## **DEDICATION**

To my parents
To my sisters
To my friends
And to my uncle Hyder

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

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### **Abstract**

This study was conducted in "*El Baja*" area near "Habeela" village, which is located in El Duim locality, in semi-arid zone White Nile State, in August 2007.

The objective of this study was to assess the different commonly used vegetation measurements as related to range management objectives.

Sampling based on locating eight transects randomly in a plot area of 1x1km. Four of these transects were 100m long, while the other four was 50m long. Two quadrate sizes (1x1m and 0.5x1m) were used. In each, transect both quadrate sizes were used at 10m and 20m intervals in transects length 50m and 100m respectively, five from each size alternately, to yield ten quadrate readings in each transects. All measurements attributes were taken along transects and across the two quadrate sizes.

The main results of this study indicated that, the loop readings tend to overestimate plant cover compared with the quadrate based estimation method. Since, rangelands here are dominated by herbaceous cover compared with grasslands of subtropical areas. There are no differences that can affect the cover assessment among the two quadrate sizes and transect lengths, which make cover percentages less sensitive to size and transect lengths if sufficient number of samples were taken. The long transects (100m) overcome the effect of patchy occurrence of some species while the short transects (50m) may fit in relatively homogenous range area. For plant composition short length transect (50m) showed higher readings compared with longer transects (100m) as a result of patchy existence of some species. The study also concluded that, frequency found to be less sensitive for quadrate size within the same transects length. In general, quadrate size is less sensitive compared with transect lengths. Plant density is less affected by both transect lengths and quadrate sizes as it express number of

individual plants existing rather than types of species. The differences between the actual weighing and estimation in the weight estimation method of biomass or range productivity assessment found to be within a percentage of 17%. This percentage could be accepted in an intensive range measurements activity and not expected to affect decision for carrying capacity in the management of natural rangeland. Further, estimation method found to be more suitable method to assess the range productivity, provided that ranger will develop more experience in this respect if it become a common practice for biomass assessment.

The study recommended that the long transects (100m) or even longer can be used in the rangelands inventories, to avoid the overestimation in readings when we were using the loop method for vegetation composition, and to avoid patchy existence of some species. Weight estimation method for biomass assessment found to be more practical, less destructive, time saving and less costly if used, provided that more experience will be gained by users with more practicing in this respect.

### ملخص الدراسة

أجريت الدراسة في منطقة الباجا بالقرب من قرية هبيلة التي تقع في محلية الدويم، في الله المحراوي بولاية النيل الأبيض، في أغسطس 2007.

هدفت الدراسة الى تقييم القياسات النباتية المستخدمة وارتباطها بتحقيق أهداف إدارة المراعي.

بنيت العينات على وضع ثمانية قطاعات عشوائيا" في مساحة حوالي 1x1كم, اربعة من هذه ال قطاعات اطوالها 100م، والاربعة الاخرى 50م. استخدمت احجام الاطارات 1x1م, و 1x1م لكل قطاع, على مسافة 10أمتار و 20 مترفي القطاعات 50م و 100م بالتتابع، بوا قع خمسة اطارات بوضع تبادلي اعطت 10 قراءات في كل من القطاعات. كل المختلفين من الاطارات.

من النتائج الرئيسية للدراسة وجد أن قراءات العروة 3/4 بوصة أعطت قيما تقديرية عالية للغطاء النباتي مقارنة بطريقة التقدير في الإطار ويرتبط ذلك بطبيعة نباتات مراعي السودان والتي تتخللها بكثافة الأعشاب مقارنة مع مراعي النجيليات الموجودة في المناطق شبه الباردة مما يجعل طريقة التقدير أكثر فعالية في ظل ظروف مراعي منطقة الدراسة. كما لا توجد اختلافات مؤثرة على قيمة التغطية من خلال الحجمين المختلفين للاطارات واطوال القطاعات. ايضا وجد أن القطاعات الطويلة (100م) اقل تأثرا بالتواجد الموضعي المكثف لبعض النباتات إذا ما قورنت بالقطاعات القصيرة (50م) خصوصا في مراعي المناطق شبه الصحراء التي تمتاز بالتنوع الموضعي، أما بالنسبة للتركيب النوعي للنباتات لوحظ أن هناك قراءات عالية في القطاعات القصيرة (50م) مقارنة بالقطاعات الطويلة (100م) هذا نتيجة للتواجد الموضعي لبعض النباتات.

خلصت الدراسة الى أن التردد وجد أنه أقل حساسية لحجم الإطار في القطاع الواحد. أما بالنسبة للكثافة النباتية فهي أقل تأثرا بحجم الإطار وطول القطاع. كما وجد أن طريقة تقدير الوزن الجاف أعطت نتائجا لا تتعدى فروقاتها 17% عند استخدام التقدير مقارنة باستخدام طريقة القطع والوزن, ويعتبر هذا الفرق مقبولا مقارنة بما تتطلبه الطريقة الثانية من جهد وتكلفة وزمن ليتم أخذ المعلومة, كما لا تعطي فرقا مؤثرا لتحديد الحمولة الرعوية في المرعى الطبيعي.

اوصت الدراسة باستخدام القطاعات الطويلة (100م) في القياسات الرعوية لتفادي التقديرات الخاطئة للقراءات عند استخدام طريقة العروة، بالاضافة الى ذلك اوصت باستخدام طريقة تقدير الوزن لتقييم المادة العلفية لأنها عملية وتوفر الزمن وقليلة العمالة

بجانب قلة تكلفتها, مع اعطاء خبرة أكثر للمستخدمين حتى تصبح أكثر عملية في هذا المجال