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Poster presentation

Molecular detection of *Theileria annulata* in ixodid ticks in northwest of Iran

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Abstract

Ixodid ticks transmit various protozoan diseases in animals such as theileriosis that cause a lot of economic loss in livestock industry. The purpose of the present study was to detect *Theileria annulata* infection in ticks in cattle in Urmia district in North West of Iran. One hundred ticks were collected from some suspected flocks with history of theileriosis and were transported to laboratory. Taxonomic identification was done based on morphological characteristic. Ten tick species were found: *Hyalomma anatolicum anatolicum* (29%), *Hyalomma aegyptium* (16%), *Boophyls anulatus* (16%), *Dermacentor marginatum* (14%), *Rhipicephalus bursa* (9%), *Dermacentor niveus* (4%), *Ornithodoros lahuransis*(4%), *Hyalomma anantolicum excavatum*(3%), *Rhipicephalus sanguinus* (2%) and *Haemaphysalis punctate* (1%). Salivary glands of ticks were isolated and examined using specific primers from the major merozoite-piroplasm surface antigen sequence of *T. annulata* (Tams-1) gene by PCR. Analysis of ticks by using PCR revealed *T. annulata* in 65(65%) of evaluated ticks. The high rate of infestation in ticks to *T. annulata* identifies the high risk of them to transporting the disease to cattle in North West of Iran and *Hyalomma anatolicum anatolicum* is the first candidate for transmitting of the disease.

Keywords: *Theileria annulata*, PCR, cattle

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