

Review Article

# Prevalence of bovine fasciolosis in and around Bedelle

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## Abstract

The study was carried out, in Illubaboral zone of Oromia regional at western part of Ethiopia in Bedelle municipal abattoir from November 2010 to the end of March 2011, in order to determine the prevalence of liver fluke, the species of liver fluke and to compare the diagnostic efficiency of fecal and post mortem examination. Out of 384 livers and fecal samples examined 93(24.21%) and 74(19.27%) were positive of fasciolosis respectively. The most common liver fluke species affecting the cattle was *Fasciola gigantica* 52(13.54%) cattle were infected with *Fasciola gigantica* while, *Fasciola hepatica* were present in 31(8.07%) cattle and 10(2.6%) were mixed infection. There was a strong relationship between fecal examination and post mortem examination of liver lesions, but under local condition post mortem examination was considered a better diagnostic tool for fasciolosis. This study showed that there is no significant association ( $p>0.05$ ) between the prevalence of age, body condition and origin of animal, but there is a significance difference ( $p<0.05$ ) in prevalence of *fasciola hepatica*, between origin of animals.

## Abbreviation

AAU: Addis Ababa University; FAO: Food and Agricultural Organization; C°: Degree Centi Grade; Km: Kilo meter; m: meter; mm: milli meter; cm: centi meter; masl: meters Above the sea level; rpm: round per minute; FVM: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine; F.hepatica: *Fasciola hepatica*; F.gigantica: *Fasciola gigantica*; GIS: Geographical Information System

## Introduction

Bovine fasciolosis is an economically important parasite disease of cattle caused by Fasciolidae, which are trematode of the genus *Fasciola*. The two most important species of the genus are *Fasciola hepatica* and *Fasciola gigantica*. Ethiopia is one of the nation with the highest population of livestock, more than 31 million cattle [1]. But the productivity is far less than the potential due to several constraints. Like disease, malnutrition and traditional management. The rich potential from the livestock sector is not efficiently exploited [2].

Fasciolosis caused by *Fasciola hepatica* and *Fasciola gigantica*, is one of the most prevalent helminths infection of ruminant in different part of the world including Ethiopia. The presence of fasciolaosis due to *F. hepatica* and *F. gigantica* in Ethiopia has long been known and its prevalence and economic significance

has been reported by several workers [3-7]. *F.hepatica* and *F. gigantica* occurs relatively cooler semi highland and highland and lowland respectively, where the intermediate are abundantly available during the wet season [8]. Fasciolosis occurs commonly as a chronic disease in cattle and the severity often depends on , the nutritional status of host [9]. It is responsible for a wide spread morbidity and mortality especially in cattle and sheep characterised by weight loss, anemia, hypoproteinemia [10]. The effect due fasciolosis can also expressed in terms of mortality ,morbidity, reduced growth rate,liver condemnation at slaughter house, reduction in traction power,less weight gain at birth , increased susceptibility to secondary infection and the expense of control measures [7,10,11].

Diagnosis is based primarily on the clinical sign and seasonal occurrence in endemic areas but previous examination, hematological test and examination of feces for fluke egg are useful. Coprological analysis is still commonly employed to diagnose bovine Fasciolosis despite the fact that egg cannot be detected until after the latent period of infection , when much of the liver damage has already occurred [12]. This study was intended to determine the prevalence of fasciolosis in cattle slaughtered at Bedelle municipal abattoir, to compare the diagnostic efficiency of fecal examination and post mortem examination and to determine the most prevalent species of liver fluke.

The objective of this study were:

- To estimate the prevalence of liver fluke and most prevalent species of livefluke in cattles slaughtered at Bedelle municipal abattor.
- To compare the diagnostic efficiency of fecal examination and post morte examination in cattles slaughtered at Bedelle municipal abattor

## Literature review

**The parasite:** The taxonomic classification of the organism that fasciolosis is presented as follows [8].

Phylum: platyhelminths

Class: trematode

Subclass: Digenia

Family Fasciolidae

Genus: Fasciola

Species: *Fasciola hepatica* and *Fasciola gigantica*

## Morphology

The adult parasite *F. hepatica* has a fiat leaf-like body and measures 20–30 mm long by 8–15 wide [13]. It has an anterior along action (a cephalic cone) on which the oral and ventral suckers, which are approximate of equal size are located. The vitellaria are highly diffuse and branched in the lateral and posterior region of the body. *F. gigantica* is a parasite very similar to *F. hepatica*, its length may vary 25–75mm long by 15mm wide (Soulsby, 1982) [14]. In addition, the cephalic cone is proportionally shorter than that of *F. hepatica* and it's body even more of like in shape [14]. The egg of *F. hepatica* is oval, opera vulate, yellow and large (150mmxmm), and about times the size of a fright strongly age [8]. The egg of *F. gigantica* longer in size and measures (200nmx100hm) (Dunn,1998).

## Life cycle

The life cycle of Fasciola species is a typical of disgenic treated. Egg laid by the adult parasite in the bile ducts of their hosts pass into the duodenum with bile. The egg then leave the host through the faeces. At this stage, egg are still not embryonated, further development to maturation taking approximately two weeks. The egg hatch to release the motile miracidium, which will locate and penetrates the intermediate snail host. The need to find the suitable most to penetrate is an urgent one, for those miracidia a failing to do so generally die with in 24 hours. After penetration of the snail, the miracidia loses it's cilia and become sporocist [15] The sporocistt dividing and forming radial (have sucker and primitive gut), and a full mature radia showing radia and cercaria stage. The cercaria of Fasciola species have a rounded body measuring between 0.25. 0.35mm long, with a long thin unbranded tail measuring approximately 0.5mm long. The motile cercaria snail generally leaves the shall 4–7 weeks after infection by migrating through

the tissue of snail. This is during moist condition when a critical temperature of 10°C is exceeded [15].

On emerging from the snail the cercarian attaches to submerged blades of grass or other vegetation like watercress, the tail fall away and the cercarian body secretes a four-layered cyst covering from cytogeneses gland located on the lateral regions of the body. The formation of the wall may take up to two days. The metacercariae (eneysted, resistant cercarian) is the infective form of the definitive host. Generally, Meta cercarian are infective to ruminants such as cattle and sheep, but also to other mammals including human being– one meracium hatching from a fluke egg can produce up to 4,000 infective cyst (metacercarial) due to the vegetative multiplication at the sporocyst and radia . The metacercarial cyst is only moderately resistance, not being able to survive dry conditions. If however, they are maintained in condition of high humidity and cool temperature, they may survive for up to a year [13,14,16]. Infection in non endemic areas. The meta cercarial cyst, when ingested along with the contaminated vegetation by the definitive host enters in to the small intestine. Releasing the young parasite, which penetrate the gut wall, entering the peritoneal cavity.

From there it migrates directly to the liver over a period of approximately seven days. The juvenile fluke (also refered adeloscaria) penetrate the liver tissue; through which it migrates, feeding mainly on blood, for about 6. Weeks After this periods, the fake enters the bile ducts, maturing in to a fully a duct parasite after about three months from initial infection. Egg production then commences and completing the life cycle [13] Figure 1.

Adult fakes can survive for many years in the liver of infected hosts and lay between 20,000 and 50,000 eggs per day the rate of egg production is responsible for the degree of pasture contamination and thus greatly influences the epidemiology of the disease and also influenced by the grazing habit o the animals. Animals grazing in wet marshy areas

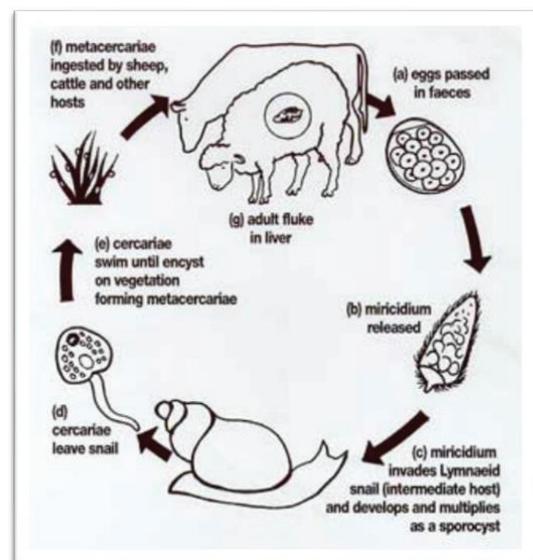


Figure 1: life cycle of Fascicles.

avored by intermediate host are more likely to become infected. Typically, long and wet seasons are associated with a higher rate of infection [16].

### Host range

**Intermediate host:** Snails of the genus *Lymnaea* are the intermediate host for genus *Fasciola*. The epidemiology of Physiology is dependent on the ecology of the snail intermediate host. *Lymnaea* species, most important in the transmission of *F. hepatica*, includes *Lymnaea truncatula*, in North America. *L. tormentor* in Australia other species, which have been incriminated in the transmission of *Fasciola hepatica*, includes, *L. viator* and *L. Diaphena* (South America), *L. columinela* (USA, Australia, Central America and New Zealand) and *L. humilis* (North America) [13,14].

*L. truncatula* is most common intermediate host for *F. hepatica* in different part of the world [11] and in Ethiopia (Grabber, 1974). It is amphibious and although they spend hours in shallow water, they periodically emerge on to surrounding mud. They are capable of with standing summer draught or winter freezing for several months by the respectively aestivating or hibernating deep in the mud [8]. It prefers moist temperature conditions (15-22°C) through it appear that various found us the tropics have adaptations to higher temperature mostly in the low land areas and can be breed and survive at the 26 °C with sufficient moisture.

The most important intermediate host of the *F. gigantica* is the *L. natalensis* and *L. auricularia* [8,13,14]. *L. auricularia* which is the also the important species in the southern USA the middle east and pacific islands *L. natalensis* is recognized intermediate hosts for the *F. gigantica* [6]. and other species serving as secondary hosts to this species are *L. referense* and *L. acuminata* (Indian and Pakistan) and *L. rubiginosa* (malaysia) [8].

*L. natalensis* is strictly aquatic snail aquatic snail often found in African it serves as intermediate hosts *F. gigantica*, requires, requires well-oxygenated and non-pollute water bodies, and can aestivate during dry periods. Optimal temperature requirement for the completion of the parasite development stage with in the snail is 22-26°C. However, in irrigated areas snail breeding is less circumscribed and will be continue all year round, except for period of extreme temperature level [8].

### Final host

Final host is responsible for the maturation and laying of a huge number of eggs. Host of *F. hepatica* is era most mammals, cattle and sheep being most important. *F. gigantica* affects a wide range of domestic animals and is found in lowland areas replacing *F. hepatica*. In the unusual host such as moons the fluke maybe found in aberrant site such as the lungs [8].

### Epidemiology

Fasciolosis is disease caused by liver fluke cause Fasciola hepatica and *Fasciola gigantica*. These species of parasite are widely distributed in areas where climatic condition are

potentially wet throughout the year in which the existence of parasites are largely dependent on these factor, and also the possible occurrence of their snail intermediate host. *Fasciola gigantica* predominate since *Fasciola hepatica* is more localized species. *Fasciola gigantica* is found where ever ecological conditions are favorable to the intermediate host such as borders of lakes, flood. prone areas, low lying marshes and drainage ditches. It is absent from temporarily pools and water courses that disappear in the dry season [13].

The distribution and type of intermediate host (*Lymnaea*) also vary depending on localities, for instances, *lymnaea truncatula* is highly distributed in Europe Asia, much of Africa and Northern America, while, while *L. natalensis* is considered to be African snail host [17].

### Factors affecting the production of metacercaria

**Availability of suitable snail habitat:** The most important intermediate host of Fasciola are limner truce flue and *L. natalensis*. The wet mud to free water and the adages of small pond. Hoof marks, wheels ruts or rain ponds may provide following heath rainfall or flooding, temporary habitats. Fields with clumps of rushes are often suspected sites. Though a slight acid PH environment is optimal PH for *L. truncatula*, excessive acid PH levels are determinants such as occur in peat bags and areas of sphagnum moss [18].

**Temperature:** Temperature is an important factor affecting the rate of development of snails and of the stage of the parasite outside of the final host. A mean day or night temperature of 10°C or above is necessary both for snails and all activities cease at 5°C. This is also minimum range for the development and hatching of *F. hepatica* eggs. However, it is only when temperature rise to 15°C and it maintained above that level a significance multiplication of snails and fluke larval stage ensures [8].

**Moisture:** The ideal moisture condition for snail breeding and the development of fasciola hepaticas with in snail are provided when rainfall exceeds transpiration and field saturations attained. Such condition are also essential for the developmental fluke eggs for mirabilis searching for snails and for the dispersal of cercariae being shed from the snails [8].

**PH:** Field with clumps of rushes are common size or they have slight PH eggs incubated at 27°C will develop and hatch with in a PH range of 4.2 to 9 but above pH 8.0 development is prolonged (Rowcliff and Ollerenshaw, 1960).

### Clinical signs

The clinical features of fasciolosis can have acute, sub acute and chronic forms. Acute fasciolosis occurs as disease outbreak following a massive, but relatively short term intake. Of metacercarial [8]. The high fluke intake is often the result of certain seasonal and fluke control measures. It typically occurs when stocks are forced to graze in drugt. Animal suffering from acute fasciolosis especially sheep and goat. May display non clinical sign. Prior to death. While some may display no clinical sign prior to death while some may display abdominal pain

and discomfort and may develop jaundice [13] and fluid may lick in to the perfumed cavity causing death due to peritonitis may lick in to the poisoned cavity causing death due to peritonitis. More commonly, on ingestion of finer metacercariae, fever and eosinophilic leishmaniasis seen. Death usually results from blood loss due to hemorrhage and fissile destruction caused by migratory juvenile flukes [13].

Sub-acute Fasciolosis is caused by ingestion of a moderate number of metacercariae and is characterized by anemia, jaundice and ill thrift. The migrating fluke causes extensive tissue damages haemorrhage huge and in particular liver damage. The result is severe animal liver failure and death in 89-10 weeks [19].

Chronic Fasciolosis is the most common animal syndrome in cattle. It occurs when the parasite reaches the hepatic bile duct. The principal effects are bile duct obstruction, destruction of liver fishnet, hepatic fibrosis and anemia. The onset clinical sign is slow, animal become gradually anemic and anorexia as the adult flukes become active with I bile duct and sign may include dependent edema or swelling under the jaw (bottle jaw). Affected animals are reluctant to travel. Death eventually occurs when animal becomes severe. Cattle are typically present with sign of weight loss, anemia and chronic diarrhea (Mitchell, 2001).

In addition to these, a condition known as "black disease" is a complication, which usually is fatal. Here, as secondary infection due to the bacterium *Clostridium novyi* type B, proliferating a necrotic lesion for the fatal outcome [15].

### Pathogens and pathophysiology

Fasciolosis varies according to the parasitic development phase. The two developmental phases are parenchyma and biliary phases. The parenchyma phase occurs during the emigrational of fluke through the liver parenchyma and is associated with liver damage and hemorrhage. The brilliant phase coincides with parasite residence in the bile ducts and from hematophagous activity of the adult flukes and from the damage to the bile duct mucosa by their cuticles spines [19].

Presence of flukes in the biliary passage elicits considerable tissue reaction, leading to cholangio hepatitis. The wall of the ducts become infiltrated with eosinophilia, lymphocytes, and macrophage, and eventually become significantly thickened from fibrous proliferation and calcification (Jones et al., 1996). The reduction of migration and activity of juvenile flukes through the liver parenchyma is also cited with hepatic fibrosis, which in habit intra-parenchyma maturation, and calcified cholangitis. Which deters flukes in their hepatic activities both of the selection associated phenomena help cattle to resist chronic Fasciolosis (Fraser, et al. 1991) Besides, the fact that liver possesses considerable functions reserve and degenerating capacity help animals to survive without any significant improvement of hepatic functions even until two thirds of the organ is damaged [20].

Fasciolosis has major effect on blood components (plasma proteins) Hypoalbuminemia and hypoglobulinemia commonly occur in liver fluke infection in all host species. During the parenchyma stage of the infections, liver damage caused by the migration flukes compromise liver functions, which in sheep and calves is reflected in a decline of plasma Albumin concentration attributed partly to reduce rate of synthesis and partly to an expansion of the plasma volume [19].

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Nevertheless, during biliary stage of the infection loss of blood from hematophagia and into intestine is so extensive, causing severe anemia that synthetic capacity of the liver is insufficient to replace the loss of albumin (small molecular size) that oozes through the hyperplastic bile duct (cholangitis). Thus, a progressive loss of plasma albumin occurs in all infection host species, starting from around the time the fluke commences blood feeding. This results in disturbance in intravascular and extravascular oncotic pressure leading to development of [8].

### Diagnostic approaches to fasciolosis

Diagnosis of fasciolosis is both in animal and man may involve considerations of various aspects such as history, clinical finding and general epidemiology of the disease confirmation in all cases can be made either by faecal examination or recovery of worms at post-mortem examination. Currently serological and molecular techniques are developed by various researchers. Analysis of the enzyme and hematological profiles are also known to give important clues as to the presence of Fasciolosis in animals [22].

### History and clinical manifestation

Infection with *Fasciola hepatica* is usually associated with herds and flocks grazing wet, marshy land. *F. gigantica* uses a water snail as its intermediate host. Therefore infection with this species is associated with livestock drinking from snail infected watering places as well as with grazing wet land which may be seasonally inundated [22].

In acute cases of Fasciolosis, sudden death and severe anemia occurs due to the migrating young fluke through the liver, however no fluke eggs are passed in the feces. In sub-



acute cases, sign of rapid loss of condition, severe anemia, high fluke egg count, death occurs 12–20 weeks after infection and in chronic Fasciolosis gradual wasting, severe anemia with ascites, bottle jaw edema and very high fluke egg counts may lead to death more than 20 weeks after infestation [13,17,23].

### Post mortem examination

The most direct and reliable technique for the diagnosis of fasciolosis is liver examination at slaughter or necropsy.

In acute Fasciolosis, there may be peritonitis, particularly on the visceral surface of the hepatic capsule. The migration of the fluke in the liver leave dark. Hemorrhagic streaks and foci. The migration of the fluke in the liver dark hemorrhagic streaks and foci. The liver is swollen. Friable and has capsular perforations marked by hemorrhagic [24].

Calcification of the bile ducts and enlargement of the gallbladder are characteristic lesions observed in chronic cases of Fasciolosis. Progressive billiard cirrhosis which ultimately produces a hard fibrotic liver in which the bile duct are prominent, thickened fibrous and in cattle, often calcified. Histologically, the fibrosis is produced by repair to the migratory tract and a cholangitis, the bile ducts walls are markedly thickened and the bile duct are dilated containing fluke and numerous eggs [13].

### Faecal examination

Two points need to be kept in mind while interpreting faecal examinations result for *F. hepatica* the pre-patent period for fasciolosis is 2–3 months. As a result, fluke eggs cannot be demonstrated early in the infection. A group of cattle could be carrying a high burden of young, fluke, but no fluke eggs would show up in their manure because the quantitative volume of fluke egg counts is questionable. Fluke egg pool in the gall bladder and intermittently pass in to the feces the fluke egg count on any given day of ten has little relationship to the number of fluke in the liver; an animal with a negative fecal could be parasitized, whereas a high fecal fluke egg count could just be a high number of eggs leaving the gallbladder that day, rather than a target fluke burden (Briskey, 1998).

Sedimentation procedure concentrates both feces and eggs at the bottom of a liquid medium usually water, and detect most parasite eggs or cysts that have. too high a specific gravity mainly trematode (fluke) egg (Hendrix 1998). Fecal examinations for fluke egg require use of fecal sedimentation, formalin ether or floatation techniques. Fecal examinations for fluke egg requires use fecal sedimentation, formalin- ether, or floatation technique [25–27].

Commonly used floatation procedures open the operculum and sink the fluke egg rather than floating it for surface detection. Fluke egg are comparatively heavier than strangles eggs and as a result the egg do not float in routinely used floatation medium even as saturated salt solution. However floatation fluid of higher specific gravity and the saturated zinc solution, magnesium sulphate and potassium dichromate has been used to float eggs of *Fasciola*. Due to the high specific gravity

and the saturation of these solution, damage to observed eggs is very high. Several investigators have tried various types of floatation technique but with inconsistent result because of the collapsibility of fluke egg is very high. Several investigators have tried various types of floatation technique but with inconsistent result because of the collapsibility of fluke egg in solutions of high specific gravity. However a modification of sheathes. Sugar floatation technique with a higher specific gravity has been used to demonstrate fluke with little distortion to the egg [28].

### Treatment

The older drugs such as carbon tetrachloride hexachlorophene and hexachlorothene are still used in some countries. One of the choice drugs is tridabendazole which remove all developing stages over one week old. Other drugs are rapoxanide, closantel and nitroxylnil, which will remove flukes over four weeks old [8]. Outbreak of chronic fasciolosis can be successfully reared with a single dose of any of a range of drugs (rafoxanide, nitroxylnil, borotianide, closantel, oxfendazole and triclabendazole). Albendazole and fenbendazole are also effective against adult flukes albeit at increased dosage rate [29]. In castrating comes. Where the milk is used for human consumption the above drug are either banned or have extended withdrawal period in most countries and has milk-with holding time of up to 3 days (Urquhart 1996).

Efficacy of triclabendazole is between 90 and 100% against immature and mature flukes (Merck's, 2000).

### Control and prevention of fasciolosis application of strategic treatment

Prophylaxis by vaccines consists of elimination flukes by regular treatment. Since local climatic conditions influenced infections, they should be considered when determining the time of treatment it is evident that the control strategies for liver flukes infection vary according to the region and management practices.

Two treatments are recommended per year for the Sahel region. The first is given at end of rainy season (October–November) to eliminate the adult flukes so that the animal pass the dry season in good condition and to avoid contamination from the end of the dry season (March, April or May rarely later). When the mature flukes migrate through the hepatic parenchyma. For the second treatment only drugs that are active against immature flukes should be used [30].

### Control of snail

**Chemical method:** The use of molluscicides for the control of snail intermediate hosts is a potential tool for the control of fluke infections. Before considering chemical control of snail, it should be noted that many habitats are topographically unsuitable for the use of molluscicides and it is often very difficult to apply them effectively. They are toxic to the environment, cooperation between neighboring properties is required for effective cover, and regular (at least early) application is required because rapid repopulation of snails may occur [31].



**Biological method:** Report from several parts of the world indicates that a number of plates have molluscicidal properties. Planting of these trees and shrubs along streams and irrigation channels can reduce the number of snail in a population. The efficacy of this method of snail in a population the efficacy of this method of snail in a population. The efficacy of this method for control of flukes has not yet been assessed. The induction of large numbers of ducks in to rice fields after harvest has of ducks in to rice fields after harvest has been used to reduced the snail proportion [31].

**Management of snail habitat:** Good drainage and the building of dams at appropriate site in marshy and low-lying area may reduce the snail problem. Water hole should be managed wherever possible to prevent both focusing of the water with excrement from infected animals and development of *L.natalens*. For this purposes all pools or back waters should be filled in and replaced by well or tanks. This is only possible in well units such as ranches or breeding farms. Trough's near well should be raised and kept clean to keep livestock away from pasture contamination with metacercaria. This may only be possible when the number of animal involved is small. Establish proper watering facilities to prevent animals drinking from lakes, ponds and streams [31].

**Forecasting the occurrence of the disease:** The Geographical Information System (GIS) can be used to define the epidemiology and distribution of Fasciolosis based on climate, geographic and soil hydrology data. The life cycle of cover fluke and the prevalence of Fasciolosis are dominated in climate [13].

For casting the occurrence of Fasciolosis by using a Geographic Information System (GIS) for cast model based on moisture and thermal regime was developed to assess the risk of Fasciolosis. Make it and amenable to effective use of GIS control model in several aspects. Such data indeed to develop predictive models, geographic information system and future expert or knowledge based system. This system would be used to advise farmers and small holders on the most appropriate control strategy for protecting their animals [32].

## Bovine fasciolosis in Ethiopia

**Epidemiology:** In Ethiopia, *Fasciola hepatica* is wide spread in areas with altitude of 1200 to 2560 meters above the sea level while, *F.gigantica* appears to be the most common species in areas below 1800 meter above sea level. Both Fasciola species co-exist in areas with altitude ranging between 1200 to 1800 meter. Above the sea level [6]. Ethiopia is one of the countries with suitable climatic conditions or the existence of Fasciolosis. With suitable demographic conditions or the existence of fasciolosis. The disease cause serious problems in civic stock population of the country. Both the *F. hepatica* and *F.gigantica* are found in Ethiopia transmitted by the snail called *lymnae truncatula* and *lymnae natalensis* respectively. Their pathogenic significance depends on the favorability of environment they live [2].

## Public health importance of fasciolosis

A human case of fasciolosis is emerging as an important

disease throughout the world. The cases are associated primarily with the eating of watercress's contaminated with metacercaria. A person must ingest the metacercariae in order to become infected (Marsden, and Warren, 1984). The global estimate prevalence of is between 2.4 and 17 million human infections, and further, 180 million at risk of infection (Kendal, 1954). The degree of pathogenicity of fasciolosis to man depends up on many factors, particularly the number of worms present and the organism ingested, for example, the presence of *Fasciola hepatica* in the bile duct of man cause a variety of symptoms like malaise, intermittent fever, weight loss and anemia. Adult fasciolosis can also be found in aberrant sites such as in the lung and subcutaneously. Here, the parasite is found in the system containing purulent materials, they may be removed surgically [16]. The sporadic human infection was also reported in Ethiopia (Yilma, 1985).

## Material and methodology

### Study area

This study was carried out at Bedele woreda which is located in Illu Abba Boral Zone, western Oromiya regional state and it is about 483km west Addis Ababa on the main road to Gambela. Geographically Bedele town falls between 8° to 26° 80' N latitudes and 36° to 20° 97' E longitudes the total land area. Cover 1140.57 square kilometers with an altitude of 1500 to 2300 m.a.s.c. The annual mean temperature ranges from 12.5°C to 27.5°C and the area receives annual rainfall greater than 1400mm, which is bimodal (November to March and May to September). The livestock populations of the woreda were estimated to be 59,233 cattle, 40,543 sheep, 9,786 goat, 38,364 poultry and 1,878 equine. The farming system of the area is mixed farming and 87% of the total population is engaged in agriculture livestock population occupies a significant place in the farm economy. The most important crop. That grown in the area are tef, tiger millet, maize, sorghum, wheat and sesame. The woreda have 41 kebeles of which 81.14%. And 15% accounts wainadega, kola and dega respectively. The woreda have 8.87% grazing land, 42.8% farm land, 7.2% forest, 0.9% swamp yare a, and 40% hill [33].

### Study population

The study included 384 cattle presented to the abattoir for slaughter from various places in and around Bedelle. A cross-sectional approach was taken and the study conducted during routine meat inspection on arbitrarily selected cattle slaughtered at the abattoir.

### Study design

The cross-sectional type of study was designed to be used or the research with the assumption that it could help to get an understanding of the prevalence of bovine Fasciolosis at Bedele municipal Abattoir from November 2010 up to the end of March 2011.

### Sample size and sampling method

The total number of cattle required for the study will be



calculated based on the formula given by Thrusfield [34] simple random sampling method. By rule of thumb where there is no information for an area. It is possible to take 205 or 50% prevalence. In chins study we will take 50% prevalence to calculate the sample size using the following formula.

$$n = 1.962(p_{ex})(1 - p_{exp}) / d^2$$

where n= sample size

p= expected prevalence

d= desired level of precision (5%)

Therefore n=  $1.96 \times 20.5 (1.05) = 384$  cattle 0.0025

## Study methodology

**Carpological examination:** Before sampling; an identification number was given to each cattle that were randomly selected in the abattoir. Then fecal samples were collected directly from the rectum of each cattle, using disposable plastic gloves and placed in clean universal bottle and each sample was labelled with cattle identification number, age, sex, BCS, date and origin.

Then the samples were preserved with 10% formalin solution. The samples were collected at night, nine hour before slaughtering the animals and the sample taken to Bedelle regional veterinary laboratory; then coproscopic examinations were performed to detect *Fasciola* eggs using standard sedimentation technique, as described by [35]. Morphological identification of eggs of *Fasciola* sp was conducted according to (Urquhart, et al. 1996).

**Postmortem examinations:** Animals, whose samples taken and examined during the ante mortem examination, were further supervised for their livers and bile duct. Careful examination by visualization and palpation of the entire organ, followed by incision along the bile ducts of the lobes, was done. Liver parenchyma and major bile ducts were examined for the presence of immature and adult *Fasciola* parasites, respectively. Species are identified based on size and morphological characteristics according to Soulsby [13].

## Data management and analysis

The data were recorded on specially designed forms and preliminary analysis' was done in Microsoft EXCEL (2002). The outcome variables were the care of Fasciolosis detected during routing postmortem inspection and fecal examination of *Fasciola* spp eggs, SPSS software used for analysis.

## Result

Out of 384 cattle slaughtered at Bedele municipal abattoir and examined for fasciolosis 24.21%(n=93) were found to be positive for fasciolosis. And out of 93 liver found to contain fluke infection during post mortem inspection, 52(13.54%) harbored *F.gigantica*, 31(8.85%) *F.hepatica* and 10(2.6%) has mixed infection. Of the 384 fecal sample collected from the study animals, 74(19.27%) were positive for fasciola egg Table 1.

## Prevalence of coprological examination of bovine fasciolosis in and around Bedelle

The higher prevalence of coprological examination between origin of animal revealed in Dabana 20(24.69%) and lower prevalence revealed in Cawaqa 7(15.9%). Among 101 examined young cattle 15(14.87%) were positive of fasciola egg and among 283 examined adult cattle 59(20.84%) were positive of fasciola egg. And among 88 examined poor body condition cattle 13(14.77%) and from 296 examined good body condition cattle 61(20.6%) cattle were positive of fasciola egg. The statistical analysis shows that there is no significance difference ( $p > 0.05$ ) in prevalence between age, body condition and origin of animals (Table 2).

## Prevalence post mortem liver examination of bovine fasciolosis in and around Bedelle

The higher prevalence of post mortem liver examination revealed in Dabana 23(28.39%) and lower prevalence revealed in Cawaka 9(20.45%). And among 101 examined young cattle 20(19.8%) cattle were positive of fasciolosis and among 283 examined adult year cattle 73(25.79%) cattle were positive of fasciolosis. Among 88 examined poor body condition cattle 20(22.72%) and from 296 examined good body condition cattle 73(24.66%) were positive of fasciolosis. The statistical analysis shows that there is no significance difference ( $p > 0.05$ ) in prevalence between age, body condition and origin of animals (Table 3).

## Prevalence of *Fasciola hepatica* on examined liver in and around Bedelle

The higher prevalence of *fasciola hepatica* revealed in Dabana 11(13.58%) and lower prevalence revealed in Cawaka 0(0%). And among 101 examined young cattle 7(6.90%) cattle were positive of *fasciola hepatica* and among 283 examined adult cattle 24(8.4%) cattle were positive of *fasciola hepatica*. Among

**Table 1:** Examined fasciolosis in liver.

Species of Fasciola	No of positive fasciolosis in examined liver	Percentage (%)
<i>F.gigantica</i>	52	13.54
<i>F.hepatica</i>	31	8.85
Mixed	10	2.6
Total	93	24.21

**Table 2:** Coprological survey analysis of bovine fasciolosis in and around Bedelle.

		No of examined cattle	No of positive cattle and prevalence(%)	P-value	Chi <sup>2</sup>
Age	young	101	15( 14.35%)	0.19	1.72
	adult	283	59(20.84%)		
Body condition	Poor	88	13(14.77%)	0.223	1.48
	Good	296	61(20.6%)		
Origin Of Animals	Bedele	114	20(17.54%)	0.704	2.17
	Gechi	99	19(19.19%)		
	Digicha	46	8(17.38%)		
	Dabana	81	20(24.69%)		
	Cawaka	44	7(15.9%)		
Total		384	74(19.27%)		



88 examined poor body condition cattle 4(4.54%) and from 296 examined good body condition cattle 27(9.12%) were positive of *fasciola hepatica*. The statistical analysis shows that there is no significance difference ( $p > 0.05$ ) in prevalence between age and body condition, but there is significance difference ( $p < 0.05$ ) in prevalence between origin of animals (Table 4).

### Prevalence of *Fasciola gigantica* on examined liver in and around Bedelle

The higher prevalence of *Fasciola gigantica* revealed in Cawaka 9(20.45%) and lower prevalence revealed in Digicha 5(10.86%). And among 101 examined young cattle 13(12.87%) cattle were positive of *fasciola gigantica* and among 283 examined adult cattle 39(13.78%) cattle were positive of *Fasciola gigantica*. Among 88 examined poor body condition cattle 12(13.63%) and from 296 examined good body condition cattle 40(13.51%) were positive of *Fasciola gigantica*. The statistical analysis shows that there is no significance difference ( $p > 0.05$ ) in prevalence between age, body condition and origin of animals (Table 5).

### Prevalence of mixed infection on examined liver in and around Bedelle

The higher prevalence of mixed infection revealed in Dabana 3(3.7%) and lower prevalence revealed in Cawaka 0(0%). And among 101 examined young cattle there is no mixed infection and among 283 examined adult cattle 10(3.53%) cattle were positive of mixed infection. Among 88 examined poor body condition cattle 4(4.54%) and from 296 examined good body condition cattle 6(2.02%) were positive of mixed infection. The statistical analysis shows that there is no significance difference ( $p > 0.05$ ) in prevalence between age, body condition and origin of animals (Table 6).

Taking the post mortem examination as a gold standard technique for diagnosing *Fasciola* species infection. The sensitivity and specificity of faecal examination was found to be 79% and 100% respectively. This study showed that there is no significant association ( $p > 0.05$ ) between the prevalence of age, body condition and origin of animal, but there is a significance difference ( $p < 0.05$ ) in prevalence of *fasciola hepatica*, between origin of animals.

## Discussion

Fasciolosis is a wide spread health problems and causes significant losses to the livestock industry in Ethiopia. The

**Table 4:** Post mortem survey result of *Fasciola hepatica* in and around Bedele.

		No of examined cattle	No of positive cattle and prevalence (%)	P-value	Chi <sup>2</sup>
Age	Young	101	7(6.9%)	0.624	0.241
	Adult	283	24(8.4%)		
Body condition	Poor	88	4(4.54%)	0.167	1.194
	Good	296	27(9.12%)		
Origin Of Animals	Bedele	114	5(4.38%)	0.036	10.269
	Gechi	99	10(10.10%)		
	Digicha	46	5(10.86%)		
	Dabana	81	11(13.58%)		
	Cawaka	44	0(0%)		
Total		384	31(8.0%)		

**Table 5:** Post mortem survey result of *Fasciola gigantica* in and around Bedele.

		No of examined cattle	No of positive cattle and prevalence (%)	P-value	Chi <sup>2</sup>
Age	Young	101	13(12.87%)	0.913	0.012
	Adult	283	39(13.78%)		
Body condition	Poor	88	12(13.63%)	0.976	0.001
	Good	296	40(13.51%)		
Origin Of Animals	Bedele	114	16(14.03%)	0.640	2.523
	Gechi	99	13(13.13%)		
	Digicha	46	5(10.86%)		
	Dabana	81	9(11.11%)		
	Cawaka	44	9(20.45%)		
Total		384	52(13.54%)		

**Table 6:** Post mortem survey result of mixed infection in and around Bedele.

		No of examined cattle	No of positive cattle and prevalence (%)	P-value	Chi <sup>2</sup>
Age	Young	101	0(0%)	0.056	3.664
	Adult	283	10(3.5%)		
Body condition	Poor	88	4(4.54%)	0.193	1.696
	Good	296	6(2.02%)		
Origin Of Animals	Bedele	114	3(2.63%)	0.797	1.667
	Gechi	99	3(3.03%)		
	Digicha	46	1(2.17%)		
	Dabana	81	3(3.7%)		
	Cawaka	44	0(0%)		
Total		384	10(2.6%)		

prevalence indicated by faecal examination in present study of Bedelle municipal abattoir (19.27%) is lower than 81.6% recorded for Ambo [10], 34% recorded for Wolliso [7] and 83.38% recorded for Gonder [36] and higher than 4.9% recorded for Soddo [4] and 15.77% recorded for Wollo [37]. The 19.27% prevalence indicated by faecal examination in Bedelle municipal abattoir found in this study is comparable with 18.99% recorded for Nekemt [38].

Similarly the prevalence of post mortem examination of liver in Bedelle municipal abattoir (24.21%) revealed lower prevalence of bovine fasciolosis when compared to the 46.58% recorded for Jimma municipal abattoir [39] and 62.2% recorded for Bahir Dar [37] and revealed higher prevalence when compared to the 14.0% recorded for Soddo municipal abattoir [4] and 14.8% recorded for Dire Dawa [40]. The 24.21% prevalence of fasciolosis found by post mortem liver examination in this study is comparable with the 26% recorded for Mekele [5]. The difference in prevalence of fasciolosis may be related with difference in ecological factors available for

**Table 3:** Post mortem survey result of bovine fasciolosis in and around Bedele.

		No of examined cattle	No of positive cattle and prevalence (%)	P-value	Chi <sup>2</sup>
Age	Young	101	20(19.8%)	0.393	1.86
	Adult	283	73(25.79%)		
Body condition	Poor	88	20(22.72%)	0.167	1.54
	Good	296	73(24.66%)		
Origin Of Animals	Bedele	114	24(21.05%)	0.743	1.96
	Gechi	99	26(26.26%)		
	Digicha	46	11(23.9%)		
	Dabana	81	23(28.39%)		
	Cawaka	44	9(20.45%)		
Total		384	93(24.21%)		



the snail intermediate host. The occurrence of fasciolosis in area is influenced by a multi factorial system, which comprise host, parasite, and environmental effect. In the natural foci of fasciolosis the fasciola, their intermediate host and final hosts for an association posing a potential epidemiological threat [41]. One of the most important factors that influence the occurrence of fasciolosis in area is the availability of a suitable habitat for the vectors [8].

The prevalence and species involved vary significantly with locality. This might be attributed mainly to variation in the climatic and ecological condition such as altitude, rainfall, temperature and livestock management system [6]. In this study the high prevalence rate of *Fasciola gigantica* may be associated with the existence of favourable ecological biotopes for *Lymnaea natalensis* at the origin of animals brought to the abattoir for slaughter. The majority of animals brought to the abattoir for slaughter were from lowland. In lowland equatorial regions, therefore, aquatic habitats should be safe to graze about 2 months after death of snails but this period will be extended in cooler habitats for up to 6 months. Similarly, metacercariae which become dry on aquatic vegetation as a result of receding water levels or on hay are likely to be no longer infectious after about 5 weeks in lowland tropical areas but may survive up to about 4 months in cooler climates vegetation [16]. Infection of snails in irrigated land with *F. gigantica* is promoted by the common practice in many tropical countries of using animal faeces as fertilizer. *F. gigantica* are tropical aquatic snails which thrive in clear stagnant or slow-moving water with high oxygen content and abundant aquatic vegetation [18].

Relatively small proportion of cattle were found to be infected with *fasciola hepatica* alone or mixed infection with both species. This may be explained by cattle coming for slaughter from lowland and middle altitude zone of the country which are flood prone areas, drainage ditches are not favourable habitat to *Lymnaea truncatula* [8]. *Lymnaea* spp. snails involved in the transmission of *F. hepatica* are mud-living and amphibious, living in an environmental niche which is subject to flooding and desiccation [42]. They are more likely to be found in habitats that are intermittently wet (flush habitat) than in permanently wet sites and in water that is generally slightly acid [43-55].

Significantly high prevalence of *fasciola hepatica* between origin of animal ( $p < 0.05$ ) was analyzed from the data recorded. This may be attributed the existence of permanent suitable ecological condition for snail intermediate host. Areas like slow flowing rivers, streams and low lying marshy area may contribute to persistent but relatively low grade infection during the dry season ( $p > 0.05$ ). The relatively high prevalence observed due to the presence of short rainy period in the area.

The faecal examination shows low prevalence when compared to post mortem examination and this indicates that the less sensitivity of the test in detecting the actual presence of fasciolosis. A longer period from 8-15 weeks after infection is needed for the appearance of fasciola egg in the faeces so most pathological lesion had already occurred. Furthermore, detection of fasciola egg in some cases is difficult during the

patent period because egg is expelled intermittently depending on the evacuation of the gallbladder [17].

## Conclusion and recommendation

In general it can be concluded that fasciolosis is one of the major problems for livestock development in Ethiopia by inflicting remarkable direct and indirect losses at different part of the country, where its occurrence is closely linked to the presence of biotopes suitable for the development of the snail intermediate host. The presence finding indicates that coprological examination for the parasite egg has significant limitation in detecting exactly the presence or absence of fasciolosis in animals. Although clinical disease can occur as early as 3 weeks post infection, faecal examination by coproscopy can only confirm the diagnosis after several weeks. The present study indicates that bovine fasciolosis is widely distributed disease with low prevalence rate in Bedele town and its surrounding, while *Fasciola gigantica* was the prevalent fasciola species in the study area.

**Based on the above consideration the following recommendations are made:**

- Coprological examination should be repeated and supported by other diagnostic methods for better diagnostic technique due to intermittent expulsion of fasciola egg and difficulty of detecting early infection.
- Avoiding congregation of animals around permanent water source during the period, since this may lead to infection with *Fasciola gigantica*.
- Marshy area should be drained.
- The farmer of the area should be well oriented about the hazards of disease to their livestock so that they can actively participate in control program.
- Strategic use of antihelminths should be performed to reduce pasture contamination with fluke eggs. Here proper year round study should be conducted so as to elaborate time of the year beneficial to apply antihelminths.
- Further information on epidemiology of the disease, ecology and biology of intermediate host snail should be gathered.

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