COMPARATIVE EFFICACY OF TWO DORAMECTIN TREATMENT SCHEMES WITH A CONVENTIONAL TREATMENT PROGRAM FOR THE CONTROL OF ENDO AND ECTOPARASITES OF CROSSBRED ZEBU CATTLE.

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SUMMARY: A study was conducted in a farm in the Southeastern Region of Brazil, in zebu crossbred growing cattle to evaluate the efficacy of two and three dose doramectin treatment schemes administered subcutaneously (s.c.) at a dose rate of 200 mcg/kg, compared to the farm routine program of three tetramisol doses (7.5 mg/kg, s.c.), three flumethrin doses (1 mg/kg, percutaneously) and three trichlorfon doses (10 mg/kg, s.c.). Criteria for comparisons included weight gain, nematode egg counts in feces, tick (*Boophilus microplus*) scores and live nodules of the tropical warble fly, *Dermatobia hominis*. Ninety-six crossbred zebu cattle aged between nine and 12 months were selected and randomly allocated to three treatment groups (T1, T2 and T3) of 32 animals each, based on body weight. Animals of group T1 were treated with two doses of doramectin, on days 0 and 61. Animals of group T2 received three doramectin doses on days 0, 61 and 124. Animals of group T3 were treated with tetramisol, flumethrin and trichlorfon on days 0, 61 and 124. After treatments, animals of each group were maintained in similar but separated paddocks throughout the experimental period of 365 days. Observations were conducted on day 0 and at approximately monthly intervals, when animals were weighed and parasite burdens evaluated. Doramectin treated groups at either two or three dose schemes showed a better parasite control than the Farm Program. This superior parasite control observed in animals treated with two or three doses of doramectin resulted respectively in 14.89 kg and 48.85 kg higher mean weight gain per animal during the 365 days studied, compared to the Farm program.

KEY WORDS: Doramectin, endo or ectoparasites, productivity, beef cattle, weight gain.