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Use of homeopathic products against cattle tick *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus*

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Abstract
The impact of cattle tick, *Rhipicephalus microplus* infestations in cattle farming is well known today. The importance of strengthening research related to the application of homeopathic products with homeopathic principles in animal production is very high. Nowadays, homeopathic medicines are being applied to cattle in different zones of India for different types of diseases and effect of the homeopathic medicines is showing very good result. We have worked in the tick infestation in cattle from last 17 years by applying the combination of homeopathic medicines and got excellent results. The combination of homeopathic products (Merc. Sol. 200C, Petroleum 200C and Sulpher 200C) and (Psorinum 200C, Mezereum 200C and Agaricus 200C) were administered orally at the rate of 10 drops once in a day in the morning and evening respectively for 20 days to the tick infested cattle. After 20 days, the same combination was applied for another 20 days for 2-3 more occasions where significant results were not achieved. This data shows that homeopathic medicineis effective in treating the cattle tick. Here, we have done the research of 16 cattle cases having 80% success rate within 40 days of homeopathy medicine application. In this paper, this work aimed at assessing the efficacy of the veterinary homeopathic therapy to control of *Rhipicephalus microplus* ticks in cattle.

Keywords: Cattle tick, homeopathic products, high dilution

Introduction
In the scientific community and veterinary practices, the use of homeopathy in food and milk producing animals are highly controversial. The use of Homeopathic medicines in animal has been lectured by Dr. Samuel Hahnemann in 1813 at Leipzig. He emphasized that the principles of using homeopathy medicines in animals could follow the similar principles applied to human beings and there is also evidence that homeopathic remedies are widely used and promoted for treating animals instead of the chemically synthesized medicines (Sabariranjan and Balachandar, 2022) [8]. For organic and potential agriculture, the use of homeopathy is ever promoted. According to the European commission EC No. 88/9/2008, Article 24[2] (European Commission, 2008) on organic agriculture, homeopathic products should be used in preference to veterinary treatment, provided that the resultant therapy is effective for the species of animal and the condition for which the treatment intended. It was reported that the homeopathic formulation was composed of Staphysagria 3DH, Cina 6CH, Sulpher 6CH and autoisotherapic of tick 30CH (Nadar *et al*., 2020) [7]. In the three farms, animals infested with tick were divided into three control groups and three treated groups using the homeopathic drug products EndectoSigo (Psorinum12CH, Sulpher 12 CH, Ledum palustre 12CH, Cina12CH and Apis mel. 7CH) at a dose of 10g/animal/day added to mineral and/or food supplement (Lucas *et al*., 2022) [9].
It is already established that populations of cattle ticks, *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* (Canestrini, 1987) in all inter tropical regions is one of the main obstacles to profit ability of livestock (Higa *et al*., 2016) [5]. In Brazil, this tick is responsible for estimated yearly losses of US$ 3.24 billion (Grisi *et al*., 2014) [3]. Besides causing these direct damages to production of milk and meat due to blood spoliation, it also reduces the value of leather because of hide changes. These ticks also transmit hemoprotozoan diseases like bovine babesiosisand anoplasmosisetc. which may cause high mortality (Guerrero *et al*., 2014) [4]. The homeopathic medicine was ineffective to control *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* although the inclusion of agro-ecological practices might enhance its effect of homeopathy in controlling tick infestations (Amanda *et al*., 2018) [1].

Materials and Methods

i. Location and the condition of the cattle farmers groups

The treatment of tick infested cattle with the farmers group was selected from the following areas:

a) The treatment was conducted for 12 month (from July, 2022 to June, 2023)
b) All the animals are in the 3 blocks,viz. Habra-I, and Gaighata in 24 Pgs (North) and Nadia in West Bengal, India.
c) Sixteen (16) tick infested cattle were treated in the 3 blocks. The infested number of cattle was 5 in Habra-I, 7 in Gaighata blocks and 4 in Nadia.

ii. Homeopathic medicines formulationand its administrations

The compounds of the homeopathic medicines as combination-1 and combination-2 were formulated by a specialist homeopathic doctor in the clinic. The combination-1 was formulated by Sulpher 200, Merc. Sol. 200, Petrolium 200 potency in centesimal scale and the combination-2 formulated by Psorium 200, Mezereum 200 and Agaricus 200 potency in centesimal scale. The protentized single medicine was used to make it compound. A volume of compound homeopathic formulations were applied orally at the rate of 10 drops once in a day in the morning to tick infested animal with 20 days intervals for three occasions. The combination-1 & 2 were applied orally at the rate of 10 drops in the morning and evening respectively for 20 days continuously. After 20 days, the same combination was applied for another20 days for 2-3 more occasions where significant results were not achieved. This procedure was employed successfully by a specialized veterinary doctor. The medicine was chosen after a visit by same doctors in homeopathic clinic.

Results

There were significant results in the treated animal with the two homeopathy compounds used with respect to the characteristics of infested cattle.

Table 1: Characteristics of tick infested cattle in different blocks

Sl. No.	Blocks	Local Name	Breed	Status		Age (year or month)	Weight (kg.)
				Pregnancy (months)	Lactation		
01	Habra-I	Telu	Cross	7	4th	7	200
02		Lalgai	Cross	No	1st	3.5	200
03		Lal	Cross	No	3rd	3.5	230
04		Singh lomba	Cross	3	3rd	6	200
05		Naramundi	Cross	Pregnancy	4th	7	250
06	Nadia	Kalo	Holstein	No		2	200
07		Sada chap	Holstein	No	2nd	4	250
08		Kalo	Cross	No	3rd	4	150
09		Lal bokna	Cross	No		2.5	200
10	Gaighata	Shymla	Jersey	8	1st	3	200
11		Sada	Cross Jersey	3	2nd	4	200
12		Lal	Jersey	8	3rd	8	300
13		Kalo	Jersey	9	5th	8	250
14		Kalo sada	Holstein	No		9 months	110
15		Kalo gai	Jersey	No		3	200
16		Lal gai	Jersey	No		2	200

Table 2: Status of the treatment of infested cattle tick in different blocks

Sl. No.	Blocks	Medicine applied	Rate of dose	At 20th day after 1st dose	At 20th day after 2nd dose	Final results
01	Habra-I	Combination-1 & 2	10 drops orally	60% improved	Symptoms reduced	Apps. 80% success
02		Combination-1 & 2		60% improved	Symptoms reduced	Apps. 80% success
03		Combination-1 & 2		60% improved	Symptoms reduced	Apps. 80% success
04		Combination-1 & 2		60% improved	Symptoms reduced	Apps. 80% success
05		Combination-1 & 2		60% improved	Symptoms reduced	Apps. 80% success
06	Nadia	Combination-1 & 2		Cured	Cured	Fully cured
07		Combination-1 & 2		Partially improved	Cured	Cured
08		Combination-1 & 2		Partially improved	Cured	Cured
09		Combination-1 & 2		Cured	Not cured	Not cured
10	Gaighata	Combination-1 & 2		Cured	Cured	Cured
11		Combination-1 & 2		Cured	Cured	Cured
12		Combination-1 & 2		Partially improved	Cured	Cured
13		Combination-1 & 2		Not improved	Cured	Not cured
14		Combination-1 & 2		Cured	Not cured	Cured
15		Combination-1 & 2		Cured	Cured	Cured
16		Combination-1 & 2		Cured	Cured	Cured

*Homeopathic products applied in this experiment: Combination-1 & Combination-2

Only 16 animals were characterized with different parameters viz. cattle of different breed, pregnancy status, lactation, age and weight. The results slightly varied according to the age and weight (Table-1). The 16 animals were treated with the homeopathic compound as combination-1 and combination-2 in the different blocks according the period /intervals of doses but the rate of doses was same. In the first observation was at 20th day and

second dose was at 40th day. The success rate was more than 60% after 20 days than 80% after 40 days and finally, the success rate was approximate 90% (Table-2).

Discussion

In the present study, it was evaluated the use of homeopathic compounds in the naturally cattle tick infested by *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus*. The combined formulations were used in this study resulted in lower tick counts in the first 20 days and next 20 days, the ticks were removed more than 80%. The 8 cases out of 16 cattle fully cured after second dose for 40 days, the 6 cases out of 16 cattle were 80% cured after second dose i.e. total 40 days and the 2 cases out of 16 cattle did not show any effect of the medicines.

Conclusion

The homeopathic combination 1 & 2 applied to control naturally infestation of *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* was effective during 12 months of the study. It was concluded that the homeopathic medicines have the efficacy required to control these cattle ticks and can be an alternative treatment to the use of chemicals.

Author's contribution

Dr. Abhik Ghosh obtained BHMS (Kol), M.D. (Hom) and he credited 2nd generation homeopath. His father late Dr. Ranjit Kumar Ghosh was a renowned homeopath doctor in human and veterinary. Dr. Ghosh has been practicing homeopathy more than 17 years in human and veterinary sector. Dr. Ghosh has designed and conducted this research experiment and also contributed significantly in various critical diseases in animal in his laboratory and clinic in Dr. Abhik Ghosh Homeopathy Clinic at Maniktala, Ashoke Nagar, and Dist.24 Pgs (North), West Bengal, India.

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