Sheep population is estimated to be 27.4 million heads in Pakistan (Economic..., 2010), and 12.8 million (48%) of these sheep are raised in Balochistan (Economic, 2011). Heavy economic losses have been reported due to parasitic diseases in livestock in Balochistan. Factors like exposure to parasites and climate trigger the infestation (Durrani, 1991). Khan et al. (1988c) reported 100% sheep internal parasitic infection in upland Balochistan. The prevalence of gastrointestinal nematodes of sheep has been estimated 25.1 to 92% by different studies in Pakistan (Durrani, 1991). Khan 1985 stated that immunity develops with age against different nematodes in different age, breeds and sex were analyzed through Minitab® 17.1.0.

From a total of 120 Sheep surveyed at Zhob, 47 male sheep (39.1%) and 73 female sheep (60.8%) were infested with mix nematodes (p=0.001). The number of sheep that were infested with Trichostrongylus were 23 (19.1%), 25 contained Haemonchus (20.8%), 35 got infected from Cooperia (29.1%), while 37 sheep contained Nematodirus (30.8%) (p=0.087). The rate with single type of parasite species i.e. one type of parasite was (32.5%) whereas 44 (36.3%) contained two and 37 sheep (30.8%) were infested with three types of parasite species (p=0.366).

It was observed that younger sheep are more susceptible to parasite infestation than older ones, also reported by Zvinorova et al., (2016). Among 120 infected animals, 47 (39.1%) were male and 73 (60.8%) were female sheep and this was in agreement with the report of Zvinorova et al., (2016). Two breeds were selected for this study viz Balochi and Rakhshani, and it was observed that the Balochi breed have more susceptibility than Rakhshani i.e. 70 (58.3%) and 50 (41.6%) respectively (p=0.01). Urquhart et al. (1996) stated that immunity develops with age against parasites along with the involvement of genetics. Male are more susceptible due to androgens.
Young animals also get infested with the contaminated pastures. The recovered species of parasite included *Trichostrongylus axei*, *Haemonchus contortus*, *Cooperia* and *Nematodirus*. *Nematodirus* was found to be the highest in prevalence i.e. 30.8% of the total flock, followed by *Cooperia* (29.1%), *Haemonchus* (20.8%), and *Trichostrongylus* (19.1%) \((p=0.087)\). Overall higher (100%) internal parasitic incidence was recorded by Malik et al. (1995) in ovine and caprine species in Punjab. Alyousif (1997) recorded 86.9% infestation with internal parasites in goats in Riyadh area of Saudi Arabia. While the infestation was comparatively low in the present study that might be due to different climatic conditions i.e., Punjab areas are mostly irrigated and more humid while Balochistan and Saudi Arabia are dry-land areas.

Khan et al. (1988a) reported prevalence of twelve species of internal parasites in sheep from the Kovak valley in Balochistan. Durrani et al. (1981) also reported similar species in sheep/goats in Jhelum valley of Punjab Province. While Khan et al. (1988b) also reported eighteen similar types as are in this present-day study. Differences in the incidence may be due environment and susceptibility as specified by Durrani et al. (1981). Radostits et al. (1994) stated that conditions for the translation of eggs to larvae are provided by warm and wet weather. Areas with a severe winter and dry summer result in decreased parasitic burden as seen in this study.

*Keywords: ovine, Cooperia, gastrointestinal parasites, Haemonchous contotous, Nematodirus, pakistan*

**RESUMO**

Trichostrongyloid em ovelhas foi estudado no Distrito Zhob, Balochistan. Foram coletados 120 tratos gastrointestinais (GIT) de ovelhas do matadouro do distrito. Estas amostras foram processadas para isolamento e identificação de nematódeos tricôstrônquicos no Laboratório do Hospital Veterinário do Distrito Zhob. A taxa de prevalência geral foi de 39,1% em machos e 60,8% em fêmeas \((p=0,001)\). A taxa de prevalência em duas raças viz Balochi e Rakhshani foi de 58,3% e 41,6%, respectivamente \((p=0,01)\). A prevalência da espécie observada com Trichostrongylus foi 19,1%, Haemonchus foi 20,8%, Cooperia foi 29,1% e Nematodirus foi 30,8% \((p=0,087)\). Quanto a quantidade de espécies infestadas pelas ovelhas, um único tipo de parasita estava em 32,5% de animais, dois tipos de espécies parasitárias em 36,3% dos animais e três tipos de espécies parasitárias em 30,8% dos animais \((p=0,366)\).

*Palavras-chave: ovinas, Cooperia, parasitas gastrointestinais, Haemonchous contotous, Nematodirus, paquistão*

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