of response to treatment requires the repeated examination of parasitized areas or previously parasitized areas of the skin surface.

### **Data management and analysis**

While collecting fecal samples from study animals, all data was recorded with pre-designed format and entered into computer using Microsoft excel spread sheet. Mean, standard deviation and reduction percentages were calculated through descriptive statistics. Means of egg count reduction were compared among groups through analysis of variance (One-Way ANOVA) and the difference between treatments was compared using least square method of multiple comparisons. Differences considered significant when  $P < 0.05$ . Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20 was used to analyze the data.

## RESULTS

### *Ivermectin efficacy against gastrointestinal nematodes*

**Mean fecal egg counts and percent reduction.** The reduction in mean fecal EPG, after 14 days of post treatment, for ivermectin bolus and injection were 98.8% and 95.06%, respectively. The pre-treatment and post-treatment egg count means, standard deviation and the per cent reduction in the fecal egg counts are presented in (Table 1). There was no statistically significant difference ( $P>0.05$ ) between the egg count of control and treated groups as well as between the two treated groups, ivermectin bolus treated and ivermectin injection treated, before treatment. Statistically post-treatment egg counts and percentage reduction of the drugs were significant ( $P=0.04$ ) between treatment groups as well as there were strict differences ( $P=0.00$ ) in net egg count between treatment and control groups on the post-treatment (Table 2).

**Survivor parasites after treatment.** Fecal culture was conducted parallel to fecal egg count to differentiate strongly type of eggs both in before and after treatments in each group.

### *Ivermectin efficacy against ectoparasites*

Ivermectin recommended oral dose (200mcg/kg, BW and 0.02ml/kg, BW subcutaneous injection were found 100% effective against tick and lice infestation in sheep. No tick and lice were found within the selected area of sheep on 7, 14, 21, and 28 days after the treatment in both the ivermectin bolus and injection. On the other hand, in the control group, the number of tick and lice increased gradually on 7, 14, 21, and 28 day of treatment (Table 3). The adult ectoparasites (tick and lice) from the control groups were identified at the genus level (Table 4).

**Table 1 - Mean fecal egg count and egg count percent reduction by Ivermectin (n=15)**

Ivermectin formulations	Mean FEC $\pm$ STDEV		Reduction (%)	95% Confidence Interval	
	Pre treatment	Post treatment	Mean	Lower	Upper
Bolus	573.3 $\pm$ 284.02	6.67 $\pm$ 25.82	98.8	90.3	100
Injection	620 $\pm$ 298.09	26.67 $\pm$ 59.4	95.06	87.8	98.5
Control	420 $\pm$ 169.87	540 $\pm$ 206.33	NA	NA	NA

FEC: Fecal Egg Count, NA: Not Applicable, n: Number of sheep in each group, STDEV: Standard Deviation

**Table 2 - Parasites (GINs) identified in control and treatment groups after ivermectin treatment (N=15)**

Group	Ivermectin	Parasite
1	Bolus	NL
2	Injection	<i>Trichuris</i> , <i>Haemonchus</i> ,
		<i>Haemonchus</i> , <i>Trichuris</i> ,
3	Untreated control	<i>Oesophagostomum</i> , <i>Trichostrongylus</i> , <i>Strongyloides</i>

N: Number of sheep in each group, NL: No Larvae

**Table 3 - Efficacy of Ivermectin (bolus and injection) against ectoparasitic infestation in sheep**

Ivermectin	Ectoparasites	Number of ectoparasites (mean $\pm$ STDEV) (n=5/3)				
		Pre-treatment	Post-treatment period			
		day 0	Day 7	Day 14	Day 21	Day 28
Bolus	Tick	3.4 $\pm$ 1.14	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Lice	5.3 $\pm$ 2.1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Injection	Tick	4.6 $\pm$ 2.3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Lice	4.8 $\pm$ 1.3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Control	Tick	3.3 $\pm$ 1.5	4.3 $\pm$ 1.2	6 $\pm$ 2.7	6.8 $\pm$ 2.9	8.3 $\pm$ 4.1
	Lice	4.1 $\pm$ 1.16	5.5 $\pm$ 2.2	5.8 $\pm$ 2.3	7.2 $\pm$ 3.5	10 $\pm$ 4.9

N: Number of sheep; STDEV: Standard Deviation; Nil: zero (0)

**Table 4 - Ectoparasites identified on the control groups of sheep**

Group	Ivermectin	Survived ectoparasites
1	Bolus	0
2	Injection	0
3	Untreated control	<i>Bophilus</i> and <i>Linognathus</i>

## DISCUSSION

The result showed that the mean fecal egg count reduction test value of ivermectin bolus and injection were 98.8 and 95.06%, respectively. The FECR test indicated that based on World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology guidelines of [Coles et al. \(1992\)](#), the ivermectin bolus was effective against GINs of sheep whereas ivermectin injection was suspected reduction in efficacy. This guideline states, Resistance is considered if the percentage reduction in egg counts is less than 95% and the lower 95% confidence level is less than 90%. If only one of the two criteria is met, resistance is suspected. In this study the suspected resistance in the case of ivermectin injection may be due to prior under dosing, lack of anthelmintic class rotation and a high treatment frequency, alone or in combination as it was reported to increase the risk of anthelmintic resistance in Ethiopia, Uganda and in South Africa, and it was evidenced by Macro-cyclic lactones resistance in South Africa ([Kumssa and Abebe, 2009](#); [Byaruhanga and Okwee-Acai, 2013](#); [Tsotetsi et al., 2013](#); [Carmichael et al., 1987](#)).

The reason for better efficacy in ivermectin bolus in the present study was probably due to recent introduction and low frequency of treatment. Therefore, majority of nematode parasite populations in sheep remained unexposed to anthelmintic selection, thus remaining susceptible. This is in agreement with work done by [Domke et al. \(2012\)](#) said that limited use of ivermectin seemed to have prevented the development of anthelmintics resistance in GINs of small ruminant in Norway. However, macrocyclic lactone resistance in *Haemonchus* was reported in South Africa ([Tsotetsi et al., 2013](#)) and Australia ([Jabbar et al., 2013](#)) due to extensive and prolonged use of macrocyclic lactones.

The effectiveness of ivermectin bolus (200µg/kg BW) and injection (0.02ml/kg BW) against ticks and lice were found to be 100% effective at 7<sup>th</sup> post treatment day and remained effective up to 28<sup>th</sup> day of post treatment. This result was in agreement with the earlier record made by different authors ([Hanif et al., 2005](#); [Aziz et al., 2012](#); [Hassan et al., 2012](#); [Fahima, 2003](#); [Yazwinski et al., 1997](#); [Sangwan et al., 1995](#); [Vizzio and Caro, 1995](#); [Pedroso et al., 1994](#); [Thompson et al., 1994](#)). However, some studies have shown 86.6% ([Umur et al., 1993](#)) and 90% ([Imrul, 1997](#)) efficacy of ivermectin in sheep and goat, respectively. The intensive use of anthelmintics has led to the development of anthelmintic resistance in small ruminants ([Kaplan, 2004](#); [Wolstenholme et al., 2004](#)). Generally, the most likely explanation for the variation in efficacy of ivermectin was probably due to variation in ingredients, prolonged use without rotation, frequent dosing, and incorrect weight calculation which gives a risk of under-dosing that in turn results resistance.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study revealed that Ivermectin bolus was effective to treat GINs compared to the injectable formulation; whereas both were effective against ectoparasites. Apart from its effectiveness resistant parasites were also recorded, which might contribute for the dynamics of parasites epidemiology and this could urge seeking of optional drugs. Therefore, based on the above concise conclusion newly produced and/or introduced anthelmintics, regular monitoring for anthelmintic resistance, proper use of effective anthelmintics, awareness creation to the farming communities and further studies regarding the drug efficacies are suggested.

## DECLARATIONS

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### Authors' Contributions

W.A. and A.M. prepared the proposal. W.A. conduct the research and collect the data while W.A., A.M. and A.D. participated in the data analysys and writing of the manuscript. N.M. donated the drugs for the efficacy trial.



## Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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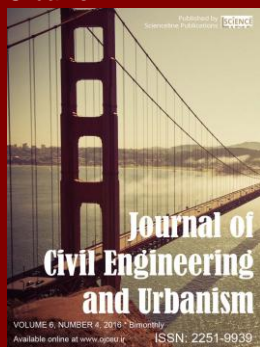
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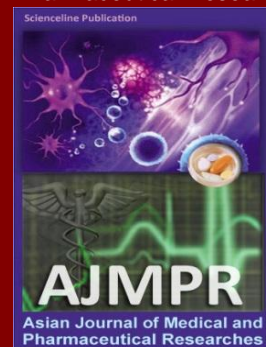
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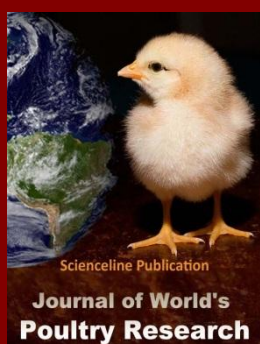
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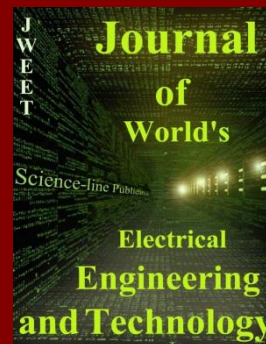
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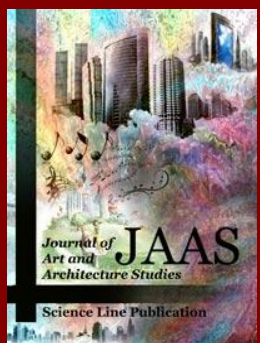
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