THE INCIDENCE OF BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS AMONG THE SWAZI
NATION LAND CATTLE

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ABSTRACT
A total of 2324 blood samples were collected during the period from
January, 1996 to October, 1996. The blood was collected
from the coccygeal vein using vacc-u-test blood collecting set on adult cows
selected at random from 38 diptank areas in the Swazi Nation Land (SNL)
of Hhohho, Manzini, Lubombo and Shiselweni regions of Swaziland.
Serum collected from each of these samples was subjected to Rose Bengal
Plate Agglutination Test (RBPT) and Serum Agglutination Test (SAT). Fifty-
seven samples reacted positive to both RBPT and SAT. The SAT gave
titres ranging from 53 to 212 International Units per milliliter (IU/ml).
Seventy-nine percent (%) of the positive samples had a titre of 212 IU/ml.
This is the highest possible titre indicating active Brucella abortus
infection. The overall incidence rate of bovine brucellosis among the SNL
cattle of Swaziland was 2.45%. The regional incidence rates were 4.12 %,
3.10%, 0.6% and 0.44% for Manzini, Lubombo, Shiselweni and Hhohho
respectively. These incidence rates for Swaziland and its regions were low
enough for a test and slaughter control campaign to be mounted to control
the disease.

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