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# Modelling bovine trypanosomosis spatial distribution by GIS in an agro-pastoral zone of Burkina Faso

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## 15 Abstract16

Modelling of the spatial distribution of bovine trypanosomosis prevalence in Sideradougou district Burkina Faso was performed by using a combination of spatial and statistical analysis. Based on a comprehensive and geographically representative census of herds and farms in the area, more than 2000 cattle were randomly chosen and their blood sampled during field survey. Data on livestock farming practices were recorded for each farm. All data were mapped within a GIS to generate new information on spatial constraints in the area.

23 Surveys results were analysed and serological prevalence data were modelled using logistic 24 regression. The model allowed identification and quantification of risk factors. In a second step the 25 statistical model was used predictively on the entire farm population in the area. This method was successful in predicting the serological prevalence for each individual herd in the sample, from their 26 27 livestock management patterns and spatial location. Predicted prevalences were represented within 28 the GIS, taking daily movements of animals into account. Spatial distribution of prevalence would 29 illustrate specific locations at risk from an epidemiological viewpoint. It gives evidence that the hydrological network and land occupation patterns in the savanna-type countryside are playing an 30 31 important part when structuring a so-called "trypanosomosis space". © 2002 Published by Elsevier Science B.V.

Keywords: GIS; Spatial modelling; Logistic regression; Trypanosomosis; Epidemiology

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## 36 1. Introduction

Animal trypanosomoses are one of the main pathological constraints on the development 37 of animal production in sub-Saharan Africa (Hursey and Slingenbergh, 1995), and cause 38 annual losses estimated at US\$ 1 billion (De Haan and Bekure, 1991). Tsetse flies are the 39 main vectors. The risk of transmission is primarily linked to the intensity of the encounters 40 between vectors and hosts, and depends on the spatial and temporal interfaces between the 41 protagonists in the pathogen system (host-vector-parasite) (Laveissière et al., 1986; De La 42 Rocque et al., 1999). High-risk areas have been identified on this basis in an agro-pastoral 43 zone of southern Burkina Faso, taking environmental and socio-economic factors into 44 45 account. The available data were georeferenced, included into a geographic information system (GIS), and high-risk areas were identified by spatial modelling (De La Rocque et al., 46 2001), as it was performed at the other scales (Hendrickx et al., 2001). 47

The serological prevalence of the disease (prevalence of antibodies directed against trypanosomal antigens) was studied on a sample of cattle farms in the study area, to validate the list of epidemiological risk areas identified. However, the data obtained were both partial and spatially disjointed. The method described here was subsequently developed for estimating and modelling disease spatial distribution, with a view to making the data compatible with the layers of geographic data available for the study zone as a whole.

#### 54 2. Material and methods

#### 55 2.1. Study zone

The study was conducted in part (1200 km<sup>2</sup>) of the Sidéradougou agro-pastoral zone south of Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso), 11°N and 4°W (Fig. 1). The zone has 1000– 1100 mm of rainfall per year, with a dry season from November to April and a rainy season from May to October. It is typical of the Sudanian tropical climate zone, with bushy savannas and forest stands along its watercourses. These types of riverside vegetation are the preferred biotopes of the tsetse flies found in the zone, *Glossina tachinoides* and *Glossina palpalis gambiensis* (Challier, 1973; Gruvel, 1975).

#### 63 2.2. Population, sampling and diagnosis

The cattle in the zone were counted exhaustively, based on the dwellings by which they are penned during the night (Michel et al., 1999). For each dwelling, the number of head, their watering points at the end of the dry season, and information on transhumance were recorded. The geographic positions of each dwelling and the watering point or points (two at most) were determined by global positioning system (GPS) (Garmin<sup>TM</sup>).

Over 800 dwellings, with 16,576 head, were visited. The herds were split into three categories: (i) small units with one or two pairs of draught oxen; (ii) mixed units, generally with fewer than 20 head, including draught oxen and a few breeders; (iii) large herds of several dozen head, with transhumance often practised during the dry season. In this zone, where livestock are a major component of farming systems practised, there are many small

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Fig. 1. Location of the study zone. The Sidéradougou agro-pastoral zone is located in the south of Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso), at 11°N and 4°W (after De La Rocque et al., 2001).

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 Table 1

 Herd size and head number in the local population

	Herd size				
	Under five head	5-20 head	Over 20 head	Total	
Number of herds Number of animals	476 (59%) 1372 (9%)	188 (24%) 1861 (11%)	137 (17%) 13343 (80%)	801 16576	

and medium-sized herds, which account for over 80% of farms but only 20% of the
animals. On the other hand, 80% of the cattle in the zone are owned by 17% of the farmers
(Table 1).

The herds are found in three main zones (Fig. 2): (i) an agricultural zone in which animal production is closely integrated into the farming system, with medium-sized herds, in the east (zone 1); (ii) a mixed agricultural and pastoral zone in the west, with small and large herds (zone 2); (iii) an almost exclusively pastoral zone in the south, with large herds (zone 3). This distribution corresponds to the pattern for crops (De La Rocque et al., 2001). In the

82 whole study area, there are very few trading and non-trading exchanges of cattle.

A two-stage sampling was performed. The first sampling unit was on herd, i.e. an animal 83 84 management unit subject to common animal production practices. It was easily identifiable in the field and corresponds to an epidemiological entity. The herds were drawn at random. 85 The second sampling unit was animals which were chosen as follows: (i) exhaustive 86 sampling in small herds (fewer than five head); (ii) 10 head at most in medium-sized herds 87 (between five and 20 head); (iii) 20 head at most in large herds (over 20 head). Within the 88 herds, the head were drawn at random, without replacement. For logistical reasons it was 89 decided to sample 2000 head spread over 15% of the herds in the zone. A questionnaire on 90 91 animal production practices was filled in for each herd.

Blood samples were taken from the jugular vein. The plasma was analysed in the
laboratory using three indirect ELISA systems (*T. vivax*, *T. brucei* and *T. congolense*),
revealing antibodies against *Trypanosoma* spp. (Desquesnes et al., 2000).

95 2.3. Available data and statistical model

Several types of data were used to analyse and model trypanosomosis seroprevalence inthe herds:

- Serological data corresponding to the variable to be explained.
- Animal husbandry data obtained from the field survey: herd size, transhumance practices and the type of watering point used at the end of the dry season.

 Spatial data generated by the GIS from the geographic position of the different units: distance between dwelling and watering point, and proximity of dwellings to the hydrological network.

The descriptive variables were classified according to knowledge of practices (Lhoste et al., 1993), and their epidemiological significance (Table 2). The type of watering point was divided into springs and rivers (which are propitious to tsetse flies), and wells and

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Fig. 2. Herds, sampled herds and agricultural distribution in the study zone. The size of the points varies according to the  $log_e$  of herd size. The herds are found in three main zones which are delineated by the hydrographic network: (i) an agricultural zone in which animal production is closely integrated into the farming system, with medium-sized herds, in the east; (ii) a mixed agricultural and pastoral zone in the west, with small and large herds; (iii) an almost exclusively pastoral zone in the south, with large herds. This distribution corresponds to the pattern for crops.

109 boreholes (which are generally found in zones not favourable to the flies). The zone classed

as *neighbouring* on the hydrographic network was set at 2 km, based on known data on the tsetse fly's ability to spread (Cuisance et al., 1985).

The serological prevalence for each herd was modelled using logistic regression, since 112 the response variable is a proportion and the error function is assumed to follow the binomial 113 law (McCullagh and Nelder, 1989). The link function used was the logit function, defined as 114  $logit(p) = log_{e}(p/(1-p))$ . An over-dispersion phenomenon often appears in using gen-115 eralized linear model with a logit link when the response variable is a proportion. Over-116 dispersion means that the variance of the response variable exceeds the binomial variance 117 and this problem is very common in large-scale epidemiological studies (McCullagh and 118 119 Nelder, 1989). Taking into account the over-dispersion problem, we used a quasi-likelihood approach (McCullagh and Nelder, 1989) in the place of likelihood function. This led to 120 wider confidence interval of parameters than the classical approach. For the same reasons, to 121 test the contribution of the different descriptive variables in the model, we conducted a 122

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#### Table 2

Descriptive variables used for modelling<sup>a</sup>

Code	Variable	Levels
typew	Type of watering point used in dry season	Art: artificial
		Nat: natural
distw	Distance between farm and watering point used in dry season	1: <1000 m
		2: 1000–4000 m
		3: >4000 m
hrdsz	Herd size	1: small (<5)
		2: medium (5–20)
		3: large (>20)
Hy2km	Farm less than 2 km from hydrographic network	No
-		Yes
allyr	Animals kept by dwelling all year round	No
-		Yes

<sup>a</sup> Reference levels for the model are shown in italic.

deviance analysis with *F*-test in the place of  $\chi^2$ -test (Collet, 1991). The coefficients obtained in the model were interpreted by calculating the odds ratios and their confidence interval (Bouyer et al., 1995). This enabled us to quantify the risk factors associated with the levels of each of the explanatory variables in relation to a reference level.

As the model was not spatialized, it was necessary to look for autocorrelation among 127 residuals. If the presence of autocorrelation was detected, it could imply the omission of 128 regressor variables, the presence of non-linear relationships or that the regression model 129 should have an autoregressive structure (Cliff and Ord, 1973). To test the autocorrelation, 130 we firstly established neighbourhood relationships between herds using a Delaunay 131 triangulation as proposed by Schmoyer (1994). In the second step, Geary, Geary, 132 133 1954) and Moran's (Moran, 1948) statistics (see also Cliff and Ord, 1973) were computed for residuals. By permuting the values of the residual map, we computed new values of 134 autocorrelation statistics and the observed value is tested by comparing to the set of values 135 obtained for the permutations. As the number of possible permutation was very large, we 136 used a Monte-Carlo (Manly, 1991) version of the test. The same procedure has been carried 137 out for observed and predicted prevalence values. This kind of procedure has been recently 138 used in Kleinschmidt et al. (2000) with the non-parametric D-statistic (Walter, 1992) to 139 measure autocorrelation of predictions from a logistic regression. When these indices were 140 141 applied to observed and predicted prevalence values and the residuals of the model, they enabled us to test the capacity of a model to take account of the spatial nature of data. 142 The statistical model was then inverted to estimate the serological prevalence for all the 143 herds in the zone, using the explanatory variables shared with the survey, which were the 144 same than those used to generate the model. 145

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All calculations were made using the R software (Ihaka and Gentleman, 1996).

#### 147 2.4. Spatial model

Specific problems linked to the geographical nature of mapped objects such as herds and the "in herd" variability of measured variables have to be considered when mapping

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seroprevalence: (i) herds are points that may be superimposed if they are close to one 150 another, hence masking information; (ii) the meaning of prevalence within a herd varies 151 with the number of head in the herd, a prevalence of 50% in a two head herd has not the 152 same significance as a prevalence of 50% in a 100 head herd; (iii) mapping only the points 153 corresponding to the pens used at night provides only a partial representation of reality as 154 animals move and occupy a continuous space; (iv) spatial information on prevalence has 155 to be compatible with the other information available in the GIS if they are to be compared. 156 To overcome these problems, a spatial model of land occupation by cattle and of disease 157 distribution was developed. All spatial object manipulations used the Mapinfo<sup>TM</sup> soft-158 159 ware.

160 The representation of land occupation by cattle in a zone as a whole is based on modelling the daily movements of the animals in each herd. In savanna zones, water 161 availability is the main constraint at the end of the dry season, and governs movements 162 (Boutrais, 1994). Herd movements were therefore modelled by representing the direct 163 route between the night pen and the watering point or points, and drawing a buffer zone 164 around the route, corresponding to the area occupied by the cattle during the day (Michel 165 et al., 1999). This zone of daily use by the herd varies in size. The wider the herd and the 166 nearer it is to its watering point, the larger the zone of frequentation (Fig. 3). This model 167 was validated by monitoring the movements of a sample of herds. 168

The predicted prevalence for all the herds was applied to their zones of daily use. To 169 synthesize this information, which was not yet very easy to resolve due to the super-170 imposition of polygons, it proved necessary to aggregate it so as to shift to a smaller scale. 171 This was done by projecting all the zones of use and the corresponding prevalences onto a 172 regular geographic grid of  $1 \text{ km}^2$  (Raynal et al., 1996). The cumulated distribution of 173 antibody-prevalence in the study zone was then represented by assigning to each square the 174 mean value of the prevalences for the herd polygons impinging on it, so as to produce a map 175 176 of average prevalence (Fig. 4). The calculated mean value of prevalence was weighted by the size of herds in order to take into account for problems (ii) cited above. Smoothing by 177 two-dimensional weighted local regression (Cleveland and Devlin, 1988) on the centroids 178 of the squares in the grid made the maps more realistic. 179

#### 180 **3. Results**

#### 181 *3.1. Sampling and observed seroprevalence*

In total, 216 herds and 1784 head were sampled. Herd and cattle distribution in the sample showed that small herds were slightly under-represented, in favour of mediumsized herds (Table 3). On the other hand, small herds were over-represented near the hydrographic network (Fig. 2). The differences in relation to the sample initially planned can be attributed to field constraints such as herds in an out-of-the-way place or cattle breeder absent or not in agreement with taking a blood sample.

The average serological prevalence observed among the cattle was 73.4%. The map of herd prevalence, shown as points according to the corresponding dwelling, showed case distribution but was difficult to interpret (Fig. 5).

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Fig. 3. Modelling of daily herd movements. Modelling herd movements consists in representing the direct route between the night pen and the watering point or points, and drawing a buffer zone around the route, corresponding to the area occupied by the cattle during the day. This zone of daily use by the herd varies in size. The larger the herd and the nearer it is to its watering point, the larger the zone of frequentation is (BV: cattle) (after De La Rocque et al., 2001).

Table	3						
Herd	size	and	head	number	in	the	sample

	Herd size				
	Under five head	5–20 head	Over 20 head	Total	
Number of herds	110 (51%)	70 (32%)	36 (17%)	216	
Number of animals	327 (18%)	736 (41%)	721 (41%)	1784	

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Fig. 4. Data aggregation and spatial distribution of mean prevalence. This was done by projecting all the zones of use and the corresponding prevalences onto a regular geographic grid of  $1 \text{ km}^2$ . The cumulated distribution of antibody-prevalence in the study zone was then represented by assigning to each square the mean value of the prevalences for the herd polygons impinging on it, so as to produce a map of average prevalence.

#### 191 3.2. Statistical modelling: identification of risk factors

The deviance analysis showed that only the distance between cattle pen and watering 192 193 point was not significant and this variable was excluded from the model. All the other variables were significant (Table 4). The dispersion parameter for the model was 2.48. The 194 relation between the numbers of observed and predicted positives (Spearman's rank 195 correlation  $\rho = 0.45$ , P < 0.0001) showed that the statistical model has a good fit. The 196 spatial autocorrelation tests revealed a positive correlation between observed and predicted 197 prevalences, whereas the residuals of the model were not correlated (Table 5). The 198 variables used in the model thus take account of the spatial factor. The odds ratios 199 calculated with the coefficients estimated by the model showed that proximity to the 200

Deviance an	Degree of freedom	Deviance	Residual degree of freedom	Residual deviance	P(>F)
NULL	_	-	215	666.51	_
typew	1	17.66	214	648.86	< 0.0082
hrdsz	2	37.37	212	611.49	< 0.0006
allyr	1	59.07	211	552.41	< 0.0001
hy2km	1	54.17	210	498.24	< 0.0001

Table 4				
Deviance	analysis	of	the	mod

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Fig. 5. Distribution of serological prevalence among the herds sampled. The map of seroprevalence for the herds sampled, shown as points according to the corresponding dwelling, indicated case distribution. BV: cattle.

hydrographic network, frequentation of natural watering points, large herd size and the fact
of keeping animals near dwellings all year round were all risk factors (Table 6).

## 203 3.3. Modelling of spatial distribution of prevalence

The map of predicted serological prevalences, obtained by spatial modelling on a whole study zone scale, showed that mean serological prevalence is distributed along the hydrographic network, with focal points of high values, and that it spreads radially into the neighbouring savannas (Fig. 6).

Table 5

Spatial autocorrelation tests for the observed and the predicted prevalences and the residues of the model, using Moran's (I) and Geary's (c) indexes

Variable	Ι	P-values	С	P-values
Observed prevalence	0.196	< 0.001	0.799	< 0.001
Predicted prevalence	0.542	< 0.001	0.465	< 0.001
Residuals of model	0.020	0.248	0.972	0.288

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Variable	Lower confidence interval (OR)	OR	Upper confidence interval (OR)
Intercept	0.53	1.08	2.19
typewnat	0.88	1.34	2.04
hrdsz2	0.38	0.67	1.16
hrdsz3	1.03	1.99	3.84
allyryes	1.69	2.70	4.31
hy2kmyes	1.94	3.43	6.07

 Table 6

 Odds ratios (OR) calculated from the coefficients of the serological model



Fig. 6. Distribution of mean serological prevalence in the zone and high-transmission-risk zones. The hightransmission risk zones are delineated by a white outline. This map shows that mean serological prevalence is structured linearly along the hydrographic network, with focal points of high values, and that it spreads radially into the neighbouring savannas.

#### 208 4. Discussion

### 209 4.1. Observed prevalence and statistical model

The serological results obtained from the sample confirm the enzootic situation that had already been observed for trypanosomosis in the Sidéradougou zone, with high infection

212 levels among vectors (De La Rocque, 1997). On an animal production zone scale, parasite

- pressure can be evaluated more accurately by the number of antibody carriers than by direct
- detection of parasites (Desquesnes et al., 2000). With serological data, the statistical model

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proved to be of high quality, and confirmed the risk factors conventionally identified in terms of animal trypanosomosis, such as spatial and temporal proximity to vectorpropitious biotopes and intensity of contact with tsetse flies, particularly through watering practices (De La Rocque et al., 1999). The risk associated with large herds can be put down to the fact that such herds use natural watering points with sufficient capacity, which are generally located in preferred biotopes of tsetse flies.

## 221 4.2. Spatial modelling of trypanosome prevalence

Daily movements of cattle were modelled at the end of the dry season, since at such 222 223 times, animal movements centre on specific sites: dwellings and watering points. Moreover, the end of the dry season is a key period for bovine trypanosomosis epidemiology: it 224 is the period with the highest risk of parasite transmission (Rowlands et al., 1993). Lastly, 225 modelling was conducted with a specific aim: to study the relations between cattle 226 trypanosomosis vectors and hosts on a whole-zone scale. The model predicts the presence 227 of cattle around the crucial points of contact between cattle and tsetse flies. It would have 228 been possible to introduce spatial constraints into the model, to take account of the relief or 229 of zones occupied by crops. However, these constraints are very limited at the end of the 230 dry season, and projection onto a geographic grid would reduce its accuracy. 231

The attribution of prevalences to zones of use by cattle and their aggregation within a geographic grid provides continuous information in spatial terms. The map of mean prevalences, which takes account of all the predicted prevalences, is well suited to serological data.

Superimposing the map of predicted prevalences and the epidemiological risks zones 235 identified elsewhere (De La Rocque et al., 2001) shows that prevalence distribution 236 corresponds roughly to the zones with a high risk of disease transmission (Fig. 6). The 237 zones in the northeast, at the foot of the Banfora Cliff and in the extreme north, which had high 238 239 prevalence rates among cattle, were not subjected to the high-transmission-risk site identification procedure. The existence of high serological prevalences well away from the 240 hydrographic network can be explained by: (i) tsetse fly dispersion during the rainy season: 241 the flies infect cattle, which may still have antibodies when the next dry season arrives 242 (Desquesnes, 1997); (ii) the assignment of prevalences to cattle use zones that stretch well into 243 the savannas. It is thus crucial to take account of animal movements and land occupation if we 244 are to obtain a realistic picture of bovine trypanosomosis prevalence distribution in the zone. 245 Projecting the land occupied by each herd onto the geographic grid enabled us to 246 247 improve the resolution of disease representation in the zone. The choice of the size of the elementary squares in the grid is crucial, as it governs the change in scale. We chose a size 248 of 1 km, since it corresponds (i) to a reasonable scale for taking account of variations in 249 daily herd movements and (ii) to the scale of the study and integration in the GIS of the 250 other topics covered in the study of disease transmission. 251

#### 252 5. Conclusion

By taking account of animal movements and modelling the prevalence of the disease, the method described enabled us to convert specific, partial spatial information on a herd scale

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into continuous information on a whole-zone scale. Spatial modelling is a robust method, and produces a realistic picture of disease epidemiology. It showed that the natural environment and animal production practices account for structure in trypanosome distribution. The data layer obtained was integrated into a GIS with a view to validating the zones with a high risk of animal trypanosomosis transmission. This opens the way for the identification of spatial indicators of a trypanosomal risk, such as the presence of crops, the spatial structure of habitats, and soil characteristics.

The approach described was based on detailed field data whose acquisition is timeconsuming, such as exhaustive, georeferenced counts of herds and their watering points. One essential improvement would be to identify simple, easy to obtain indicators of the presence of cattle and their movements.

The spatialization of data, their integration into a GIS, the coupling of conventional statistical models and spatial models, and the methods available for changing scale offer new methodological and thematic prospects for studying the epidemiology of directly and

indirectly transmitted diseases on different scales (Hay et al., 2000; Hendrickx et al., 2001),

- but also for understanding the interactions between animal production and the surrounding
- environment.

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