

Article 129
Department of Veterinary Services,
Tsetse & Trypanosomiasis Control Branch,
P. O. Box 8283,
Causeway, Salisbury.

29th September, 1962.

The Assistant Director,
Tsetse & Trypanosomiasis Control,
P. O. Box 8283,
CAUSEWAY.

REKOMITJIE RESEARCH STATION : REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER, 1962.

GAME AND TSETSE INVESTIGATIONS:

GENERAL:

No major changes in the vegetation conditions have occurred since last month. The daily temperatures have, however increased and a maximum of 99°F was noted on the 19/9/62.

A pan containing a fairly good supply of water has been discovered near the road some 2 miles north-east of Site 2 and it is evident that, apart from the animals more or less resident in the vicinity such as impala, warthog and possibly also zebra and sable, elephant are moving out from the riverine, characterised by Site 1, to water there. Rhino spoor in Site 2 also shows a movement to and from this pan.

TSETSE:

Over the eight months, February to September, in which the experiment has now been running, the pattern of tsetse catches has been somewhat similar in the two sites. Graphs of the apparent density, teneral percentages and female percentages are attached.

FEMALE PERCENT:

In site 1 this reached a minimum in March and in Site 2 in April, since which there was a fairly rapid rise until July, when the percentage apparently reached a peak. In March, April and May the percentage was higher in Site 2 but since then it has been higher in Site 1.

TENERAL PERCENT:

The teneral percentages have shown variations rather similar to the female percents. In both sites it was lowest in April and has been increasing every month since then. This is probably an indication of an increase in emergence rate with the increasing temperature.

APPARENT DENSITY:

The A.D. has so far indicated that the population of G. morsitans in the mopane woodland and deciduous thicket area of Site 2 has been a great deal higher than in the alluvial area of Site 1. There was an apparent drop in density in Site 2 in May, June and July. Whether this was due to an increase in the length of the hunger cycle over this cool period or simply to errors in the sampling method is uncertain. In Site 1 variations in the size of the catches has been more regular. In February, at the start of the experiment, the A.D. (as measured by screen catches) was in the region of 200.

In March it dropped to about 50 and remained at this low level until about August when a slight increase was noted. This month the catches have been the highest recorded in this site so far.

GAME:

A resume of the changes in spoor frequencies of various species was given last month and no major changes have been noted in September.

Site 1. In this site elephants are very numerous. The general movement in connection with obtaining water is probably up and down the Rekomitjie river between the Zambezi and Dandawa's, where it is possible to dig for water, and the permanent pools at the foot of the escarpment. Part of the population is, however, obviously moving out to scattered pans in the mopane woodland. Rhino are not as often present as they are in Site 2 their spoor occurring on the traverses only sporadically. Warthog and kudu appear to be about the same density in both sites. Bushpig and bushbuck are, of course, much more numerous here than in the open mopane areas. Impala are showing a considerable increase now, but this is unlikely to affect the tsetse or trypanosome position.

Site 2. Warthog and kudu appear to be the most numerous species in this site apart from impala. Rhino, thought at this stage to consist of a group of three including a young one, are resident and their spoor appears frequently on most of the traverses. Elephant are certainly moving through the area to water, but this is probably taking place at night. Eland spoor is still being recorded so this species has not completely disappeared. Sable and zebra have been observed in the region of the pan noted above and the spoor of the latter recorded in the site.

TRYPANOSOME INFECTIONS:

The infection rate in Site 2 is now showing the decrease expected on the basis of previous results. The general picture in this site showed an increase between March and May with a peak in June, since when the drop has been fairly steady.

In Site 1 the situation is not very clear. There was an increase in July and August, but this month has seen a slight drop. Nevertheless the infection rate remains a good deal higher than it is in Site 2.

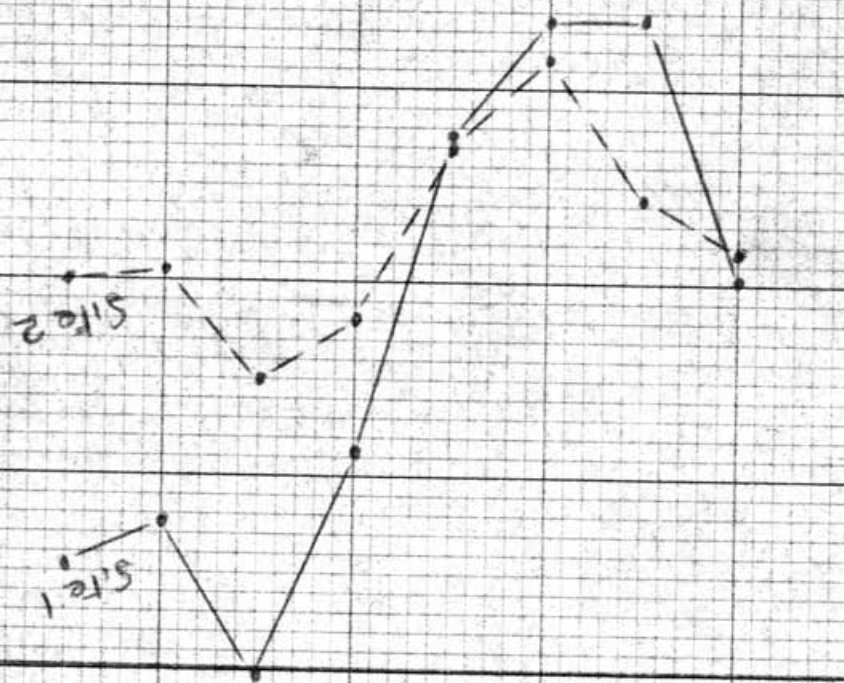
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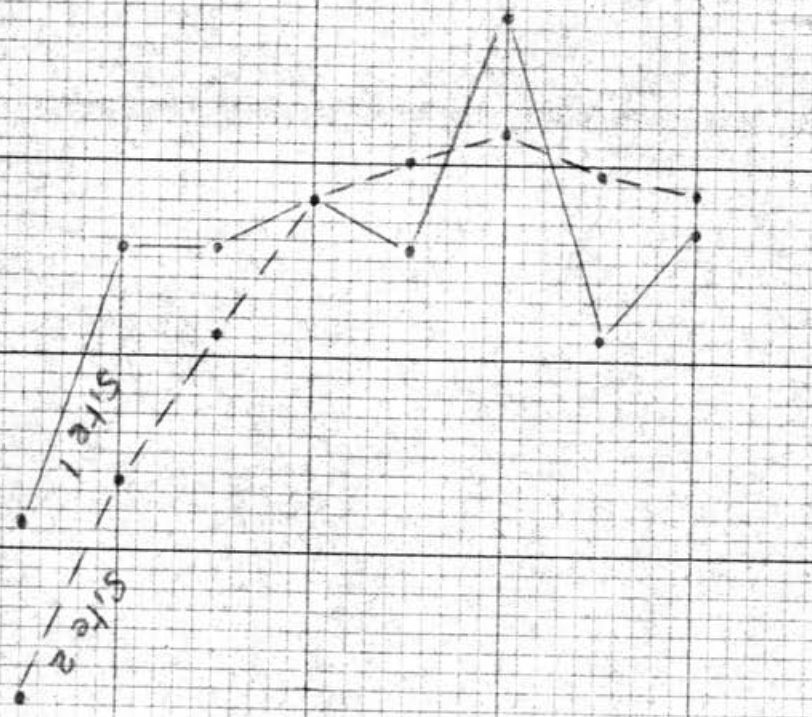
ENTOMOLOGIST.

28th September, 1962.

Female percent



Teneral percent



Apparent density

