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## Main Problems of Brucellosis in Zambia

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### Abstract

Bovine brucellosis is one of the most important reproductive diseases of cattle in Zambia, having been recognized as early as 1915, but the overall incidence and distribution was not known. The results and conclusions of the survey into the incidence of *Brucella abortus* in traditional cattle and goats conducted in the major cattle areas of Zambia, viz Western, Central, Southern, Eastern and Northern Provinces are presented. Field survey with abattoir survey is compared. The results revealed that except for the Northern Province the prevalence of the disease in Zambia is significant. Economic impact of the disease was studied. Incidence of the disease in various age categories together with the role of the traditional management in epizootology of the disease are discussed. Other ways of disease possible spreading are discussed. As the home made sour milk is popular in the regions of Zambia with the highest incidence of cattle brucellosis, the study on the survival of brucella germs in home made sour milk was done and the results of study are discussed.

The incidence of genital tracts' abnormalities in brucella reactors and comparison among field and abattoir findings are discussed. The influence of the regional macroclimate and microclimate factors on the incidence of brucellosis were confirmed. In the areas of similar climatical conditions the most important factors influencing the prevalence of brucellosis are herd size and the form of herd management, especially as regards to the time of kraaling. Problems of randomly performed service together with abortus detection are presented. Rural farmers are not educated as to prevention of disease spreading. The role of veterinary services network both private and state one in the disease spreading and prevention is discussed.

**Keywords:** *Brucella* germs, brucellosis, milk, Zambia