BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
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PREVALENCE OF TICKS IN CATTLE FOUND IN ZVIMBA DISTRICT

ANGELA GANDARI
(B1 025816)

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ABSTRACT

The study sought to determine the changes in tick species distribution and its effect and this was done by researching on the prevalence of ticks in Zvimba District. The study was done during the rainy season when ticks were believed to be in great numbers. The study’s aim was to assess the distribution of ticks in Zvimba hence identifying the tick species in the area as well as determining their frequencies across wards. Tick counts and identification were done at the dip tank. Tick counts were also done on animals that had been suspected to have Senkobo (Dermatophilosis). Collected ticks were preserved in 6% formalin to be later identified at the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL). Descriptive statistical analysis was done having the SPSS version 17.0 statistical package being used for data analysis to generate results frequencies. The most prevalent tick species was the brown ear ticks which had the highest frequency in the sampled area but across ward they were not evenly distributed, ward 5 had the highest frequency. The Bont ticks were only recorded in Ward 3 and none was recorded in ward 5. The history of the tick distribution of the area showed that the Amblyomma species was not present in the area in the past years, but from the findings of this study Amblyomma species have now been identified in the area which may be a reason for the suspected cases of Senkobo.