



Distribution of hard ticks in northern Iran

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Ticks are external parasites that can be vectors of several diseases agents. A survey was carried out to determine distribution and fauna of hard tick species parasitizing domestic ruminants in Maraveh Tapeh County, Golestan Province in spring 2016. In 10 selected villages in study area, About 29 cattle, 99 sheep, 62 goats and 11 camels were inspected for tick infestation. Separated ticks were preserved in 70% alcohol and were identified. Rhipicephalus) and twelve hard tick species were identified including: *Hyalomma anatolicum*, *Hy. scupense*, *Hy. Aegyptium*, *Hy. marginatum*, *Hy. dromedarii*, *Hy. rufipes*, *Hy. asiaticum*, *Hy. excavatum*, *Hy. detritum*, *Rhipicephalus turaicus*, *R. bursa* and *R. sanguineus*. *R. sanguineus* was the most abundant species in the study area. *Hy. scupense* was the most abundant tick in both plateau and foothill areas, as well as *R. sanguineus* in the forest areas. *Hy. anatolicum*, *Hy. scupense* and *Hy. asiaticum* collected on all hosts. Considering the identification of the most important species of Hard Ticks in the Maraveh Tappeh County, it is necessary to must be taken necessary measures to prevention of ruminants' contamination to ticks.

Keywords : hard Ticks, Domestic ruminants, Maraveh Tapeh