**RESULTS**

A total of 510 ticks were collected from the 30 cattle inspected. The ticks belonged to four (4) distinct species: *A. variegatum* (189), *H. impressum* (229), *B. geigyi* (83) and *R. sangiuneus* (9). The number of ticks collected across the predilection sites is presented in Table 1. The highest collections were made from the belle (99) and the least from the shoulders (63). Overall, 24 cattle were affected in at least one predilection area of their body, resulting in a prevalence of 80%. Furthermore, *A. variegatum* was the most prevalent tick species (80%) followed by *H. impressum* (70%), as shown in Figure 1.

Interestingly, all of the infected cattle had multiple infestations from different tick species (Table 2). 13.3% of cattle surveyed had all 4 species of ticks’ infestation and 63.3% of cattle had at least three (3) distinct species of ticks parasitizing them. Also, all 24 infected cattle were infested with *A. variegatum*. Additionally, 21 cattle had *H. impressum* infestations, while *Boophilus geigyi* and *R. sanguineus* were found on 18 and 8 cattle, respectively.

**Table 1**: Ticks collected from the six predilection sites of cattle at trade market, Edo state.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Predilection site | *A. Variegatum* | *H. impressum* | *B. geigyi* | *R. sangiuneus* | Total |
| Belly | 41 | 35 | 20 | 3 | 99 |
| Head | 24 | 51 | 9 | 4 | 88 |
| Leg | 48 | 30 | 13 | 0 | 91 |
| Neck | 29 | 46 | 6 | 1 | 82 |
| Shoulder | 21 | 31 | 10 | 1 | 63 |
| Tail | 26 | 36 | 25 | 0 | 87 |

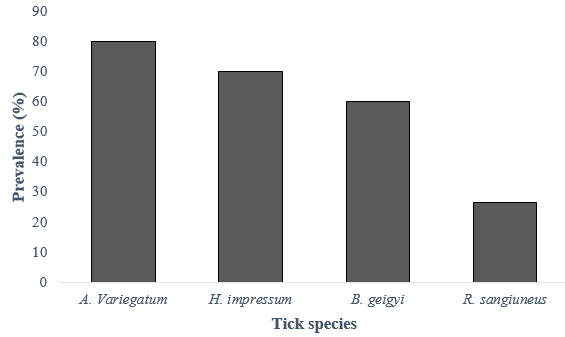


Figure 1: Overall prevalence of ticks on from each cattle at trade market, Edo state.

Table 2: Single and multiple tick infestations in the cattle.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Number of Tick Species | Number of cattle infested | Prevalence (%) |
| 1(single) | 0 | 0 |
| 2 (Double) | 5 | 16.7 |
| 3 (triple) | 15 | 50 |
| 4(Quadruple) | 4 | 13.3 |

Table 3: Number of cattle and their respective number of distinct tick species infestation

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number of Tick species | Number of Cattle (n=30) | | | | | |
| Belly | Head | Neck | Shoulder | Leg | Tail |
| 0 (None) | 7 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 0 | 8 |
| 1(single) | 6 | 7 | 11 | 11 | 7 | 6 |
| 2 (Double) | 14 | 13 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 11 |
| 3 (triple) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 5 |
| 4 (Quadruple) | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |