

Session (1) : Keynotes

Doubts and Disputes (D & D) on the Susceptibility of Camels to Tick-borne Diseases

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ABSTRACT

Camels (Dromedaries or Bactrian) are well known as tick hosts harbouring numbers of species of hard ticks. Camels are considered to have an important role in ticks' population dynamics as they have large surfaces for tick feeding, they can live in different geographical areas and bear different climatic changes. Although different species of ticks were known to infest camels, Hyalomma dromedarii represents between 50 to 90% of these species and referred to as camel tick. Concerning the susceptibility of camels to the different tick-borne diseases including theileriosis, babesiosis, anplasmosis and ehrlichiosis (heartwater), there are great disputes between a number of scientists and experts. Uilenberge (a well-known German expert) basing on his studies in the Sudan and Nigeria and his observations on other studies believes that camels are not susceptible to the different tick-borne diseases. His opinion was later supported by small scale studies which failed to reveal neither piroplasms nor DNA of different tick- borne diseases in camel's blood samples. On the other hands, the author of this article came across ten publications (five from Egypt and one from each of USSR, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Nigeria) describing the susceptibility of camels to different tick- bone diseases. Furthermore, some of these publications had described clinical diseases. Conclusively, this paper is aimed to review in details these findings and to highlight and discuss the different opinions. The recommendations of this article are concerned with the conducting full research on camel tick- borne diseases in the Sudan and on the expected role of camels in the epidemiology of tick-borne diseases in other ruminants.

Keywords: Camels, ticks, tick-borne, diseases, doubts, disputes