

ABSTRACT

The report is divided into two parts. Part one is a general review of ticks and tick-borne diseases with special reference to the tropics, and to diseases of domestic animals in particular. As a background to this part, short sections are devoted to the biology and classification of the ticks, whilst major emphasis is placed on the effects of tick infestations, diseases transmitted by ticks, control of ticks, and the economic losses caused by infestations.

The second part of the report deals with the incidence of ticks on the toad, Bufo marinus L. in Trinidad. A review of the literature is given dealing mainly with the tick, Amblyomma dissimile Koch, 1844, commonly found on this toad in many parts of the tropics.

Ticks were taken from approximately 200 toads from different areas of Trinidad. On identification they were found to be A. dissimile, without exception. Ticks taken from cattle at the University Field Station were identified as Boophilus microplus Canestrini, 1887, also without exception. cursory studies on the host specificity of B. microplus were made and it was found that these ticks were unable to attach to the toads.

Conclusive evidence that the toads could not harbour blood parasites pathogenic to cattle was not obtained, but the inference is that the two ticks, A. dissimile and B. microplus being restricted in their diets to reptiles and amphibians, and cattle respectively, cannot complement each other in the transmission of pathogens to and from livestock.