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IDENTIFICATION OF BOVINE IXODIDAE SPECIES IN AHWAZ AREA, IRAN

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Abstract:

Overall 1906 adult ticks, as well as their nymphs and larvae were collected from the body surface of cattle in the animal husbandries located in north, north-east, south and south-west of Ahwaz area, Khoozestan, Iran, during 1991-1993. The identified adult ticks were *Hyalomma anatolicum anatolicum* (C.L.koch, 1844), *Hyalomma anatolicum excavatum* (C.L. koch, 1844), *Boophilus annulatus* (say, 1821) and *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* (Latreille, 1806). *H.a. anatolicum* was the most prevalent species (83%). In contrast, the prevalence of *Rhipicehalus sanguineus* was low (1.2%). According to preliminary findings of the survey, *H.a.anatolicum* and *H.a.excavatum* may be found on the cattle body surface throughout the year, although their population may increase significantly during spring and summer. However, *Boophilus annulatus* was found only during autumn and winter when the weather temperature decreases and the humidity percentage increases and the rainfall occurs intermittently in Ahwaz area.

Keywords:

Cattle ticks . *Hyalomma anatolicum*

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