



Proceedings

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE 9TH VETERINARY, PARAVETERINARY AND SASVEPM CONGRESS 24-27 JULY 2017 BIRCHWOOD HOTEL & OR TAMBO CONFERENCE CENTRE

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DETECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF BOVINE TRYPANOSOMIASIS IN MALAWI

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ABSTRACT

Polymerase chain reaction-restriction length polymorphism (PCR-RFLP) was used to identify trypanosome species in cattle from the three regions of Malawi. A total of 444 DNA samples were screened for trypanosomes using PCR-RFLP performed on whole blood samples collected from cattle between January 2016 and February 2016. A questionnaire was administered to the farmers of sampled cattle that contained sections on demographics and livestock management. Due to its zoonotic importance, *T.brucei* status was chosen to compare data among surveyed farms and Mann-Whitney U tests were employed for these comparisons. Prevalence information and collected questionnaire data were analysed using OpenEpi.

Out of the 440 cattle with DNA samples, 2% (n=9; 95% CI: 1-3) were positive for *Trypanosoma brucei*, 3% (n=14; 95% CI: 1-5) were positive for *Trypanosoma congolense* and 27% (n=120; 95% CI: 23-31) were positive for *Trypanosoma theileri*. *T.theileri* and *T.congolense* appeared randomly distributed across the country while *T.brucei* was restricted to the central and southern regions of Malawi. The majority of the respondents were farmers (92%; 95% CI: 82-97) that were literate with the median education level being grade 7. Most respondents were smallholder farmers with a median herd size of 7 cattle and owning 1.2 hectares of land. There were no differences between the *T.brucei* positive and *T.brucei* negative groups in respect to education level (p=0.340), cattle owned (p=0.449) and land owned (p=0.920).