

THE INFLUENCE OF OTHER DISEASE- INDUCING AGENTS ON THE SEVERITY OF DERMATOPHILOSIS (STREPTOTRICHOSIS) IN CATTLE

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ABSTRACT

This study was designed to assess the influence of disease-inducing agents other than *Dermatophilus congolensis* on the severity of bovine dermatophilosis. Skin scrapings collected from cattle with dermatophilosis lesions were examined for the presence of bacteria, fungi and ectoparasites. Out of the twenty animals examined, *Dermatophilus congolensis* (*D.congolensis*) was successfully cultured from eight cases. Other bacteria isolates included *Staphylococcus aureus* (9 isolates), *Staphylococcus albus* (6 cases), *Bacillus mycoides* (5 Isolates), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (4 Isolates), *Flavobacterium spp* (1 case), *Escherichia coli* (1 case) and *Bacillus cereus* (1 case). Ticks were seen in all the animals while *Demodex* and *Sarcoptes* mites were seen in four cases each. It was inferred that the presence of *Staphylococcus aureus* and mange mites in the lesions may be responsible for the aggravation of the infection; and the presence of ticks may serve as the portal of entry for the infective agent(s) as well as its subsequent immune suppression on the host. The control of dermatophilosis should take into account of arthropod vectors and secondary bacteria complication.

KEY WORDS: Dermatophilosis, *Dermatophilus congolensis*, other disease agents, cattle