

B-05: A preliminary investigation on some reproductive traits of local goats

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This study was carried out in Hambantota district to investigate some reproductive traits of local goats reared under extensive management system.

The data was collected from a herd maintained at a private farm. In 1993, 48 females were introduced to the farm and they were numbered for identification. They were allowed to browse (6 h/day) during the day and natural breeding was

practised. The reproductive data was recorded and the data was statistically analysed.

Kiddings were distributed throughout the year demonstrating no seasonality. However, highest kidding percentages were observed in the months of July (19.58%) and January (18.88%). The mortality rate among the kids were 24.13% and highest deaths occurred during the rainy season.

Average age and weight at 1st kidding was 329.25±34.46 days and 11.29±1.38 kg respectively. The average overall kidding interval was 215.53±38.0 days. The kidding intervals between parities were decreasing with the increasing parity and the differences were significant ($p < 0.05$). Birth weight of kids born in the dry season and rainy season were 1.832±0.12 and 1.702±0.29 kg respectively.

Of the 143 kiddings during the study period, 60.8% singles, 36.4% twins and 2.8% triplets were observed. Annual kidding rate was 1.421/does/year. The litter size increased with parity.