

Prepared for Dr. Thurston
Article 55

THE TSETSE AND TRYPANOSOMIASIS PROBLEM IN MOCAMBIQUE

Tsetse flies (Glossina spp.) and the disease, trypanosomiasis, which they transmit, (particularly the forms affecting domestic stock), are a major limiting factor in the development of Mocambique.

Four species of tsetse fly occur, namely G.morsitans, G.pallidipes, G.brevipalpis and G.austeni.

The first mentioned species occupies nearly three quarters of the total area of the country and is regarded by the authorities to be the one of greatest economic importance. The other three, although widely distributed, occur in very restricted infestations due to their very much more specialised habitat requirements.

From what has already been intimated above it is obvious that trypanosomiasis in domestic stock is widespread. And in this context it is of interest to quote de Andrade Silva (1970) as follows: "It is difficult to calculate the full extent of the loss suffered through animal trypanosomiasis. Apart from the fact that many animals die of nagana, the effects of chronic conditions with resulting loss of weight, low milk production and lack of resistance to other diseases must also be considered." I think that this statement speaks for itself.

Human trypanosomiasis occurs in endemic areas, these being situated in the Zumbo and Tete regions on the Zambezi drainage and in the northern quarter of the country.

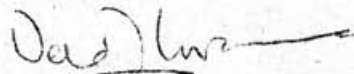
Tsetse control is carried out on a limited local basis. Methods used are game elimination, bushclearing, settlement manipulation and the application of residual insecticides to dry season resting and refuge sites of tsetse flies. Satisfactory results are reported.

At this juncture it will be of interest to Rhodesian readers (and South African) to note that the governments of the Republic of South Africa and Rhodesia have been co-operating with the Mocambique Government in a joint campaign to control a tsetse advance on the drainages of the Rio Save and Rio Limpopo, (G.morsitans and to a lesser extent G.pallidipes), since 1962. The method of control used has been the last mentioned. Considerable successes have been achieved.

The disease in stock is successfully controlled by chemotherapeutic methods. Chemoprophylaxis is practiced on a limited basis.

In the case of the disease in humans, control is based on the intensive search for cases and their treatment, to use de Andrade Silva's own words.

In conclusion it is pertinent to quote de Andrade Silva again as follows: "There has been slow progress and years will pass before we reach our aim."



(D.F. Lovemore)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR VETERINARY SERVICES
(TSETSE AND TRYPANOSOMIASIS CONTROL)

10th May, 1972.