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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND
INCIDENTAL DISTRIBUTION OF ARGAS PERSICUS
(OKEN, 1818) TICKS IN GIZA GOVERNORATE

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INTRODUCTION

The chicken tick, Argas persicus, Oken (1818) has been considered the most important and serious ecto-parasite of birds due to its resistance to climatic influences and its association with numerous hosts, (Hoogstraal, 1956). In Egypt studies on the highest and lowest densities of adults and developmental stages showed great variations according to the locality, (Soliman, 1956, Abd-El-Salam, 1978 and Ahmed, 1979). Hence, it was found necessary to enquire on such problem at Giza governorate as an economic bird contribution.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Ticks were collected from chicken houses during the day time in both governmental and private chicken farms in Giza Governorate (Giza & Ambaba cities). The outer and inner side of crevices and on walls, doors, under stones, corners, nests and litter were thoroughly examined for ticks. Trees and bushes specially under the bark were similarly treated, Chicken in the farm were also examined for any possible larval stages. The collected ticks were brought to the laboratory, cleaned and identified according to the keys of Hoogstraal (1956) and Hoogstraal & Kaiser (1958).

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concerning the sex-ratio, it has been noticed that males supervened females. Probably, the depleted females were slower in their movements. Those which did not reach their hiding places before sun rise, were either devoured by the chickens or rodents.

SUMMARY

The prevalence of the different developmental stages of *persicus* has been investigated for chicken in Giza Governorate. The highest density was generally observed during the summer seasons. However, the males have increased during the autumn and decreased gradually, during winter, summer & spring seasons. The highest number of females was collected during spring followed by that of winter, autumn & summer. Nymphs were observed to increase during winter and decreased during other seasons, while the larvae increased during spring and gradually declined during autumn, summer and winter seasons.

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