

## Journal of the Hellenic Veterinary Medical Society

Vol 73, No 3 (2022)



### Epizootiology and associated risk factors of tick fauna infecting domestic livestock population in district Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan

M Maqbool, MS Sajid, Z Iqbal, M Saqib

doi: [10.12681/jhvms.26710](https://doi.org/10.12681/jhvms.26710)

Copyright © 2022, Mahvish Maqbool, Muhammad Sajid, Zafar Iqbal, Muhammad Saqib







This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).

### To cite this article:

Maqbool, M., Sajid, M., Iqbal, Z., & Saqib, M. (2022). Epizootiology and associated risk factors of tick fauna infecting domestic livestock population in district Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan. *Journal of the Hellenic Veterinary Medical Society*, 73(3), 4325–4338. <https://doi.org/10.12681/jhvms.26710>

## Epizootiology and associated risk factors of tick fauna infecting domestic livestock population in district Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan

M. Maqbool.<sup>1</sup>, M.S. Sajid<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Z. Iqbal<sup>1</sup>, M. Saqib<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Parasitology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan

<sup>2</sup>Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan

<sup>3</sup>Department of Clinical Medicine and Surgery, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan

**ABSTRACT:** The current study was aimed to correlate the association of different risk factors with the hard tick (Acari: Ixodidae) infestation rate in livestock (cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat) population of district Faisalabad. Ticks were collected through the standard collection protocols and identified under a stereomicroscope. Overall, 54%, 50%, 50%, and 49% tick infestation rates were reported from cattle, buffalo, sheep, and goat, respectively with a higher prevalence of each in tehsil Tandlianwala (72%, 65%, 70%, and 57%, respectively). Among intrinsic factors (age and sex) higher prevalence was reported in young (7-12 months) and female animals. Significant association ( $P < 0.05$ ) of tick infestation was observed with the season being higher in summer. Statistically significant association ( $P < 0.05$ ) of tick infestation was observed with the extrinsic factors *viz*; feeding system (higher rate in grazing animals), housing system (higher rate in free-housed animals), type of farming (higher rate in free-ranged animals), farm structure (higher rate in animals kept on the uncemented floor) and hygienic measures (higher rate in animals with poor hygiene). The most prevalent tick species were *H. anatolicum*, (85%), *H. marginatum* (1.5%), *H. (1.02%)*, and *R. microplus* (12%). The results of our study added information to the inventory of ixodids. The findings will help devise services for tick control in the selected areas and other regions having similar husbandry systems.

**Keywords:** Tick; Prevalence; Ecological Factor; Epidemiology

*Corresponding Author:*

M.S. Sajid, Department of Parasitology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan  
E-mail address: drsohailuaf@hotmail.com

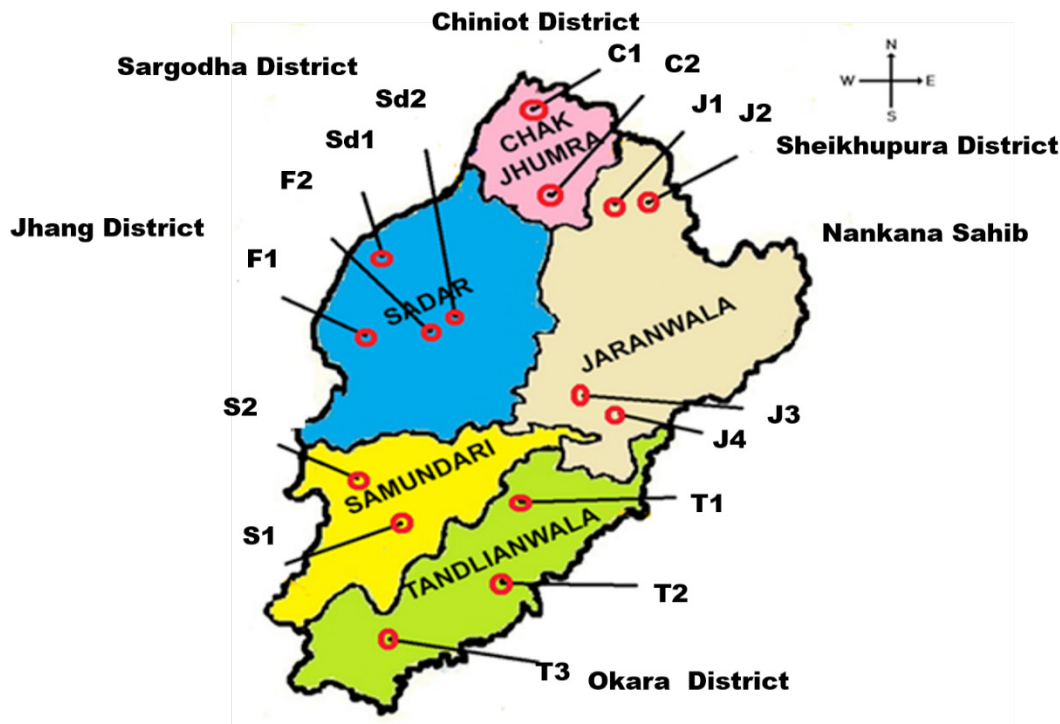
*Date of initial submission:* 07-04-2021  
*Date of acceptance:* 20-07-2022

## INTRODUCTION

Vector-borne diseases (VBDs) are considered among the main threats to animal and human health. Ticks (Acari: Ixodidae) are known as obligate hematophagous ectoparasites and are worldwide in distribution. Ticks are known as the first arthropod to be reported as vectors and the second most important vector after mosquitoes. Almost 900 species of ticks are identified till now and are divided into four main families: Ixodidae (703 sp.), Nuttalliellidae (1 sp.), Argasidae (194 sp.) and Laelaptidae (Monfared *et al.*, 2015). Ticks act as vectors for disease transmission in vertebrates including 38 viruses belonging to six families, protozoal and bacterial diseases i.e. babesiosis, anaplasmosis, theileriosis, Lyme disease, louping ill, tick-borne fever, rocky mountain spotted fever, Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF), etc. (de la Fuente *et al.*, 2016). Ticks and TBDs contribute a major share in decreased livestock and agricultural growth rates by decreasing production and increasing management and treatment costs. Tick infestation causes loss of blood and exposure to pathogens, damage to skins and hides. Cross-bred and exotic animals are more prone to tick infestation and act as reservoirs for disease transmission. The prevalence of TTBDs depends upon tick density, breed, season, age, man-

agement practices, and geographical area (Rehman *et al.*, 2017).

Ticks are prevalent in all areas of the world including Africa (Elghali and Hassan, 2012; Jongejan *et al.*, 2020), Australia (Chandra *et al.*, 2020), Europe (Mysterud *et al.*, 2018), America (Boorgula *et al.*, 2020), Asia (Sajid *et al.*, 2007, 2011, 2017; Iqbal *et al.*, 2013; Jabbar *et al.*, 2015; Karim *et al.*, 2017; Ramzan *et al.*, 2018; Riaz *et al.*, 2019; Ghaffar *et al.*, 2020; Kamran *et al.*, 2021; Shahid *et al.*, 2022). The distribution of ticks in every region is associated with certain biotic and abiotic factors such as climate, habitat type, humidity, temperature, age, sex, breed, rainfall having a direct impact on the epidemiology of ticks and tick-borne zoonotic and non-zoonotic diseases (Thamm *et al.*, 2009; Berman, 2011; Sajid *et al.*, 2011; Taye *et al.*, 2015; Ullah *et al.*, 2019; Kifle *et al.*, 2021; Kamran, 2021). Identification of these risk factors helps risk assessment and devising better and more effective control measures against ticks. A limited study has reported associations of these risk factors with the frequency of the tick infestation in livestock species in Pakistan (Sajid *et al.*, 2011, 2020; Iqbal *et al.*, 2013; Mustafa *et al.*, 2014; Sultana *et al.*, 2015; Farooqi *et al.*, 2017; Ramzan *et al.*, 2019; Ghaffar *et al.*, 2020); however, there is a lack of systematic work in the in-



**Figure 1** Physical map of Faisalabad district, Punjab, Pakistan showing the selected sites for a sampling of ticks from livestock population

vestigation of distribution and frequency of tick species in ruminants. The current study was designed to evaluate the epidemiology and associated risk factors of the tick population infesting domestic livestock in district Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### Study Area

This study was conducted in district Faisalabad, Punjab Pakistan. District Faisalabad consists of six tehsils *viz*: Faisalabad Sadar, Faisalabad City, Samundri, Tandlianwala, Chak Jhumra and Jaranwala (Fig. 1). Four seasons are present in the selected study area i.e. spring (February to April), summer (May to July), autumn (August to October), and winter (November to January). District Faisalabad is situated at 186 meters (610 ft) above sea level, 30 km to the river Chenab, and 40 km to the river Ravi.

### Epidemiological Survey

An epidemiological survey was conducted to determine the prevalence of ticks and their association with the ecological (temperature, humidity, rainfall, etc.), host-related (sex, age, species, and breed), and environmental (housing, feeding, and hygienic conditions) factors. For this purpose, a multiple-choice type questionnaire was prepared as described by Thrusfield *et al.* (2018) with some modifications and refined through formal and informal testing. Ecological parameters were procured from the Metrological Department of Punjab, Pakistan for the study year.

To determine the tick prevalence in the study areas, simple random sampling was used. The size of the sample was calculated by taking an expected prevalence of 50% at a 95% confidence interval and a precision level of 5% by using the formula as described by Thrusfield *et al.* (2018). To this end, sampling was done on monthly basis in each study sub-divisions.

### Collection and Identification of Ticks

A total of 1536 animals, 384 from each livestock species (buffalo, cattle, sheep, goat), were screened. After restraining the animals, hair coats were examined carefully and systemically with hand to detect engorged ticks (Soulsby, 1982). Ticks were collected from the livestock population and their premises from the selected study areas. Hairs were clipped to clean the area around attachment and ticks were removed with the help of forceps. The forceps were placed on the mouthparts of the tick and removed gently with-

out exerting undue pressure to secure their body parts. Soon after collection, ticks were placed in the labeled Mc Cartney sample collection bottles with screw-capped lids and transported safely to the Molecular Parasitology Lab., Department of Parasitology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan for further processing. Identification of ticks was done under a stereomicroscope by using the keys of Walker *et al.* (2003).

### Statistical Analysis

Collected data regarding the prevalence of ticks and their association with age, breed, sex, species, ecological parameters, housing type, feeding system, and hygienic conditions were analyzed using multiple logistic regression and odds ratios. The data were statistically analyzed using the SAS software package (SAS, 2010).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Prevalence of tick species

Tick prevalence was recorded over one year (October 2018 to October 2019) in domestic animals of district Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan. Of the four domestic species *viz*: cattle, buffalo, sheep, and goat examined in this study; all were found infested with hard ticks. A high infestation rate was found in cattle (54%) followed in order by sheep (51%), buffaloes (50%), and goat (49%) as shown in Table 1. Tick infestation rates among the livestock species of different tehsils of the study district were found highest in tehsil Tandlianwala (66%) followed in descending order of abundance by Samundri, Jaranwala, Chak Jhumra, Faisalabad Saddar, and Faisalabad city (Table 1). The taxonomic identification of the collected specimens revealed the presence of *H. anatolicum*, (85%), *H. marginatum* (1.5%), *H. truncatum* (1.02%), and *R. microplus* (12%) as depicted in Plate 1. It is observed from the results that the tick prevalence varies among the livestock species which is not different from the reports published elsewhere (Gosh *et al.*, 2007; Sajid *et al.*, 2008; Dantas-Torres *et al.*, 2012; Ashraf *et al.*, 2013; Iqbal *et al.*, 2013; Alamet *et al.*, 2013; Ali *et al.*, 2013; OIE, 2014; Yun *et al.*, 2015; Shabbir *et al.*, 2016; Sajid *et al.*, 2017; Riaz *et al.*, 2019; Ramzan *et al.*, 2020; Hussain *et al.*, 2021; Shahid *et al.*, 2022).

The higher prevalence of ticks in cattle than buffalo might be due to the difference of thickness of their coat as it is thinner in the former and thicker in the latter. This might also be attributable to the preferen-

**Table. 1.** Prevalence of tick fauna in livestock population of district Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan.

Variables	Levels	Screened	Positive	Prevalence	CI 95%		Odds Ratio	P-Value
					Lower ratio	Upper ratio		
Species	Cattle	384	207	53.91	48.90	58.85	-	-
	Buffalo	384	193	50.26	45.27	55.25	-	-
	Goat	384	187	48.70	43.72	53.70	-	-
	Sheep	384	195	50.78	45.78	55.77	1.36	0.107
Tehsil (Cattle)	Chak Jhumra	79	38	48.10	37.25	59.09	-	-
	FSD City	46	19	41.30	27.82	55.86	-	-
	FSD Saddar	58	27	46.55	34.04	59.40	-	-
	Samundri	76	39	51.32	40.13	62.40	-	-
	Jaranwala	54	33	61.11	47.68	73.37	1.74	0.097
	Tandlianwala	71	51	71.83	60.56	81.35	-	-
Tehsil (Buffalo)	Chak Jhumra	68	31	45.59	34.06	57.49	-	-
	FSD City	51	20	39.22	26.59	53.04	-	-
	FSD Saddar	56	24	42.86	30.42	56.02	-	-
	Samundri	75	40	53.33	42.02	64.39	-	-
	Jaranwala	59	29	49.15	36.59	61.80	1.67	0.104
	Tandlianwala	75	49	65.33	54.07	75.44	-	-
Tehsil (Goat)	Chak Jhumra	79	35	44.30	33.65	55.37	-	-
	FSD City	48	15	31.25	19.38	45.32	-	-
	FSD Saddar	43	20	46.51	32.08	61.40	-	-
	Samundri	78	43	55.13	44.00	65.88	-	-
	Jaranwala	56	28	50.00	37.07	62.93	1.84	0.085
Tehsil (Sheep)	Chak Jhumra	71	35	49.30	37.81	60.84	-	-
	FSD City	47	19	40.43	27.17	54.83	-	-
	FSD Saddar	49	21	42.86	29.61	56.93	-	-
	Samundri	76	36	47.37	36.35	58.59	-	-
	Jaranwala	64	30	46.88	34.92	59.10	1.73	0.103
	Tandlianwala	77	54	70.13	59.23	79.54	1.11	0.403
Species	<i>H. annatolicum</i>	782	668	85.42	82.82	87.77	0.14	0.000
	<i>H. marginatum</i>	782	12	1.50	0.8	2.59	-	-
	<i>H. truncatum</i>	782	8	1.02	0.4	1.93	1.50	0.4
	<i>R. microplus</i>	782	94	12	9.88	14.44	-	-

tial habitats of cattle and buffalo i.e. drier and muddy, respectively (Sajid *et al.*, 2009). Besides this, genetic conformation might also play a significant impact on the tick infestation rates in various hosts (Jonsson *et al.*, 2014). Buffalo's immune system has shown high sensitivity against tick proteins compared to cattle (Benitez *et al.*, 2012). In small ruminants, only a handful of investigations is reported so far regarding tick infestation in Pakistan (Khan *et al.*, 2019; Sajid *et al.*, 2020; Hussain *et al.*, 2021). In the present study, insignificantly higher prevalence was reported in sheep (50.80%) than goat (48.70%); which is in agreement with the reports of Ramzan *et al.* (2018). Possible reasons for higher rates in sheep might be due to thinner skin (Tatchell, 1997), preferential habits of goats to be comparatively neater and cleaner (Pegram *et al.*,

2004), and protective wool in sheep which might enable the ticks to hide and feed efficiently (Tatchell, 1997).

Among the identified tick species, *H. anatolicum* was the most prevalent species (85.4%; 668/782) followed in order by *R. microplus*, *H. marginatum*, and *H. truncatum* (shown in Plate 1 which are not different from earlier findings (Sajid *et al.*, 2009; Irshad *et al.*, 2010; Ali *et al.*, 2013; Burger *et al.*, 2014; Mustafa *et al.*, 2014; Sultana *et al.*, 2015; Rehman *et al.*, 2017; Karim *et al.*, 2017; Sajid *et al.*, 2017; Ramzan *et al.*, 2020; Zaheer *et al.*, 2021). Variable reports are available on the distribution of various tick species e.g. Iqbal *et al.* (2013) reported 75.56% prevalence of *H. anatolicum* and 24.44% of *R. microplus*, Ghaffar *et al.*



(2020) reported 90.6% prevalence of *H. anatolicum* in different agro geo-climatic zones of Pakistan.

*Hyalomma anatolicum* is having three-host life cycle and infests small and large ruminants including buffalo, cattle, sheep and goat, camel, pig, and wild animals species (Gosh et al., 2008; Guan et al., 2009) and is widely distributed in Palearctic, Afrotropical and Oriental regions (Vantansever, 2017; Hansford et al., 2019). These tick species are adapted to diversified ecology and are related to the transmission of many important pathogens including bacterial, viral, and protozoal pathogens of veterinary and public health importance as comprehensively reviewed by Sajid et al. (2018). *Hyalomma anatolicum* is the main vector for CCHF transmission and Pakistan has faced several outbreaks of CCHF in the recent past (OIE, 2014; Atif et al., 2017; Rehman et al., 2019; Yaqub et al., 2019; Rizwan et al., 2019). *Hyalomma marginatum* is having two host lifecycle and is known as the Mediterranean hyalomma tick. It is a potential vector for CCHF and *Theileria annulate* (Gargili et al., 2017; Alan et al., 2019). *Hyalomma truncatum* is a medically important tick species transmitting CCHF in humans along with Rickettsia conorii, Dugbe virus, and Rift Valley fever virus (Nchu and Rind, 2013; Goddard, 2016; Deka, 2018). In the current study, *H. margin-*

*atum* and *H. truncatum* were found in low numbers (1.50%; 12/782 and 1.02%; 8/782 respectively) these findings are not different from the findings of previous studies (Karim et al., 2017; Ramzan et al., 2019).

The other prevalent species found in the current study was *R. microplus* (12%; 94/782) and these findings are consistent with the findings of previous studies (Sing and Rath, 2013; Karim et al., 2017; Ramzan et al., 2020). *Rhipicephalus microplus* is a one-host tick and known as a vector for economically important TBDs (babesiosis and anaplasmosis) of bovines (Ramzan et al., 2020). Sing and Rath (2013) reported *R. microplus* prevalence in India and described that this species prefers hot and humid climates. In Pakistan, *H. anatolicum* and *R. microplus* are the potent vectors for the transmission of babesiosis, anaplasmosis, and theileriosis in bovines (Ali et al., 2013; Jabbar et al., 2015).

### Age and gender-wise prevalence of ticks

Factors associated with the tick prevalence are divided into two categories i.e. intrinsic (age, gender, species) and extrinsic (housing, feeding type, farm structure, season, age, type of farming, and hygienic system) as reported earlier (Sajid et al., 2008, 2009, 2011, 2020; Iqbal et al., 2013). Animals of the study

**Table 2.** Age-wise and Gender wise prevalence of ticks in livestock population of district Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan.

Variables	Levels	Screened	Positive	Prevalence	CI 95%		Odds Ratio	P-Value
					Lower ratio	Upper ratio		
Gender (Cattle)	Female	251	149	59.36	53.20	65.32	-	-
	Male	133	58	43.61	35.36	52.13	1.23	0.276
Gender (Buffalo)	Female	258	138	53.49	47.38	59.52	-	-
	Male	126	55	43.65	35.18	52.41	1.34	0.115
Gender (Goat)	Female	211	116	54.98	48.22	61.60	-	-
	Male	173	71	41.04	33.89	48.49	1.32	0.14
Gender (Sheep)	Female	221	125	56.56	49.96	62.99	-	-
	Male	163	70	42.94	35.50	50.64	-	-
Age (Months) (Cattle)	0-6	77	32	41.56	30.96	52.78	1.48	0.113
	>6-12	174	107	61.49	54.10	68.51	-	-
	>12	133	68	51.13	42.65	59.55	-	-
Age (Months) (Buffalo)	0-6	79	30	37.97	27.79	49.02	1.5	0.103
	>6-12	163	93	57.06	49.36	64.50	-	-
	> 12	142	70	49.30	41.13	57.49	-	-
Age (Months) (Goat)	0-6	92	33	35.87	26.57	46.04	1.55	0.075
	>6-12	173	96	55.49	48.02	62.78	-	-
	> 12	119	58	48.74	39.84	57.70	-	-
Age (Months) (Sheep)	0-6	114	47	41.23	32.47	50.43	1.5	0.056
	>6-12	175	108	61.71	54.35	68.70	-	-
	> 12	95	40	42.11	32.49	52.20	-	-

area were divided into three categories based on age ranges i.e. 0-6 month (juvenile), >6-12 months (young stock), and > 1 year (adults). A higher infestation rate ( $P > 0.05$ ) was recorded in young stock (62% in sheep and 55% in goat) as compared to adults and juveniles (Table 2) which is in agreement with the earlier findings (Rony *et al.*, 2010; Kabir *et al.*, 2011; Tsai *et al.*, 2011; Sing and Rath, 2013; Mustafa *et al.*, 2014; Sajid *et al.*, 2017; Khalil *et al.*, 2018; Burrow *et al.*, 2019; Ghafar *et al.*, 2020; Zeb *et al.*, 2020; Shoaib *et al.*, 2021) and in contrast with findings of (Sajid *et al.*, 2009; Sherrard-Smith *et al.*, 2012; Anderson *et al.*, 2013; Rehman *et al.*, 2017). The lower tick prevalence in adults might be related to acquired immunity gained through repeated tick exposures, better management and care as compared to calves, and appropriate husbandry and attention in small dairy farming (Sing and Rath, 2013; Burrow *et al.*, 2019). Possible causes for the higher tick prevalence in younger animals include:

(a) development of lesser immune response due to lesser exposure (b) softer skin and tissues of younger animals are favorable for ticks due to easy penetration of the mouthparts (Kabir *et al.*, 2011; Singh and Rath, 2013; Khajuria *et al.*, 2015; Lew-Tabor *et al.*, 2017; Burrow *et al.*, 2019).

Among intrinsic factors, the higher prevalence was recorded in the females (59% in cattle and 56% in sheep) as compared to males. (Table 2). However, numerically, female animals were found more prone to tick infestation as compared to male and this is related to findings of various scientists (Kabir *et al.*, 2011; Iqbal *et al.*, 2013; Rehman *et al.*, 2017; Sajid *et al.*, 2017; Zeb *et al.*, 2020; Shahid *et al.*, 2022). However, our findings are not in accordance with the study of Atif *et al.* (2012) and Shoaib *et al.* (2021) they reported higher prevalence in male animals. Higher infestation in females may be due to stresses in female

**Table 3.** Association of seasons with tick prevalence in livestock population of district Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan.

Variables	Levels	Screened	Positive	Prevalence	CI 95%		Odds Ratio	P-Value
					Lower ratio	Upper ratio		
Season (Cattle)	Winter	75	21	28.00	18.73	38.94	-	-
	Spring	245	131	53.47	47.20	59.66	-	-
	Autumn	17	14	82.35	59.11	95.31	3.12	0.000
	Summer	47	41	87.23	75.33	94.66	-	-
Season (Buffalo)	Winter	78	25	32.05	22.42	42.99	-	-
	Spring	219	103	47.03	40.48	53.66	-	-
	Autumn	27	18	66.67	47.56	82.36	2.44	0.003
	Summer	60	47	78.33	66.60	87.38	-	-
Season (Goat)	Winter	98	29	29.59	21.19	39.18	-	-
	Spring	202	105	51.98	45.09	58.82	-	-
	Autumn	25	14	56.00	36.42	74.26	2.23	0.007
	Summer	59	39	66.10	53.37	77.29	-	-
Season (Sheep)	Winter	78	21	26.92	17.97	37.56	-	-
	Spring	215	116	53.95	47.26	60.54	-	-
	Autumn	19	11	57.89	35.37	78.17	2.42	0.004
	Summer	72	47	65.28	53.77	75.58	-	-
Months	November	251	47	18.73	14.26	23.91	-	-
	December	147	24	16.33	11.00	22.97	-	-
	January	135	21	15.56	10.16	22.42	-	-
	February	238	150	63.03	56.75	68.98	-	-
	March	290	206	71.03	65.61	76.04	-	-
	April	149	105	70.47	62.77	77.38	-	-
	May	41	32	78.05	63.52	88.73	4.82	0.001
	June	61	44	72.13	59.93	82.27	-	-
	July	47	37	78.72	65.34	88.66	-	-
	August	95	73	76.84	65.78	84.49	-	-
	September	54	33	61.11	47.68	73.37	-	-
	October	28	10	35.71	19.77	54.48	-	-

animals due to pregnancy, parturition, and milking which might lead to hormonal changes that lower the immune status and make them more prone to the infestation (Kabir *et al.*, 2011). It has been observed that the male animals are used for draught and sacrificial purposes in Indo-Pakistan and have gained more care and management i.e. grooming which prevents a wide range of ectoparasitic attacks including ticks (Sajid *et al.*, 2009; Kabir *et al.*, 2011).

### Ecological impact on the ticks and tick-borne diseases

Ecological changes are found to be an important factor affecting the epidemiology of vector-borne diseases. In the current study, ticks were available from the start of the summer season and a higher surge in prevalence was recorded during the mid-summer season from May to August while the lowest was in the winter season. Association of seasonal variation with tick infestation rate was also observed ( $P < 0.05$ ) in the study district and higher prevalence was reported in summer (69%) followed by autumn (40%), spring (28.28%), and winter (17.85%) as shown in Table 3; the findings are not different with those published elsewhere (Gosh *et al.*, 2007; Sajid *et al.*, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2017; Durrani and Shakoori, 2009; Roney *et al.*, 2010; Ali *et al.*, 2013; Iqbal *et al.*, 2013; Sultana *et al.*, 2015; Ali *et al.*, 2016; Rehman *et al.*, 2017; Zeb *et al.*, 2020; Shahid *et al.*, 2022).

The tick burden of an animal is related to breed, season, sex, nutrition, genotype, and ecological factors (Springell, 1974). Ecological factors including humidity, temperature, and rainfall are related to the rate of tick infestation in any area (Greenfield *et al.*, 2011) along with other factors like feeding and housing system (Sajid *et al.* 2009, 2011). Changes in tick abundance patterns and phenological differences are directly related to the change in temperature, relative humidity, local climate change, farm management, and breed (Gharbi *et al.*, 2013). Animals remained infested round the year with a higher prevalence rate in summer as reported by Durrani *et al.* (2008). The higher trend in summer is attributable to the suitable weather for reducing the generation time of the ticks and maximizing their fecundity (Jones *et al.*, 2017). Temperature change adversely affects the tick population. It is predicted that a 2°C increase in temperature affects the habitat of four ticks (Estrada-Pena *et al.*, 2012). Our findings are not different from those of Kabir *et al.* (2011) from Bangladesh who found 41.66% prevalence in summer compared to 31.5%

in winter. Monthly prevalence results are similar to those published elsewhere having a higher prevalence of ticks during June, July, and August and lower infestation rates during December and January. Atif *et al.* (2012) has also reported a higher prevalence of ticks from July to August in district Sargodha Punjab, Pakistan which is not different from our findings. Later, Mustafa *et al.* (2014) also reported a higher prevalence during summer as compared to winter in district Sargodha, Punjab, Pakistan. In Pakistan, the temperature during the summer season is more suitable for tick growth, reproduction, activity, and development. Hence, higher prevalence has been recorded by different researchers during summers (Sajid *et al.*, 2009, 2011, 2017; Sultana *et al.*, 2015; Karim *et al.*, 2017; Ramzan *et al.*, 2020; Zeb *et al.*, 2020; Shahid *et al.*, 2022).

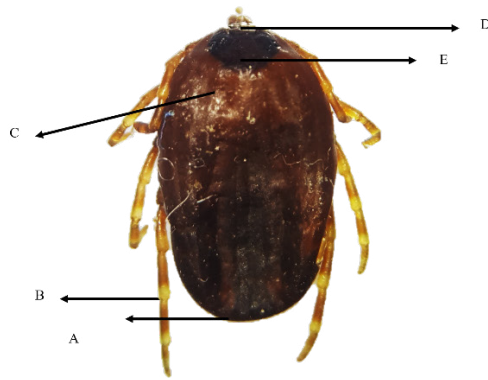
Climate change has a direct effect on tick abundance as the major variables i.e. temperature and rainfall pattern has a positive statistical association with the tick activity, propagation rate, and fecundity (Githeko *et al.*, 2000; Purse *et al.*, 2005; Yakhchali and Hosseini, 2006). Studies have confirmed the delayed tick activity with an increase in altitude and decrease in temperature (Daniel *et al.*, 2003). During past decades due to global warming, a higher tick infestation is reported at higher altitudes further elaborating the relationship between tick prevalence and temperature (Gray *et al.*, 2009; Gilbert, 2010; Rafiq *et al.*, 2017). Endemicity of the tick infestation might be due to the geographical changes and/or climatic conditions of the different study areas making acari able to maintain their survival where these were not prevalent earlier (Wikel, 2018).

Among other ecological factors, it has been observed that the humidity and rainfall patterns are having a direct relationship with the magnitude of ticks. The highest prevalence of ticks (78.72%) was observed during the summer season when rainfall and humidity levels are highest. The least abundance of ticks (15.56%) was observed in the winter season when rainfall and humidity levels were lowest (Fig. 2).

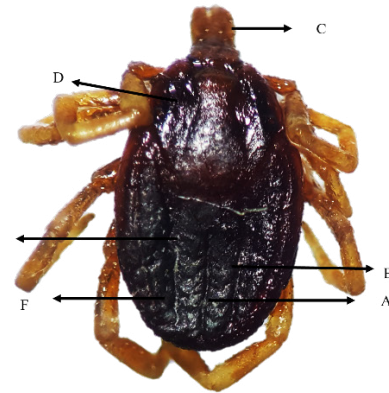
### Association of feeding and farming systems with a tick infestation

In the case of extrinsic factors, the feeding system has a significant effect ( $P = 0.05$ ) on tick prevalence. A higher prevalence was reported in the grazing animals (highest in sheep; 62.28%, and lowest in goats;

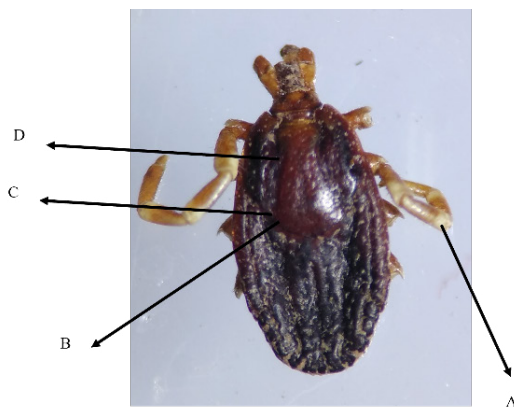




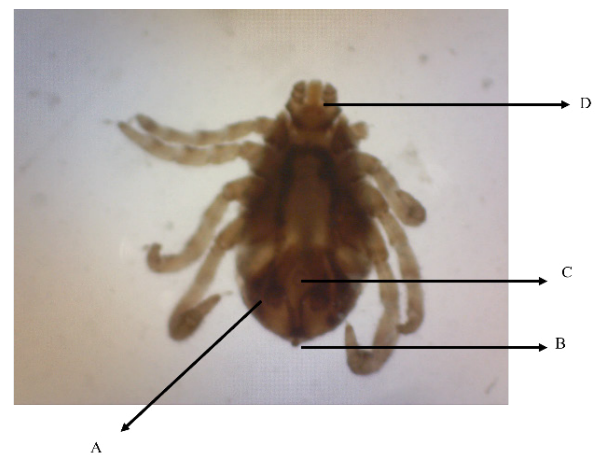
**Figure 2 Stereomicrograph of *Hyalomma anatolicum***  
A= Festoons are unclear, B= Pale rings, C= Shallow scapular grooves, D= long mouth parts, E= scutum id dark color



**Figure 3 Stereomicrograph of *Hyalomma marginatum*** A=Posteromedian groove, B= Long lateral grooves, C= Mouthpart, D= Apparent cervical field depression, E=Small Punctations size, F= Festoons

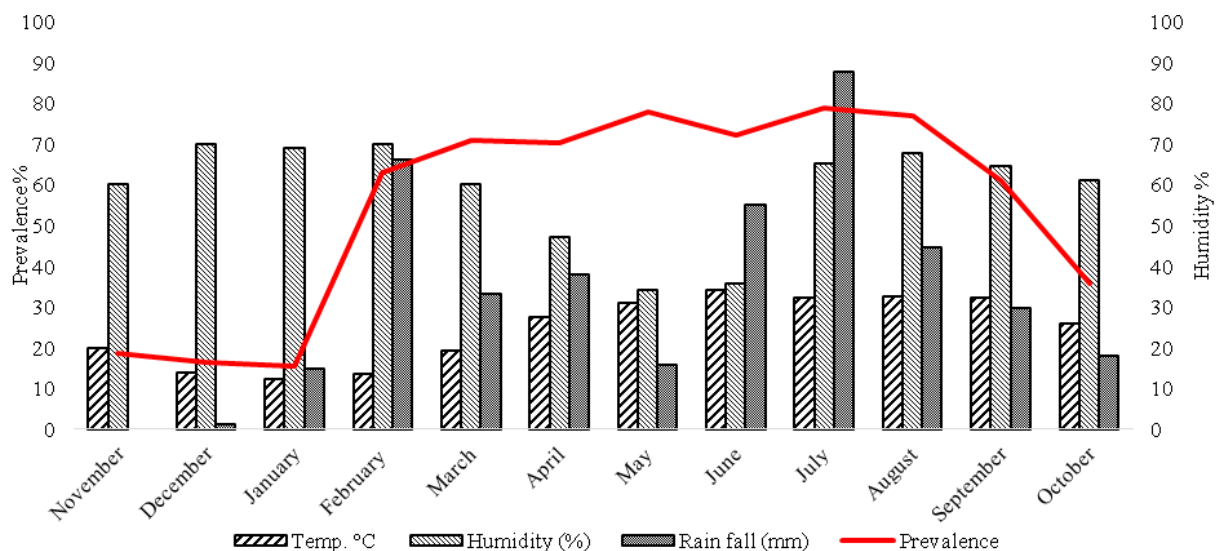


**Figure 4 Stereomicrograph of *Hyalomma truncatum***  
A=pale ring , B=Scutum posterior margin is distinctly sinuous, C=Punctuation size is small, D=Scapular grooves profile is steep



**Figure 5 Stereomicrograph of *Rhipicephalus microplus***  
A=Adenal plates , B=Caudal appendages, C=Ventral groove U shaped , D=short mouth parts

Plate 1. Stereomicrographs of identified tick species along with their identification points



**Figure 6** Association of ecological factors with tick infestation rate in livestock population of district Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan.

59.09%) followed in descending order by mixed feeding system (highest in cattle; 57.26%, and lowest in goats; 41.94%) and stall-feeding system (highest in sheep; 39.76%, and lowest in goats; 36.90%) as shown in Table 4. These findings are not different from the findings of Iqbal *et al.* (2013) who reported a higher prevalence in grazing animals from district Toba Tek Singh, Punjab, Pakistan. Sajid *et al.* (2017) reported a higher prevalence in grazing and mixed feeding systems compared to the stall-feeding system. Increased prevalence in the grazing system may be attributed to the higher probability of getting exposure to the questing ticks in grazing as compared to the stall-feeding animals (Ghosh *et al.*, 2007; Iqbal *et al.*, 2013; Rehman *et al.*, 2017; Zeb *et al.*, 2020).

A significant positive statistical association ( $P < 0.05$ ) was reported between the rate of tick infestation and the farming system. Animals were divided into two categories i.e. free-ranged and farmed and higher tick prevalence was reported in free-ranged animals (highest in cattle 62.11% and lowest in goat 56.43%)

followed by farmed (highest in cattle 42.04% and lowest in goat 35.66%) as described in Table 4. Free housed animals showed higher prevalence as compared to tethered animals during the current study which is not in correlation with the finding of Iqbal *et al.* (2013) they reported higher prevalence in tethered animals that may be due to the confinement of livestock population into a specific area by reducing the movement and increase the chance of tick prevalence, low immune response due to tethering stress faced by animals (Sajid *et al.*, 2009; Iqbal *et al.*, 2013). Animals kept in open housing system (free-ranged) showed higher prevalence in contrast to those in the closed housing system and these findings are in contrast with the finding of Iqbal *et al.* (2013) who found 52.27% prevalence in a closed housing system as compared to 13.64% in the open housing system. Rehman *et al.* (2017) also reported a higher prevalence in closed farming. This high prevalence in open farming may be due to lack of proper management, acaricidal application, and cleaning as compared to closed housing (Muhammad *et al.*, 2008).

**Table 4.** Association of feeding system and type of farming with a tick prevalence rate in livestock population of district Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan.

Variables	Levels	Screened	Positive	Prevalence	CI 95%		Odds Ratio	P-Value
					Lower ratio	Upper ratio		
Feeding System (Cattle)	Stall feeding	94	35	37.23	27.91	47.33	1.63	0.038
	Grazing	173	105	60.69	53.27	67.77	-	-
	Both	117	67	57.26	48.18	66.00	-	-
Feeding System (Buffalo)	Stall feeding	97	37	38.14	28.89	48.10	1.56	0.05
	Grazing	161	96	59.63	51.91	67.00	-	-
	Both	126	60	59.63	39.00	56.34	-	-
Feeding System (Goat)	Stall feeding	84	31	36.90	27.11	47.59	1.6	0.05
	Grazing	176	104	59.09	51.71	66.18	-	-
	Both	124	52	41.94	33.48	50.76	-	-
Feeding System (Sheep)	Stall feeding	83	33	39.76	29.67	50.56	1.57	0.05
	Grazing	167	104	62.28	54.74	69.39	-	-
	Both	134	58	43.28	35.08	51.77	-	-
Type of Farming (Cattle)	Farmed	157	66	42.04	34.50	49.87	1.48	0.03
	Free ranged	227	141	62.11	55.67	68.25	-	-
Type of Farming (Buffalo)	Farmed	146	54	36.99	29.44	45.04	1.58	0.018
	Free ranged	238	139	58.40	52.06	64.55	-	-
Type of Farming (Goat)	Farmed	143	51	35.66	28.13	43.77	1.58	0.017
	Free ranged	241	136	56.43	50.11	62.60	-	-
Type of Farming (Sheep)	Farmed	138	52	37.68	29.89	45.98	1.54	0.022
	Free ranged	246	143	58.13	51.89	64.18	-	-

**Table 5.** Association of farm structure and housing system with tick prevalence in livestock population of district Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan.

Variables	Levels	Screened	Positive	Prevalence	CI 95%		Odds Ratio	P-Value
					Lower ratio	Upper ratio		
Farm Structure (Cattle)	Cemented	87	32	36.78	27.16	47.27	1.6	0.036
	Uncemented	297	175	58.92	53.25	64.42	-	-
Farm Structure (Buffalo)	Cemented	73	25	34.25	24.06	45.66	1.63	0.05
	Uncemented	301	168	55.81	50.16	61.36	-	-
Farm Structure (Goat)	Cemented	68	21	30.88	20.78	45.28	1.7	0.043
	Uncemented	316	166	52.53	47.02	58.00	-	-
Farm Structure (Sheep)	Cemented	73	23	31.51	21.65	42.81	1.75	0.029
	Uncemented	311	171	54.98	49.42	60.45		
Housing System (Cattle)	Free	143	99	69.23	61.31	76.38	1.29	0.004
	Tethered	134	51	134	30.13	45.60	-	-
	Both	107	57	53.27	43.79	62.57	-	-
Housing System (Buffalo)	Free	174	101	58.05	50.61	65.22	1.5	0.05
	Tethered	119	46	38.66	30.23	47.63	-	-
	Both	91	46	50.55	40.34	60.72	-	-
Housing System (Goat)	Free	198	114	57.58	50.61	64.33	1.53	0.06
	Tethered	101	38	37.62	28.59	47.36	-	-
	Both	85	35	41.18	31.09	51.85	-	-
Housing System (Sheep)	Free	190	109	57.37	50.25	64.26	1.54	0.047
	Tethered	105	39	37.14	28.31	46.68	-	-
	Both	89	47	52.81	42.43	63.01	-	-

**Table 6.** Association of hygienic system with tick's prevalence in livestock population of district Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan.

Variables	Levels	Screened	Positive	Prevalence	CI 95%		Odds Ratio	P-Value
					Lower ratio	Upper ratio		
Hygienic System (Cattle)	Poor	174	114	65.52	58.22	72.30	1.62	0.05
	Good	136	63	46.32	38.06	54.74	-	-
	Excellent	74	30	40.54	29.82	51.99	-	-
Hygienic System (Buffalo)	Poor	221	127	57.47	50.87	63.87	1.87	0.043
	Good	111	50	45.05	35.98	54.37	-	-
	Excellent	52	16	30.77	19.40	44.23	-	-
Hygienic System (Goat)	Poor	204	120	58.82	51.97	65.43	1.83	0.016
	Good	99	41	41.41	32.03	51.30	-	-
	Excellent	81	26	32.10	22.63	42.83	-	-
Hygienic System (Sheep)	Poor	221	131	59.28	52.70	65.61	1.88	0.028
	Good	106	46	43.40	34.20	52.95	-	-
	Excellent	57	18	31.58	20.54	44.45	-	-

### Association of tick abundance with the farm structure and housing system

Based on the farm structure, animals were divided into two groups viz; (a) animals kept on the cemented floor and, (b) those kept on the uncemented floor. A higher tick infestation rate was observed in animals kept on the uncemented floor (58.92% in cattle, and

52.53% in goats) than in those kept on the cemented floor (36.78% in cattle, and 30.88% in goats). Statistically, a positive association ( $P < 0.05$ ) was found between the farm structure and tick infestation rate (Table 5) which is in agreement with the finding of Iqbal *et al.* (2013) and Rehman *et al.* (2017). Possible causes for higher prevalence of ticks in animals

reared on uncemented floors could be (a) favorable niches for the growth of disease vectors, (b) hygienic measures are compromised due to the cracks and slits in the floors, and (c) crevices and the dung-cake heaps provide the best oviposition and off-host nidicolous questing sites for the hard ticks (Muhammad *et al.*, 2008; Nicholson *et al.*, 2019).

### Hygienic system and tick abundance

The hygienic condition of animals was statistically associated ( $P < 0.05$ ) with tick prevalence. Associations of all the extrinsic factors with the frequency of ticks are shown in Table 6. The qualitative evaluation of the hygienic system was recorded in a semi-quantitative way by numbering from 1-10 (1-4 for poor, 5-8 for good, and 8-10 for excellent) keeping in view the variables like surface coat condition, grooming (Van der Waal *et al.* 2017). Irrespective of the host species, animals kept in poor hygienic conditions showed the highest prevalence of ticks (65.52% in cattle and 57.47% in buffalo) followed in descending order of abundance by those having good hygiene conditions (46.32% in cattle, and 41.41% in goats) and excellent hygiene conditions (40.54% in cattle, and 30.77% in buffalos). Possible reasons for the highest prevalence rate of the hard ticks in the animals reared in poor hygienic conditions may be the presence of dung masses and heaps which contribute towards the high-

er humidity levels due to the absence of sunlight and provide the best ecology for the vector population (Muhammad *et al.*, 2008). Animals that are reared in poor hygienic systems might not be undergone regular grooming or preventive therapeutic management which might have caused the highest abundance of ticks in these animals (Wikel, 2018).

### CONCLUSION

The study concludes that *H. anatolicum* is the most prevalent tick species followed in descending order of abundance by *R. microplus*, *H. marginatum*, and *H. turncatum* in the domestic ruminant population of district Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan. Age, the sex were the intrinsic factors, and season, feeding, housing, farming systems, farm structure, and hygienic measures were the extrinsic factors positively associated with the tick infestation rate in the study district.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Financial support of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) through the Agricultural Linkages Program (ALP) is acknowledged. Cooperation of the farming community during surveillance and collection of ticks is highly appreciated.

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.



## REFERENCES

- AktasM,Dumanli N, Angin, M (2004). Cattle infestation by *Hyalomma* ticks and prevalence of Theileria in *Hyalomma* species in the east of Turkey. *Vet Parasitol*119(1):1-8.
- AlamMM, Khurshid A, Sharif S, Shaukat S, Rana MS, Angez M, Zaidi SSZ (2013). Genetic analysis and epidemiology of Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever viruses in Baluchistan province of Pakistan. *BMC Infect Dis* 13(1):1-8.
- Ali S, Ijaz M, Durrani AZ, Maqbool A, Ali MM, Mehmood K (2016). Epidemiological Aspects of Bovine Tick Infestation in the River Ravi Region, Lahore. *Pak J Zool*48(2): 563-567.
- Ali Z, Maqbool A, Muhammad K, Khan M, Younis M (2013). Prevalence of *Theileriaannulata*infected hard ticks of cattle and buffalo in Punjab, Pakistan. *J AnimPlant Sci* 23 (1):20-26.
- Anderson K, Ezenwa VO, Jolles AE (2013). Tick infestation patterns in free-ranging African buffalo (*Synceruscaffer*): effects of host innate immunity and niche segregation among tick species. *Int J Parasitol-Parasit Wild*2(1):1-9.
- Ashraf QU, Khan AU, Khattak RM, Ali M, Shaikh RS, Iqbal F (2013). A report on the high prevalence of *Anaplasma* sp. in buffaloes from two provinces in Pakistan. *Ticks. Tick. Borne. Dis.*4(5):395-398.
- Atif FA, Khan MS, Iqbal HJ, Ali Z, Ullah S (2012). Prevalence of cattle tick infestation in three districts of the Punjab, Pakistan. *PakJ Sci* 64(1):49-54.
- Atif M, Saqib A, Ikram R, Sarwar MR, ScahillS (2017). The reasons why Pakistan might be at high risk of Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever epidemic; a scoping review of the literature. *Virol J*14(1):1-7.
- Benitez D,Cetrá B, Florin-Christensen M (2012). *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* ticks can complete their life-cycle on the water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*). *J Buffalo Sci* 1(2):193-197.
- Berman A (2011). Invited review: Are adaptations present to support dairy cattle productivity in warm climates? *J Dairy Sci* 94(5):2147-2158.
- Boorgula GD, Peterson AT, Foley DH, Ganta RR,Raghavan RK (2020). Assessing the current and future potential geographic distribution of the American dog tick, *Dermacentor variabilis* (Say)(Acari: Ixodidae) in North America. *PLoSOne*15(8): p.e0237191.
- Burger TD, Shao R, Barker SC (2014). Phylogenetic analysis of mitochondrial genome sequences indicates that the cattle tick *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* contains a cryptic species. *MolPhylogenetEvol*76(1):241-253.
- Chandra S, Ma GC, Burleigh A,Brown G, Norris JM, Ward MP,Emery D,Šlapeta J (2020). The brown dog tick *Rhipicephalus sanguineus-sensu* Roberts, 1965 across Australia: Morphological and molecular identification of *R. sanguineus* tropical lineage. *Ticks Tick Borne Dis* 11(1): p.101305.
- Daniel M, Danielova V, Kříž B, Jirsa A,Nožička J (2003). Shift of the tick *Ixodes ricinus* and tick-borne encephalitis to higher altitudes in central Europe. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Di.* 22(5):327-328.
- Dantas-Torres F,Chomel BB, Otranto D (2012). Ticks and tick-borne diseases: a One Health perspective. *Trend Parasitol* 28(10):437-446.
- de la Fuente J, Waterhouse RM,Sonenshine DE, Roe RM, Ribeiro JM, Sattelle DB, Hill CE (2016). Tick genome assembled: new opportunities for research on tick-host-pathogen interactions. *FrontCell Infect Microbiol*6(1):103.
- Deka, M.A., 2018. Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever geographic and environmental risk assessment in the Balkan and anatolian Peninsulas. *Papers in Applied Geography*, 4(1), pp.46-71.
- Durrani AZ,Shakoori AR (2009). Study on ecological growth conditions of cattle *Hyalomma* ticks in Punjab, Pakistan. *Iran J Parasitol* 4(1):19-25.
- Durrani AZ,Shakoori AR Kamal N (2008). Bionomics of *Hyalomma* ticks in three districts of Punjab, Pakistan. *Anim Poul Sci* 18(1):121-124.
- El-Ghali A, Hassan SM (2012). Ticks infesting animals in the Sudan and southern Sudan: past and current status: research communication. *Onderstepoort J Vet Res* 79(1):1-6.
- Estrada-Peña A, Ayllon N, de la Fuente J (2012). Impact of climate trend on tick-borne pathogen transmission. *Front Physiol*27(3):64.
- Farooqi SH, Ijaz M, Saleem MH, Rashid MI, Oneeb M, Khan A (2017). Distribution of ixodid tick species and associated risk factors in temporal zones of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan.*PakJ Zool* 49(6):2011-2017.
- Gargili A, Estrada-Peña A, Spengler JR, Lukashev A, Nuttall PA, Bente DA (2017). The role of ticks in the maintenance and transmission of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus: A review of published field and laboratory studies. *Antiviral Res* 144(1): 93-119.
- GhafariA, Cabezas-Cruz A, Galon C, Obregon D, Gasser RB, Moutailler S, Jabbar A (2020). Bovine ticks harbour a diverse array of microorganisms in Pakistan. *Parasite Vector*13(1):1-15.
- Gharbi M, Moussi N,Jedidi M,Mhadhbi M, Sassi L, Darghouth MA (2013). Population dynamics of ticks infesting the one-humped camel (*Camelus dromedarius*) in central Tunisia. *Ticks Tick Borne Dis* 4(6):488-491.
- Ghosh S, Bansal GC, Gupta SC, Ray D, Khan MQ, Irshad H, Shahiduz-zaman MD, Seitzer U, Ahmed JS (2007). Status of tick distribution in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. *Parasitol Res*101(2):207-216.
- Ghosh S, RayDD, Das G, Singh NK, Sharma JK, Azhahianambi P (2008). Progress in development of vaccine against *Hyalommaanatolicumanatolicum*—Indian scenario. *Vaccine* 26(1):40-47.
- Gilbert L (2010). Altitudinal patterns of tick and host abundance: a potential role for climate change in regulating tick-borne diseases? *Oecologia* 162(1):217-225.
- Githeko AK, Lindsay SW,Confalonieri UE, Patz JA (2000). Climate change and vector-borne diseases: a regional analysis. *Bull World-Health Organ* 78:1136-1147.
- Goddard J (2016). *Physician's guide to arthropods of medical importance*. CRC press.
- Gray JS, Dautel H, Estrada-Peña A, Kahl O, Lindgren E (2009). Effects of climate change on ticks and tick-borne diseases in Europe. *InterdiscipPerspect Infect Dis*2009(1):1-12.
- Greenfield BPJ (2011). Environmental parameters affecting tick (*Ixodes ricinus*) distribution during the summer season in Richmond Park, London. *Biosci Horizon* 4(2):140-148.
- Guan G, Ma M, Moreau E, Liu J, Lu B, Bai Q, LuoJ, Jorgensen W, Chauvin A, Yin H (2009). A new ovine *Babesia* species transmitted by *Hyalommaanatolicumanatolicum*. *Exp Parasitol*122(4):261-267.
- Hansford KM,Carter D, Gillingham EL,Hernandez-Triana LM,Chamberlain J,Cull B, McGinley L, Phipps LP,Medlock JM (2019). *Hyalommarufipes* on an untraveled horse: Is this the first evidence of *Hyalomma* nymphs successfully moulting in the United Kingdom. *Ticks Tick BorneDis*10(3):704-708.
- Hussain S, Hussain A, Rehman A, George D, Li J, Zeb J, Khan A,Sparagano O (2021). Spatio-temporal distribution of identified tick species from small and large ruminants of Pakistan. *Biologia*1-11.
- Irshad N, Qayyum M, Hussain M, Khan MQ (2010). Prevalence of tick infestation and theileriosis in sheep and goats. *Pak Vet J* 30(3):178-180.
- Jabbar A, Tariq A, Sindhu ZU, Hafiz AS,Muhammad FQ, Robin BG (2015). Tick-borne diseases of bovines in Pakistan: Major scope for future research and improved control. *ParasitVectors* 8(1):283-287.
- Jongejan F, Berger L, Busser S, Deetman I, Jochems M, Leenders T,De Sitter B, Van der Steen F, Wentzel J,Stoltz H (2020). *Amblyommahebraeum* is the predominant tick species on goats in the Mnisi Community Area of Mpumalanga Province South Africa and is co-infected with *Ehrlichiaaruminantium* and *Rickettsia africae*. *Parasites Vector*13(1):1-12.
- Jonsson NN, Piper EK, Constantinoiu CC (2014). Host resistance in cattle to infestation with the cattle tick *Rhipicephalus microplus*. *ParasiteImmunol*36(11):553-559.
- Kabir MHB, Mondal MMH, Eliyas M, Mannan MA, Hashem MA,Debnath NC, Miaz OF, Kashem MA, Islam MR, Elahi MF (2011). An epidemiological survey on investigation of tick infestation in cattle at Chittagong District, Bangladesh. *Afr J Microbiol Res*5(4):346-352.
- Kamran K (2021). Ticks Prevalence and Possible Risk Factors Assessment on Domestic Dogs in Quetta District Balochistan, Pakistan. *EgyptJ Vet Sci* 52(1):87-94.
- Kamran K, Ali A, Villagra C, Siddiqui S, Alouffi AS, Iqbal A (2021). A



- cross-sectional study of hard ticks (acari: ixodidae) on horse farms to assess the risk factors associated with tick-borne diseases. *Zoon Public Health* 68(3): 247-262.
- Karim S, Budachetri K, Mukherjee N, Williams J, Kausar A, Hassan MJ, Adamson S, Dowd SE, Apanskevich D, Ario A, Sindhu ZU (2017). A study of ticks and tick-borne livestock pathogens in Pakistan. *PLoS Neg Trop Dis* 11(6):p.e.0005681.
- Khajuria V, Godara R, Yadav A, Katoch R (2015). Prevalence of ixodid ticks in dairy animals of Jammu region. *J Parasit Dis* 39(3):418-421.
- Khalil MI, Lashari MH, Akhtar MS (2018). Prevalence of ticks infesting buffaloes in and around Jampur district Ranjanpur, Pakistan. *FUUAST J Biol* 8(2):327-330.
- Khan A, Nasreen N, Niaz S, Sajjad Ali Shah S, Mitchell III RD, Ayaz S, Naeem H, Khan L, De León AP (2019). Tick burden and tick species prevalence in small ruminants of different agencies of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Pakistan. *Int J Acarol* 45(6-7): 374-380.
- Kifle T, Mathewos M, Fesseha H, Abate A, Wolde A (2021). Study on prevalence of ixodid ticks of goats and acaricide utilization practices of herd owners in Benatsemay District, South Omo Zone, South-Western Ethiopia. *Vet Med: Res Rep* 12(1): 225.
- Monfared AL, Mahmoodi M, Fattahi R (2015). Prevalence of *Ixodid* ticks on cattle, sheep and goats in Ilam county, Ilam province, Iran *J Parasit Dis* 39(1):37-40.
- Muhammad G, Naureen A, Firyal S, Saqib M (2008). Tick control strategies in dairy production medicine. *Pak Vet* 28(1):43-48.
- Mustafa I, Shabbir RMK, Subhani M, Ahmad I, Aleem R, Jamil S, Muqaddas H, Shabbir RG, Ghani A, Mahmood T, Aslam A (2014). Seasonal activity of tick infestation in goats and buffalo of Punjab province (district Sargodha), Pakistan. *Kafkas Univ Vet Fak Derg* 20(5):655-662.
- Mysterud A, Stigum VM, Seland IV, Herland A, Easterday WR, Jore S, Østerås O, Viljugrein H (2018). Tick abundance, pathogen prevalence, and disease incidence in two contrasting regions at the northern distribution range of Europe. *Parasite Vector* 11(1): 1-11.
- Nchu F, Rand A (2013). Rift Valley fever outbreaks: possible implication of *Hyalomma truncatum* (Acari: Ixodidae).
- Nicholson WL, Sonenshine DE, Noden BH, Brown RN (2019). Ticks (Ixodida). In *Medical and veterinary entomology* (pp. 603-672). Academic Press.
- OIE (2014) Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Manual. 1-8.
- Pegram RG, Tatchell RJ, De Castro JJ, Chizyuka HGB, Creek MJ, McCosker PJ, Moran MC, Nigarura G (1993). Tick control: new concepts. *World Anim Rev* 74(75): 2-11.
- Purse BV, Mellor PS, Rogers DJ, Samuel AR, Mertens PP, Baylis M (2005). Climate change and the recent emergence of bluetongue in Europe. *Nat. Rev. Microbiol.* 3(2):171-181.
- Rafiq N, Kakar A, Ghani A, Iqbal A, Achakzai WM, Sadozai S, Mengal MA (2017). Ixodid Ticks (Arachnida: Acari) Prevalence Associated with Risk Factors in the Bovine Host in District Quetta, Balochistan. *Pak J Zool* 49(6):2113-2121.
- Ramzan M, Unsar NU, Syed HMB, Ghulam M, Alamgir AK (2018). Knowledge, attitude, and practices of herdsman about ticks and tick-borne diseases in district Multan. *Pakistan. Entomol* 40(1):13-18.
- Ramzan M, Ullah UN, Abbas H, Adnan M, Rasheed Z, Khan S (2019). Diversity of hard ticks in goats and sheep in Multan, Punjab, Pakistan. *Int J Agric Biol Res* 35(1):7-9.
- Ramzan M, Ullah NU, Saba S, Iqbal N, Saeed S (2020). Prevalence and identification of tick species (Ixodidae) on domestic animals in district Multan, Punjab Pakistan. *Int J Acarol* 46(2):83-87.
- Rehman A, Nijhof AM, Sauter-Louis C, Schauer B, Staubach C, Conraths FJ (2017). Distribution of ticks infesting ruminants and risk factors associated with high tick prevalence in livestock farms in the semi-arid and arid agroecological zones of Pakistan. *Parasite Vector* 10(1):190-195.
- Rehman A, Conraths FJ, Sauter-Louis C, Krücken J, Nijhof AM (2019). Epidemiology of tick-borne pathogens in the semi-arid and the arid agro-ecological zones of Punjab province, Pakistan. *Trans Bound Emerg Dis* 66(1):526-536.
- Rizwan HM, Sajid MS, Abbas H, Qamar F, Akram Q, Maqbool M (2019). Epidemiology and Control of Congo Fever in Sacrificial Animals of Pakistan. *Vet Sci Res* 1(2):18-24.
- Rony SA, Mondal MMH, Begum N, Islam MA, Afroze S (2010). Epidemiology of ectoparasitic infestations in cattle at Bhawal forest area, Gazipur. *Bang J Vet Med* 8(1):27-33.
- Sajid MS, Kausar A, Iqbal A, Abbas H, Iqbal Z, Jones MK (2018). An insight into the ecobiology, vector significance, and control of *Hyalomma* ticks (Acari: Ixodidae): A review. *Acta Tropica*, 187(1): 229-239.
- Sajid MS, Iqbal Z, Shamim A, Siddique RM, Hassan MJU, Rizwan HM (2017). Distribution and abundance of ticks infesting livestock population along Karakorum highway from Mansehra to Gilgit, Pakistan. *J Hellenic Vet Soc* 68(1):51-58.
- Sajid MS, Iqbal Z, Khan MN, Muhammad G (2008). Point prevalence of hard ticks (Ixodids) infesting domestic ruminants of lower Punjab, Pakistan. *Int J Agric Biol* 10(3):349-351.
- Sajid MS, Iqbal Z, Khan MN, Muhammad G, Iqbal MU (2007). Effect of *Hyalomma* ticks (Acari: Ixodidae) on milk production of dairy buffaloes (*Bos Bubalus Bubalis*) of Punjab (Pakistan). *Ital J Anim Sci* 6(2):939-941.
- Sajid MS, Iqbal Z, Khan MN, G. Muhammad G, Khan MK (2009). Prevalence and associated risk factors for bovine tick infestation in two districts of lower Punjab, Pakistan. *Prev Vet Med* 92(4):386-391.
- Sajid MS, Iqbal Z, Khan MN, Muhammad G, Needham G, Khan MK (2011). Prevalence, associated determinants, and in vivo chemotherapeutic control of hard ticks (Acari: Ixodidae) infesting domestic goats (*Capra hircus*) of lower Punjab, Pakistan. *Parasitol Res* 108(3):601-609.
- Sajid MS, Rizwan HM, Khan MK, Qudoos A, Atif FA, Malik MA, Maqbool M (2020). Association of herd management with the infestation of ticks in domestic goats. *J Hell Vet Med Soc* 71(3):2283-2290.
- Sayin F, Karaer Z, Dincer S, Cakmak A, Inci A, Yukari BA, Eren H, Vatansever Z, S. Nalbantoglu S, Melrose TR (2003). A comparison of susceptibilities to infection of four species of *Hyalomma* ticks with *Theileria annulata*. *Vet Parasitol* 113(2):115-121.
- Shabbir MZ, Akram S, Hassan ZU, Hanif K, Rabbani M, Muhammad J, Chaudhary MH, Abbas T, Ghori MT, Rashid HM, Jamil T (2016). Evidence of *Coxiella burnetii* in Punjab province, Pakistan. *Acta Tropica* 163(1):61-69.
- Shahid S, Razzaq A, Makai G, Shamim A, Rizwan HM, Nisar RHA, Akram Q, Nawaz M (2022). Prevalence and association of hard ticks (ixodidae) with various breeds of sheep and goats. *J Anim Health Prod* 10(1):10-15.
- Sherrard-Smith E, Chadwick E, Cable J (2012). Abiotic and biotic factors associated with tick population dynamics on a mammalian host: *Ixodes hexagonus* infesting otters, *Lutra lutra*. *PLoS One* 7(10):47131.
- Shoaib M, Rashid I, Akbar H, Sheikh AA, Farooqi SH, Asif M, Khan MA, Mahmood S, Khan FA (2021). Prevalence of *Rhipicephalus* and *Hyalomma* Ticks in Cattle and Associated Risk Factors in Three Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. *Pak J Zool* 53(2):777.
- Singh NK, Rath SS (2013). Epidemiology of ixodid ticks in cattle population of various agro-climatic zones of Punjab. *Asian Pac J Trop Med* 6(12):947-951.
- Soulsby EJJ (1982). Helminths, Arthropods, and Protozoa of Domesticated Animals. 7th Ed, Bailliere Tindall, London, UK. 408p.
- Springell PH (1974). The cattle tick about animal production in Australia. *World Anim Rev* 10(1):19-23.
- Sultana N, Shamim A, Awan M, Ali U, Hassan M, Siddique R (2015). First pilot study on the prevalence of tick infestation in livestock of Tehsil Hajira, Rawalakot, Azad Kashmir. *Adv Anim Vet Sci* 3(8):430-434.
- Taye DR, Assefa K, Hika W (2015). Prevalence of major ectoparasites of calves and associated risk factors in and around Bishoftu town. *African J Agric Res* 10(10):1127-35.
- Tatchell RJ. Sheep and goat tick management. *Parassitologia*. 1997 Jun;39(2):157-60. PMID: 9530702.
- Thamm S, Kalko EKW, Wells K (2009). Ectoparasite infestations of hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) are associated with small-scale landscape structures in an urban-suburban environment. *Eco-Health* 6(3):404-13.
- Thrusfield M, Christley R, Brown H, Diggle PJ, French N, Howe K, Kelly L, Connor A, J. Sergeant J, Wood H (2018). Veterinary Epidemiology. John Wiley and Sons. University of Edinburgh. UK. 205 p.

- Tsai YL, Chomel BB, Chang CC, Kass PH, Conrad PA, Chuang ST (2011). *Bartonella* and *Babesia* infections in cattle and their ticks in Taiwan. *Comp. Immunol. Microbiol Infect Dis* 34(2):179-187.
- Ullah N, Akhtar R, Lateef M, Jan SU, Zahid B, Durrani UF (2019). Factors affecting the prevalence of ticks in cattle and acaricidal activity of *Nicotiana tabacum* extracts. *J Hellen Vet Med Soc* 70(1): 1381-1386.
- Vatansever Z (2017) *Hyalomma rufipes* Koch, 1844 (Figs. 142-144). In *Ticks of Europe and North Africa* (pp. 355-359). Springer, Cham.
- Walker AR, Bouattour A, Camicas JL, Estrada Pena A, Horak IG, Latif AA, Pegram RG, Preston PM (2003). Ticks of domestic animals in Africa: A guide to the identification of species. Bioscience Report, Edinburgh Scotland, UK. 140 p.
- Wikel SK (2018). Ticks and tick-borne infections: complex ecology, agents, and host interactions. *Vet Sci* 5(2):60.
- Yakhchali M, Hosseini A (2006). Prevalence and ectoparasites fauna of sheep and goats flocks in Urmia suburb, Iran. *Vet Arh* 76(5):431-442.
- Yaqub T, Oneeb M, Mukhtar N, Tahir Z, Shahid F, Subhan S, Salman M (2019). Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever: Case study analysis of a sporadic outbreak from Chakwal, Pakistan. *Zoonoses Public Health* 66(7):871-873.
- Yun Y, Heo ST, Kim G, Hewson R, Kim H, Park D, Cho NH, Oh WS, Ryu SY, Kwon KT, Medlock JM (2015). Phylogenetic analysis of severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome virus in South Korea and migratory bird routes between China, South Korea, and Japan. *Am J Trop Med Hyg* 93(3):468-474.
- Zaheer T, Imran M, Pal K, Sajid MS, Abbas RZ, Aqib AI, Hanif MA, Khan SR, Khan MK, ur Rahman, S (2021). Synthesis, characterization, and acaricidal activity of green-mediated ZnO nanoparticles against *Hyalomma* ticks. *J Mol Struct* 1227: 129652.
- Zeb J, Shams S, Ayaz S, Din IU, Khan A, Adil N, Ullah H, Raza A (2020). Epidemiology of ticks and molecular characterization of *Rhipicephalus microplus* in cattle population in North-Western Pakistan. *Int J Acarol* 46(5): 335-343.