



Study on Current Status of Bovine Trypanosomiasis and Its Spatio-Temporal Distribution of Vectors in Ethiopia: Systematic Review

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Abstract

Trypanosomiasis is a disease complex caused by several species of unicellular protozoal parasites of the genus *Trypanosoma*. In Ethiopia, bovine trypanosomiasis is highly prevalent in low lands of tsetse infested areas and distribution is found to be widespread covering most parts of Western and south-western parts of the country and some species are distributed throughout the countries. The most important trypanosomes, in terms of economic loss in domestic livestock, are tsetse transmitted species: *T. congolense*, *T. vivax*, and *T. brucei*. Trypanosomiasis remains a serious challenge causes economic losses and main constraint of livestock production and rural development in the country. In Ethiopia, the temporal and spatial distribution of bovine Trypanosomiasis, information on dynamics of tsetse, tsetse-infested areas and seasonal occurrence of bovine trypanomiasis is limited. But tsetse flies are biological vectors of African Trypanosomiasis in animals. Their distribution and prevalence are most influenced by spatial factors such as climate, vegetation, and land utilization. It is transmitted from infected animals to susceptible hosts both mechanical and biological vectors and is characterized by enlargement of lymph nodes, and chronic emaciation, this disease can be diagnosed by clinical signs, or direct and indirect parasitological diagnosis. Once infection of bovine trypanomiasis has happened, it can be treated by diminazene aceturate, homidium bromide, homidium chloride, and isometamidium and quinapyrimine sulfate. Bovine trypanomiasis can be controlled by early treatment of infected animals, and vector control. Thus, it is recommended that appropriate use of antiprotozoal drugs, restriction of animal movement, and integrated prevention and control program should be implemented to eradicate trypanomiasis and protozoal disease.

Keywords: African Animal Trypanosomiasis; Bovine; Ethiopia; Spatio-temporal distribution

Abbreviations: AAT: African Animal Trypanosomiasis; Ab: Antibody; Ag: Antigen; DNA: Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid; ELISA: Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay; GDP: Growth Domestic Product; IFAT: Immunofluorescence Antibody Test; IHT: Indirect Haemagglutination Test; ITS-PCR: Internal Transcribed Spacer-polymerase Chain Reaction; NTTICC: National Tsetse, Trypanosomiasis Investigation and Control Center; OIE: Office of International Epizootics; PCR: Polymerase Chain Reaction; SIT: Sterile Insect Technique; SNNPR: Southern Nation Nationalities People's Region; RBC: Rade Blood Cell; Rpm: Revolution per Minute

INTRODUCTION

African animal trypanomiasis (AAT) is a most important constraint to livestock production in tropical Africa [1], and is considered a threat to poverty alleviation programs in the continent [2]. Disease is widely distributed with about 50 million heads of cattle and livestock species being at risk [3]. Ethiopia has a huge livestock population in Africa, and the livestock sector plays a significant role in the national economy and livelihood of farmers and pastoralists [4] also the subsector contributes about 16.5% of the national gross domestic product (GDP) and 35.6% of agricultural GDP [5]. Despite this huge livestock number, productivity is too low and even below average for most Eastern and Sub-Saharan African countries, due to several complex and interrelated factors, such as widespread diseases, poor genetic potential of local breeds,

and inefficiency of livestock development services [6]. Among Those, Trypanosomiasis is one of the major animal health constraints to livestock production and agricultural development [7].

Trypanosomiasis is caused by unicellular, flagellated protozoan parasites that belong to the genus *Trypanosomes* which are found in the blood or tissues of vertebrates including livestock and wildlife [8]. vector includes several species of tsetse flies and they are grouped into three categories: *Glossina pulpis* group (savanna areas), *Glossina fusca* group (forest areas), and *Glossina palpalis* group (river and lake areas). Currently, in Ethiopia, about 220,000 km² of tsetse belt areas with five species of tsetse flies namely *G. Pallidipes*, *G. morsitans*, *G. fuscipes*, *G. tachnoides* and *G. longipennis* [9]. The disease is caused by pathogenic species of trypanosomes transmitted cyclically by the tsetse fly (*Glossina* species) and non-cyclically by or biting flies except *T. equiperdum*, which follows an epidemiological route of transmission among the equine population in its endemic areas. Trypanosome species affecting livestock in Ethiopia are *T. congolense*, *T. Vivax*, and *T. brucei* in cattle, sheep, and goats. The most important trypanosome species that affect cattle, sheep, and goats are *T. congolense* *Trypanomiasis vivax* and *Trypanomiasis brucei*. Annual losses to the national economy are estimated to exceed \$200 million because of mortality and morbidity of livestock, denied access to land resources, and costs of controlling this disease [10]. The distribution of Trypanosomes is dynamic due to climatic change, ecological disturbances, and human interventions. Tsetse flies in Ethiopia are confined to southern and western regions between a longitude of 33° and 38°E, and a latitude of 5° and 12°N [11]. Tsetse-infested areas lie in the lowlands and river valleys of Abbay (Blue Nile), Baro, Akobo, Didessa, Ghibe, and Omo [12]. Out of nine regions of Ethiopia five (Oromia, SNNPR, Amhara, Beninshangul Gumuz, and Gambella) are infested with more than one species of tsetse flies [13].

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Economic impacts developed are direct losses (loss of production, mortality, and abortion), cost of control (cost of drugs, transportation cost to field and operators salaries), and indirect losses (loss of potential production) [14]. Trypanosomiasis is threatening agricultural production and cattle breeding more severely than any or livestock disease [15]. Information on temporal and spatial dynamics of tsetse and trypanosomes remains limited and may be a reason that control strategies are less effective [16]. So knowledge of temporal, dry, and wet seasons, prevalence of trypanosomiasis, and distribution of tsetse fly are important when devising appropriate strategies for control of seasonal problems [16].

Methods used to reduce trypanosomiasis and its effects are the use of drugs for curative and prevention and the use of trypanotolerant cattle (Muturu and N'Dama) [17]. According to NTTICC, tsetse-transmitted animal Trypanosomiasis remains one of the largest causes of livestock production losses in Ethiopia. Therefore,

To date, there is no review of existing literature on spatio-temporal distribution of Trypanosomiasis. Thus, this review was made to highlight the current status of bovine trypanosomiasis in Ethiopia, summarize, the spatial and temporal distribution of vectors in Ethiopia, and compile species of trypanosomes affecting cattle.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Background of Trypanosomiasis

Definition of Disease: Trypanosomiasis (African) or Names: *Nangana*, *Tsetse Disease*, *Tsetse Fly Disease*, *African animal Trypanosomiasis* (AAT) is a parasitic disease that causes anemia, loss of condition, and emaciation in livestock caused by several species of unicellular protozoan parasites of phylum Sarcomastigophora, order Kinetoplastida, family Trypanosomatidae and genus Trypanosoma. It is mainly transmitted cyclically by *Glossina* (Tsetse flies), but also transmitted mechanically by several biting flies (*Tabanids*, *Stomoxys*, etc.) [18]. Disease can affect various species of mammals but, from an economic point of view, tsetse-transmitted Trypanosomiasis is particularly important in cattle. It is mainly caused by *T. Congolese*, *T. vivax*, and, to a lesser extent, *T. brucei* [2].

The name trypanosome is derived from the Greek words trypan-(borer) and soma (body) because of the corkscrew-like motion [19]. Trypanosome consists of a single cell varying in size from 8 to 50 µm. Different trypanosome species differ in morphological characteristics as described by appearance, shape, and size between various species, allowing specific identification [20].

Etiology

Trypanosomes are flagellated protozoan parasites that live in the blood or body fluids of vertebrate hosts and swim in body fluids by flagellum, a boring way between cells. Generally possess a Kinetoplastida and undergo cyclical development in an arthropod vector. Biological adaptations, morphology, and pathogenicity are fascinating and are being extensively studied [21]. Trypanosomiasis outside the "tsetse belt" is caused by mechanically biting flies; the main etiological agent mechanically transmitted is *T. vivax* [22].

Epidemiology

The epidemiology of African animal trypanosomiasis is highly dependent on parasite, vector, and host factors. Trypanosome species occur in a variety of genotypes with different strains, virulence, immunogenicity, and response to chemotherapeutic agents. The severity of the disease also depends on the species and strain of trypanosomes involved. Since parasite infects a wide range of animals including wild animals which constitute reservoirs of disease, the epidemiology of trypanosomiasis is extremely complicated. degree of risk to which domestic animals are exposed to trypanosomiasis depends on the species and density of tsetse present, the infection rate in tsetse, species, and

strain of trypanosomes, source of infection (wild or domestic animals) and feeding preference of flies [23].

Risk Factors

Host Factors:

The effect of infection varies with the host in that most wild animals and some domestic ones, establish a balance with a parasite and remain as clinically normal carriers for long- periods. The susceptibility of cattle to trypanosomiasis depends on breed, age, behavior, previous exposure, and health status. Some trypanotolerant breeds of cattle, indigenous to Africa can tolerate light to moderate challenges with tsetse flies by limiting the multiplication of trypanosomes in blood and by apparently warding off infection, especially *T.vivax* [24]. The level of trypanotolerance varies, depending on both genetic and environmental origin. Crossbreeds of indigenous Taurine and Zebu animals are also more tolerant than pure breed zebu [25]. Indigenous zebus are trypano-susceptible and West African Bos-taurus breeds are trypanotolerant, i.e. can survive and be productive without treatment under trypanosomiasis risk. Exotic imported ruminants (e.g. improved dairy cattle) are more severely affected than local genotypes [2]. Four Ethiopian cattle breeds Abigar, Gurage, Horo, and Sheko are related to trypanotolerance [26].

Environmental Factors:

The density of the tsetse population in the area and the level of contact with the host will determine the level of infection. Trekking of cattle through tsetse-infested vegetation is a risk, nomadic farmers face from time to time and the risk is even greater where cattle routes converge, for example, at major bridges or watering holes [27]. Agricultural and industrial developments generally lead to a lowering of tsetse density by destroying its habitat, whereas, the establishment of game or forest reserves provides large numbers of preferred hosts or a suitable habitat for tsetse, respectively. Herds located near such reserves are therefore at a higher risk [28].

Pathogen Factors:

The severity of the disease varies with the species and age of the animal infected and the species of trypanosome involved. In cattle, *T. Vivax* generally produces a higher level of parasitemia than other species. And since its life cycle in tsetse is also shorter; *T. Vivax* is more readily transmitted than when animals are newly introduced into a tsetse-infested area. Higher parasitemia also facilitates mechanical transmission. *T. Congolese* and *T. Vivax* are highly pathogenic for cattle and *T. Brucei* infections are generally regarded as being of low pathogenicity [29].

Life cycle

The life cycle of trypanosome in tsetse involves cyclical development for varying lengths of time, depending on species and ambient temperature. Most tsetse transmission begins when blood from a trypanosome-infected animal is ingested by a tsetse fly [30]. Trypanosome loses its surface coat, multiplies in fly, on a surface coat, and becomes infective. *Trypanosoma brucei* species migrate from the gut to proventriculus to the pharynx and eventually to salivary glands; the cycle for *T. Congolese* stops at the hypopharynx and salivary glands are not invaded; the entire cycle for *T. Vivax* occurs in the proboscis. Animal - The infective form in the tsetse salivary gland is referred to as the metacyclic form. Incubation period trypanosomiasis specious is *T. Congolese* usually becomes apparent in 4–24 days, *T. Vivax* in 4–40 days, and *T. Brucei* highly variable. Infections with more virulent isolates have a shorter incubation period [31].

Pathogenesis

Pathogenesis of Trypanosomiasis in most species is a progressive, but not always fatal disease and its main features are anemia, tissue damage, and immunosuppression. Metacyclic trypanosomes are inoculated



intradermally as fly feeds. multiply at this site provoking a local skin reaction (*Chancre*), which is most pronounced in a fully susceptible host and may be slight or absent with some strains or species of trypanosomes. Within *chancre*, metacyclic parasites change to Trypomastigote form, enter the bloodstream directly or through lymphatic and initiate characteristic intermittent parasitemia. in behavior thereafter depends largely on the species of Trypanosome transmitted and host [32].

Trypanosoma vivax usually multiplies rapidly in the blood of cattle and is evenly dispersed throughout the cardiovascular system, whereas *T. congolense* tends to be aggregated in small blood vessels and capillaries of the heart, brain and skeletal muscle. Both species exert effect mainly by causing severe anemia and mild to moderate organ damage. Anemia has a complex pathogenesis involving mainly increased erythrophagocytosis, some hemolysis, and dyshemopoiesis [33].

Geographical Distribution

The general distribution of tsetse flies is determined principally by climate and influenced by altitude, vegetation, and presence of suitable host animal [34]. Epidemiology of the animal Trypanosomiasis is determined mainly by an ecology of tsetse fly which is found only in tropical Africa. Ethiopia is situated at the east end of the African tsetse belt and in Ethiopia, tsetse flies are confined to southwestern and northwestern regions between longitude 33° and 38 °E and latitude 5° and 12°N of an area covers 220,000 km² [35].

In Ethiopia, tsetse-infested areas lay in lowlands and also in river valleys of Blue Nile, Baro Akobo, Didessa, Ghibe, and Omo. Out of nine regions of Ethiopia five (Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, and Southern Nation Nationalities and peoples region) are infested with more than one species of tsetse flies [36]. To date, five species of *Glossina* (*G. morsitans submersions*, *G. pallidipes*, *G. Tachinoides*, *G. fuscipes* and *G. longipennis*) have been recorded from Ethiopia [37]. The spatial distribution of bovine trypanomiasis found in various parts of Ethiopia is different. most of the previous surveys were carried out in western and southwestern parts of Ethiopia, many published studies related to trypanomiasis have been found in various regional states, with a mean apparent prevalence of 8.17% in Amhara, 13.86% in Beninshangul Gumuz, 6.34% in Oromia, and 7.91% in Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Regional State, whereas only a few published studies have been found in Afar and Tigray regions (Figure 1 & Table 1).

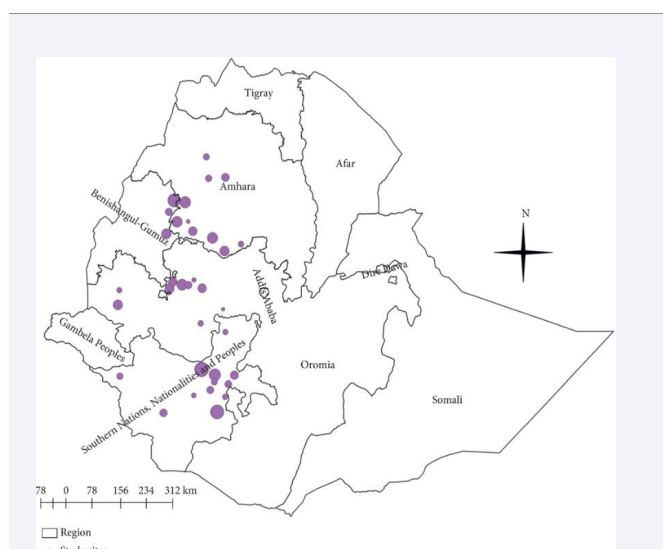


Figure 1 Observed spatial distribution of bovine trypanomiasis in Ethiopia.

Table 1: Summary of the mean apparent prevalence of bovine trypanomiasis in some regional states of Ethiopia. Source: Leta et al. [38]

Region	Prevalence %
Oromia	8.17
SNNPR	6.34
Amhara	13.86
Benshangul Gumuz	7.91

Temporal and spatial distribution of bovine trypanosomes in Ethiopia, information on temporal and spatial dynamics of tsetse and trypanosomes remain limited and may be a reason that control strategies are less effective [16]. The occurrence and impact of trypanosomiasis, on the other hand, depends on the challenge, host distribution, livestock breeds, farming practices, and control practices. tsetse challenge is determined by the product of relative tsetse density, trypanosome prevalence in tsetse the proportion of meals obtained by the tsetse from a defined host, So knowledge of temporal, dry, and wet season, prevalence of Trypanosomiasis and distribution of tsetse fly are important when devising appropriate strategies for control of these problems [16] (Figure 2)(Table 2 & Table 3).

Mode of Transmission

Trypanosomiasis is a disease that is cyclically and mechanically transmitted by different species of tsetse flies. tsetse flies become infected with trypanosomes when feeding on infected animals as well and trypanosome readily persists in areas free of tsetse, where it is transmitted mechanically by biting flies or contaminated needles, Syringes and surgical instruments [52].

Morbidity and Mortality

Trypanosoma vivax and *T. congolense* are considered to be major pathogens in cattle, while *T. brucei* is thought to be of lesser significance. Acute hemorrhagic syndrome caused by some *T. vivax* strains has a mortality rate of 6-35%, but, in general, *T. vivax* is considered to be less pathogenic for cattle than *T. congolense*. Some savannah-type strains of *T. congolense* are among the most virulent isolates [53].

Morbidity and mortality rates for African animal trypanomiasis are influenced by an animal's general health, as well as the strain and dose of infecting organisms. in susceptible cattle, some strains can result in 50-100% mortality within months. in Africa, Trypanosomiasis is now mostly a disease of high morbidity but low mortality in regions where sick animals are treated with trypanocidal drugs. Epizootics with high morbidity and mortality rates can be seen occasionally when susceptible livestock are introduced into endemic regions or when tsetse flies spread into an area where cattle are naïve [54].

Clinical Sign

The basic clinical syndrome appears after an incubation period of 8-20 days. Primary clinical signs are intermittent fever, anemia, and weight loss. Acute episodes last for a few days to a few weeks from which the animal dies or lapses into a subacute to the chronic stage, or the illness may be chronic from the beginning. Chronic cases may run a steady course, may be interrupted by periodic incidents of severe illness, or undergo spontaneous recovery [2].

Major clinical signs are intermittent fever, anemia, edema, lacrimation, enlarged lymph nodes, abortion, decreased fertility, loss of appetite, dull, anorexic, body condition and productivity, early death in acute forms, emaciation and eventual death in chronic forms often after digestive or nervous signs [55]. Superficial lymph nodes become visibly swollen, mucous membranes are pale, diarrhea occasionally occurs, and some animals have edema of the throat and underline. Estrus cycles become irregular, pregnant animals may abort, and semen quality progressively deteriorates. The animal becomes very emaciated and cachectic and dies within 2-4 months or longer. Thin, rough-coated, anemic, lethargic cattle

Table 2:The prevalence of bovine trypanomiasis 2016-2021 in some parts of Ethiopia.

Study area	Sample size	animal examined		Prevalence of positive animal %		positive animal		Reference
		M	F	M	F	M	F	
Chora District of Illuababora	332	151	181	39.3	47.1	17	29	Marta et al. [41]
Abeshige District of Gurage Zone,	498	234	264	15.8	9.4	37	25	Lemma et al. [42]
Dara district,Sidama zone	384	97	287	12	45	12.4	15.7	Migbaru et al. [43]
Sheka zone, and Eracha woreda		209	174	2	2.3	4	4	Yigzaw et al. [44]
Sayo district	860	416	83	3.27	1.2	2	1	Bakele and Desta. [45]
Tarcha Zuria District, Dawuro Zone		44	73	9.10	5.48	4	4	Madalcho. [46]
Damot WoydeDistrict, southern Ethiopia	144	61	83	3.27	1.2	2	1	Takele and Gechere. [47]
Jimma Arjo district, east wollega	819	490	329	5.3	3.1	26	10	Abdeta et al. [48]
West Gojjam zone	730	322	408	8.70	7.11	28	29	Lelisa and Meharenet. [49]
Hawa Galan District, kelem wollega zone	428	209	219	6.7	5.48	14	12	Tsegaye et al. [50]

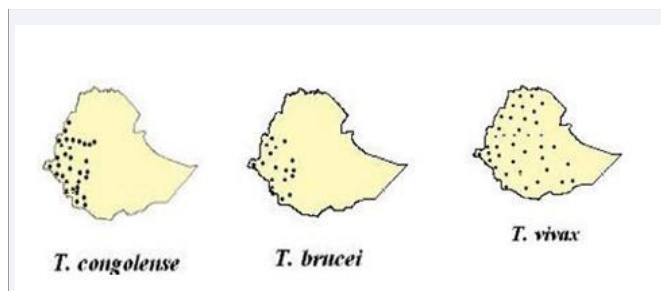


Figure 2 Presence of *T. congolense*, *T. brucei*, and *T. vivax* in livestock in Ethiopia. Source: Birhanu et al. [39]

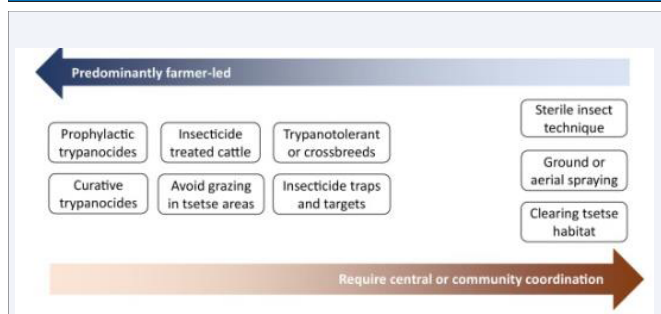


Figure 3 Control options for African animal trypanosomiasis (AAT) highlighting farmer versus community or centrally required coordination. Source: Richards et al. [40]

Table 3: Bovine trypanosome species reported in Ethiopia. Source: Desta and Lelisa. [51]

Trypanosomes	Vector	Mainly affected host	Regional distribution
<i>T. congolense</i>	Tsetse	Cattle	Amhara
<i>T. brucei</i>	Tsetse	Cattle	Benshangul-gumuz, gembella,Oromia and SNNPER
<i>T. vivax</i>	Biting flies	Cattle	All overEthiopia

with generalized lymph node enlargement are said to have a ‘fly-struck’ appearance. Cattle usually have a chronic course with high mortality, especially if it is poor nutrition or stress factors [56]. Furthermore, intercurrent bacterial, viral, or parasitic infections may mask or complicate basic clinical syndrome. Immune response to bacterial, and some viral, vaccines is also depressed but is restored if trypanocidal therapy is given at the time of vaccination [57].

Diagnosis

There are no pathognomonic signs that would help in pinpointing a diagnosis. Diagnosis of Trypanosomiasis in tsetse, domestic livestock is a basic requirement for epidemiological studies as well as for planning and implementing chemotherapy and for monitoring vector control operations. Accurate diagnosis of trypanosome infection in livestock is required for a proper appreciation of disease in any geographical locality.



Besides clinical diagnosis, parasitological, serological, and molecular methods with varying degrees of sensitivity and specificity are available for diagnosis of trypanosomosis [40]. On the other hand, *T. brucei* is rarely detectable by direct examination of cattle blood, even though infection can be confirmed through diagnostic methods [58].

Clinical Diagnosis:

The primary clinical signs are intermittent fever, anemia, and weight loss. Cattle usually have a chronic course with high mortality, especially if there is poor nutrition or other stress factors. Clinical diagnosis was found to have a good sensitivity (78%) but a low specificity (27%) when compared to parasitological tests [59]. It appears that treatment of cattle based on clinical examination may clear up to 87.5% or 78% of the cases that would be positive by either molecular or parasitological diagnosis, respectively. Under field conditions, in the absence of simple and portable diagnostic tools or access to laboratory facilities, veterinarians could rely on clinical signs and direct parasitological diagnosis to screen and treat cases of bovine trypanosomosis presented by farmers [60].

Parasitological examination

Dark ground/Phase contrast/ Buffy coat technique: Buffy coat zone prepared in a micro hematocrit capillary filled with 70µl of blood and centrifuged for 5 minutes at 12000 rpm is examined for trypanosomes by cutting capillary tube to include 1 mm of erythrocytes and 1 cm of plasma. The Buffy coat is poured on a slide and covered with a 22 x 22 mm cover slip. Preparation is examined using a microscope with a phase contrast and dark ground illumination. The use of a 10x eyepiece in combination with a 25x objective gives optimal viewing by allowing large visual fields and sufficient magnification for ready identification of trypanosomes. This technique is the most sensitive of parasitological tests for detection of *T. congolense* and *T. vivax* detecting trypanosomes to an estimated level of just over 102 parasites per ml [39]. In addition, species identification based on size and movement is easier to assess [61].

Parasitological Diagnosis by Direct Examination

Wet Blood Film: This is made by placing a drop of blood on a microscope slide and covering it with a cover slip. Blood is examined microscopically using an x40 objective lens. Approximately 50-100 fields are examined. Trypanosomes can be recognized by movement among RBC. The method is simple, inexpensive, and gives immediate results depending on trypanosome size and movement of presumptive diagnosis can be made of trypanosome species.

Thick blood Smear technique: The method is simple and relatively inexpensive, but results are delayed because of the staining process. Trypanosomes are easily recognized by general morphology but may be damaged during the staining process. This may make it difficult to identify species [62].

Thin blood smear technique: Usually, both a thin and thick smear are made from the same sample. Thick smears contain more blood than thin smears and, hence, have a higher diagnostic sensitivity. While thin smears allow trypanosome species identification. Trypanosome species can be identified by following morphological characteristics (Criteria of OIE) trypanosome *Vivax*: 20-27 mm. long, undulating membrane is not obvious, free flagellum present at anterior end, posterior end rounded, and kinetoplast large and terminal. *T. brucei* is a polymorphic trypanosome species. Two distinctly different forms can be distinguished, i.e. a long slender form and a short stumpy form. Often, intermediate forms, possessing characteristics of both slender and stumpy forms, are observed. Cytoplasm often contains basophilic granules in stained specimens [63].

T. congolense: 8-25 mm (Small species), undulating membrane not obvious, free flagellum absent, posterior end rounded, kinetoplast is medium-sized and terminal, often laterally positioned. Although *T.*

congolense is considered to be monomorphic, a degree of morphological variation is sometimes observed.

Serological Diagnosis: Serological methods are indirect methods for the diagnosis of trypanomiasis based on the detection of antibodies or circulating antigens of parasites. Most commonly used serological tests include indirect haemagglutination test (IHT), precipitation tests, indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT), and ELISA [64]. However, serological tests are used as tools for research, monitoring, and control surveys [65].

Antibody detection tests: Several antibody detection techniques have been developed to detect trypanosome antibodies for the diagnosis of African animal trypanomiasis [66]. However, the disadvantages of Serodiagnosis are (i) antibody ELISAs are not species-specific because of strong cross-reactions between pathogenic trypanosome species [67] and (ii) the persistence of antibodies after a curative treatment or a self-cure is estimated to be on average of 3-4 months [68].

Antigen detection tests: assays detect circulating antigens of *T. congolense*, *T. vivax*, and *T. brucei* in the blood of infected animals. ELISA and field-oriented latex agglutination tests have been developed and used in Africa and some other countries. Antigen-detecting ELISA (Ag-ELISA) would have allowed the detection of circulating trypanosome antigens and therefore confirmed the occurrence of an active infection [69].

Molecular diagnosis: The method that is currently recommended for trypanosome diagnosis is molecular identification, due to high sensitivity and specificity [70]. The principle of molecular methods is to detect DNA sequences that are specific for trypanosome subgenus, species, subspecies, type, or strain. Several PCR-based techniques have been developed for the identification of trypanosome species [71].

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR): polymerase chain reaction is one of the most sensitive and specific diagnostic methods of AAT [72], and has overcome the constraints of parasitological and serological techniques [71]. PCR is based on the use of an enzyme, DNA polymerase, which amplifies sequences of DNA bases until sufficient material is produced to be detected [73]. Several studies have shown that PCR is a specific and more sensitive method in the diagnosis of trypanomiasis in experimental as well as natural infections, identifying parasites at the species level [74]. Currently, several PCR-based diagnostic assays have been developed to improve the detection of pathogenic trypanosomes [75]. Two internal transcribed spacer PCR (ITS-PCR) are used as universal primers as they can detect all pathogenic trypanosome species [76].

The main disadvantage of PCR is that it is very expensive in terms of cost, requires skilled manpower, and requires precision instruments and elaborate visualization methods [77]. to detect trypanosomes and avoid false positive results; it is possible to combine PCR and DNA probe technology [78].

Differential Diagnosis

Acute Trypanosomiasis with fever: babesiosis, anaplasmosis, theileriosis (east coast fever), Hemorrhagic septicemia, and Anthrax [79].

Chronic Trypanosomiasis with anemia and emaciation: helminthosis or haemoparasitoses [80].

Post Mortem Lesions

Gross lesions are nonspecific. Lymph nodes and spleen are enlarged in the acute stage, and petechial are frequently found on serosal surfaces, particularly in the peritoneal cavity. Lymph nodes may be enlarged, normal, or atrophied in more prolonged cases; are not usually enlarged in chronically infected animals. Serous atrophy of fat and evidence of anemia are common, and subcutaneous edema, excessive fluid in body cavities and pericardial sac, pulmonary edema, and an enlarged liver may also be seen. The carcass may be wasted or emaciated. Some trypanosomes can



directly damage tissues, resulting in lesions such as keratitis or cardiac damage (e.g., myocarditis). Immune complexes also cause inflammation and damage in a variety of tissues including kidneys and blood vessels [81].

Economic and Zoonotic Importance

Tsetse flies infest 10 million square kilometers of Africa involving 37 countries. Hence, *Nagana* is today the most important disease of livestock in the continent [82]. Since *Nagana* is a wasting disease, affected animals are chronically unproductive in terms of milk, meat, manure, and traction, and the mortality rate can be high. disease in Africa costs livestock producers and consumers an estimated US\$1340 million each year [47]. In Ethiopia land covered by tsetse infestation estimated at around 220,000km of fertile land remained unusable. This disease causes direct loss by mortality estimated to amount to 1.5 to 2 billion birr per year and indirect loss due to decreasing productivity and restriction from international livestock trade in the country

Animal pathogens do not infect humans, but animals can serve as reservoirs of *T. brucei Rhodesians* and *T. gambiense*, causes of human sleeping sickness, which are morphologically indistinguishable from *T. brucei*. Human infections result from tsetse bites, generally in game parks, forest reserves, and along streams or rural settings [83].

Treatment

The application of anti-trypanosoma drugs has been the most widely practiced means of controlling trypanosomiasis in domestic livestock since the early 1950s, either as curative or prophylactic drugs [74]. Trypanosomiasis can be treated with trypanocidal drugs for therapeutic and prophylactic purposes. Therapeutic drugs include diminazene aceturate, homidium bromide, and homidium chloride. Prophylactic drugs for cattle include homidium, homidium chloride, and isometamidium [37].

Control of vector

Controlling the vector of trypanosomiasis remains theoretically the most desirable way of containing the disease [84]. The absence of eggs and a free larval stage in nature and the fact that pupal development occurs in the soil make the adult fly-only phase easily accessible for control purposes [85]. A wide variety of tsetse control techniques have been developed and have undergone trial. Those control techniques include ecological methods, the use of insecticides, the use of traps and targets use of insecticide-treated cattle use of sterile insect technique, or reducing the risk of exposure through changes in livestock management [86].

The choice of control method to be applied will depend on target zone, impact on environment, tsetse species, possibility of isolation of treated areas, possibilities of post-control land use, and available funding of operations now and for future [87]. However, eradication of tsetse is unlikely to succeed in the near future because tsetse interventions must be tediously planned at a continental scale to prevent tsetse re-infestation (Figure 3).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

Bovine trypanosomiasis is a serious protozoal disease that has a great economic impact throughout the world, especially in developing countries like Africa. In Ethiopia, bovine trypanosomiasis is the main problem of livestock production. This constraint in livestock production leads serious economic impact on the country's development. Bovine trypanosomiasis (*Nagana*) is found in low lowlands of Ethiopia, especially in the "tsetse belt" like the rift valley, omo, borena, and metekel zone of Benshangul Gumuz region. Bovine trypanosomiasis is mainly caused by three etiological agents, *T. vivax*, *T. congolense*, and *T. brucei*. Bovine Trypanosomiasis is transmitted from infected animals to susceptible hosts

both mechanical and biological vectors. The main biological vector is the tsetse fly that is found in the tsetse belt. *T. vivax* can be transmitted from infected animals to susceptible hosts both mechanically and biologically, but *T. congolense* is mainly transmitted biologically. Bovine trypanosomiasis show be diagnosed by clinical signs, direct parasitological diagnosis, and indirect parasitological diagnosis methods. Direct parasitological diagnosis includes wet blood film, thick blood smear, thin blood smear, and parasitological concentration technique. Indirect parasitological diagnosis includes Molecular testing, PCR, buffy coat techniques, and Hematocrit centrifugation test. Bovine trypanosomiasis can be treated with both prophylactic and curative drugs. Drugs used for the treatment of bovine trypanosomiasis include aceturate, Homidium, and Quinapyramine. This disease can be controlled by early treatment and vector control. Based on this, the following recommendations are forwarded.

- ❑ Use of Prompt integrated tsetse control strategy, and insect sterilization techniques (SIT) in highly prevalent areas.
- ❑ There is little information about the prevalence of trypanosomiasis in endemic areas, in this regard, more research is enlargeable in the northern and southern parts of the country.
- ❑ Rational uses of trypanocidal and prophylactic drugs for sick animals as well as for control and prevention of trypanosome infestations.
- ❑ Rearing trypan-tolerant cattle breeds in endemic areas, restriction of animal movement is the best control method.
- ❑ Awareness creation about the disease and its transmission.

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