

# User friendly biomarker-based animal trypanosomiasis diagnosis

25th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa (Gaborone, Botswana)

**Merid Negash Getahun**

## Introduction

**The livestock sector supports more than 1.3 billion producers and retailers, and contributes 40–50% of agricultural GDP**

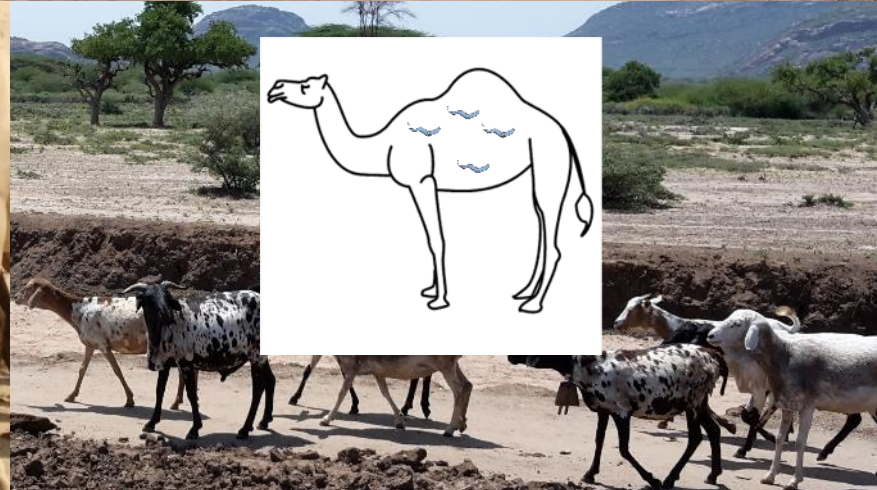
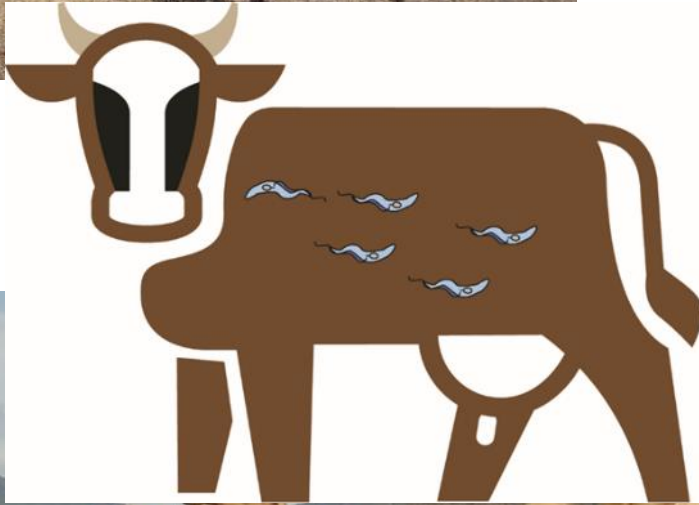
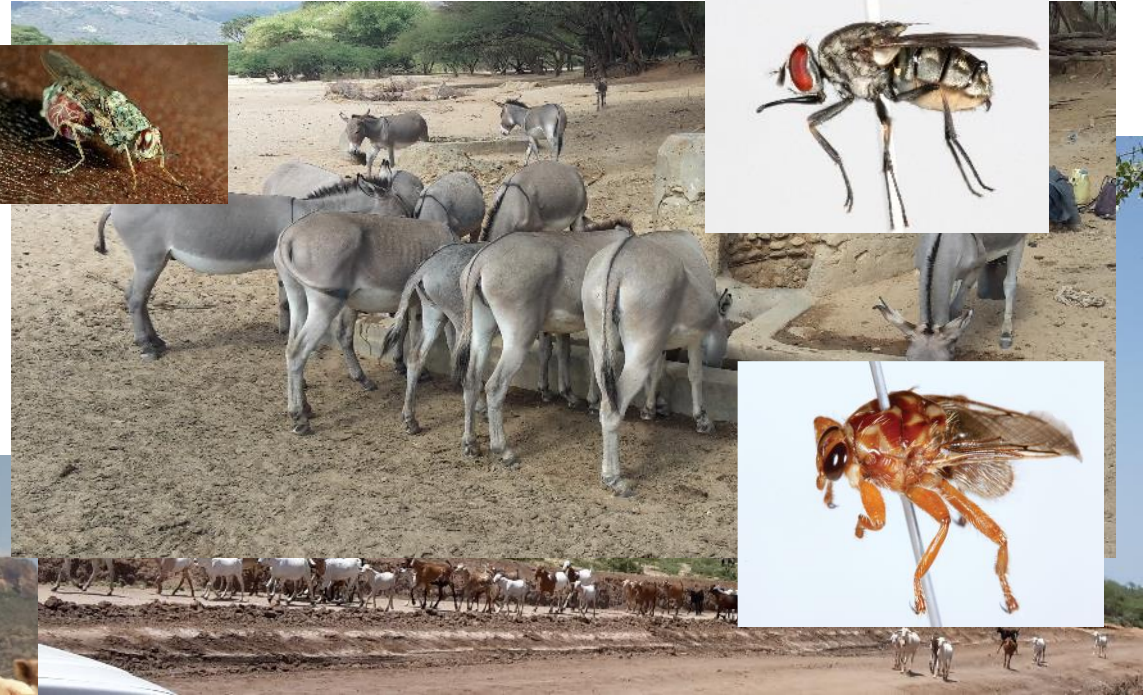
**Among the various positive services that livestock farming systems provide to ecosystem is diversifying soil pathogens and nutrient that strongly influence soil health and productivity**

**Livestock are resilient**

**Livestock positive role is polarized due to greenhouse gases emission, debate, need sustainable livestock farming**

**Livestock productivity is significantly affected by vector borne diseases (VBDs) especially in African continent**

# Livestock-pathogen-vectors interaction



# Livestock - VBDs



# Epidemiology of different trypanosomes, anaplasma in camel, cattle



*T. evansi*



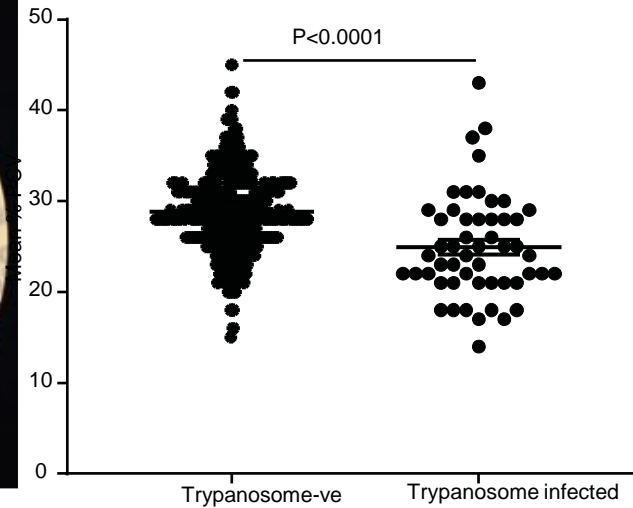
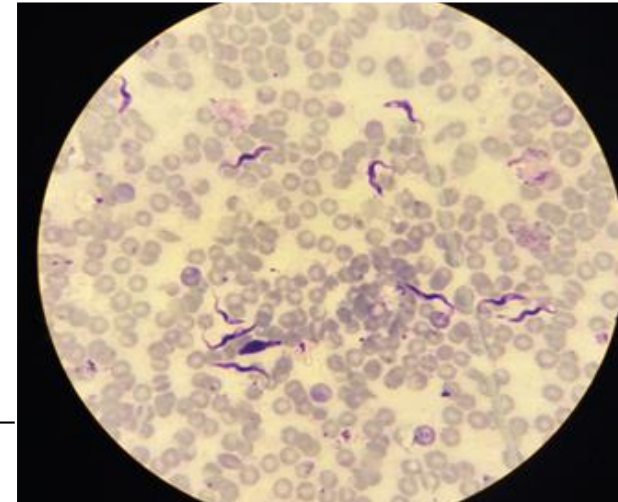
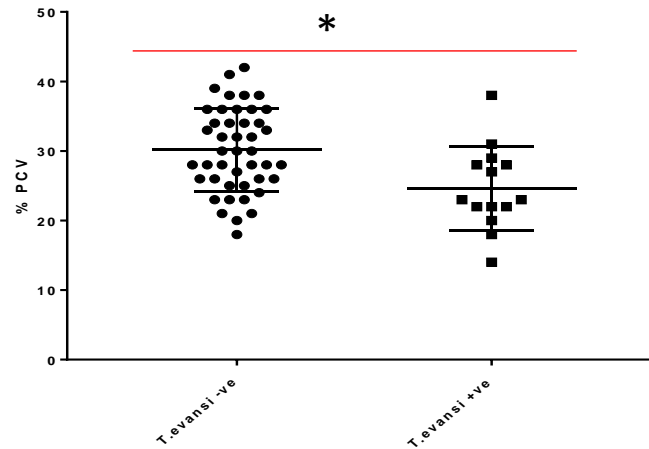
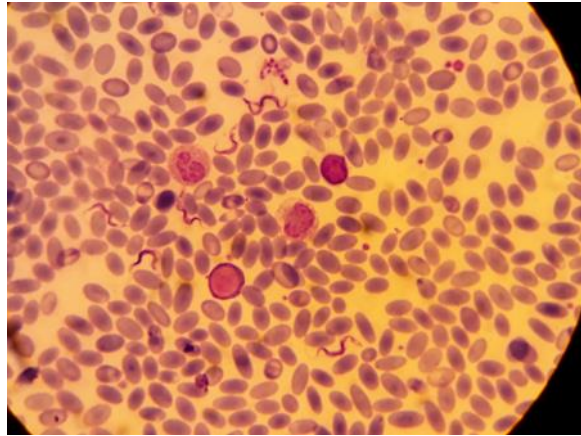
*T. vivax*



*T. evansi* + anaplasma

Cooperative virulence

## Pathophysiology



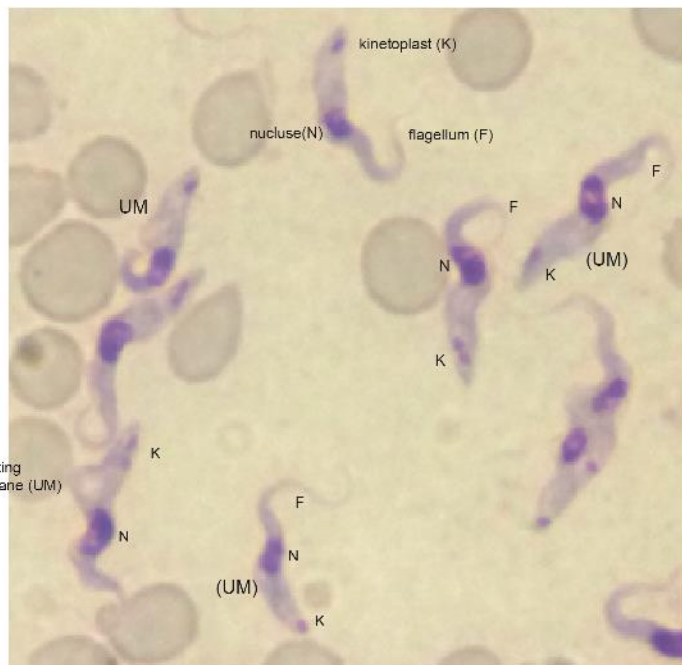
**~15% mortality**

**Low productivity**

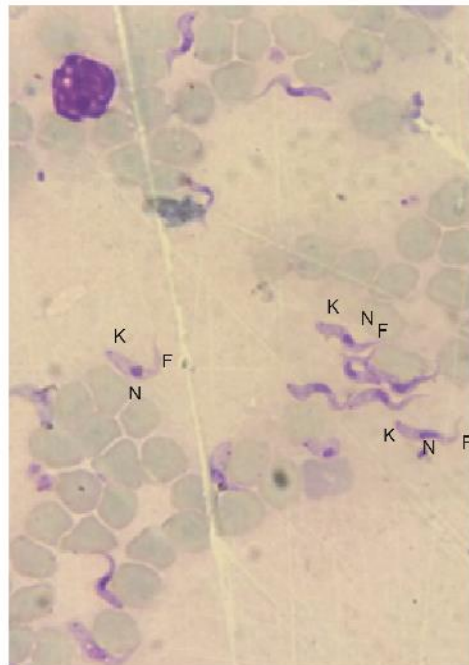
**35% abortion**

# Animal trypanosomiasis remains a challenge despite all efforts

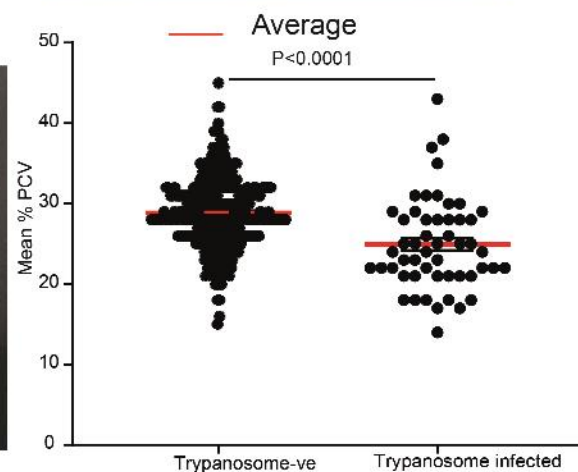
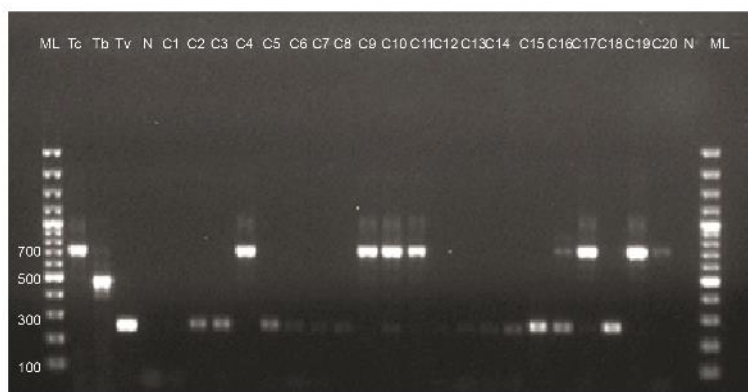
*T. vivax*



*T. congolense*

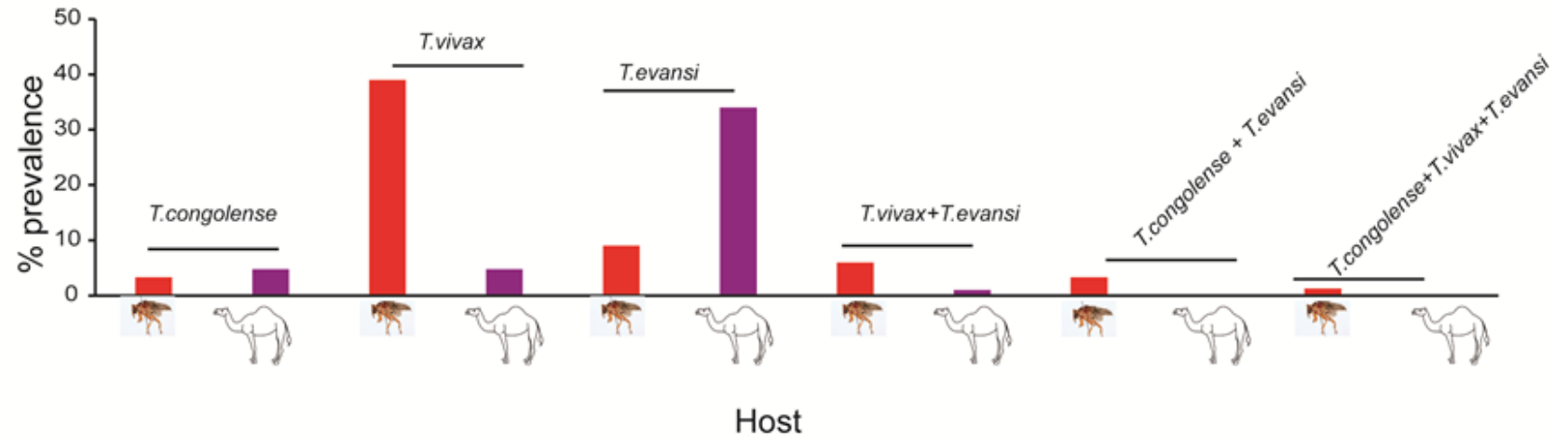
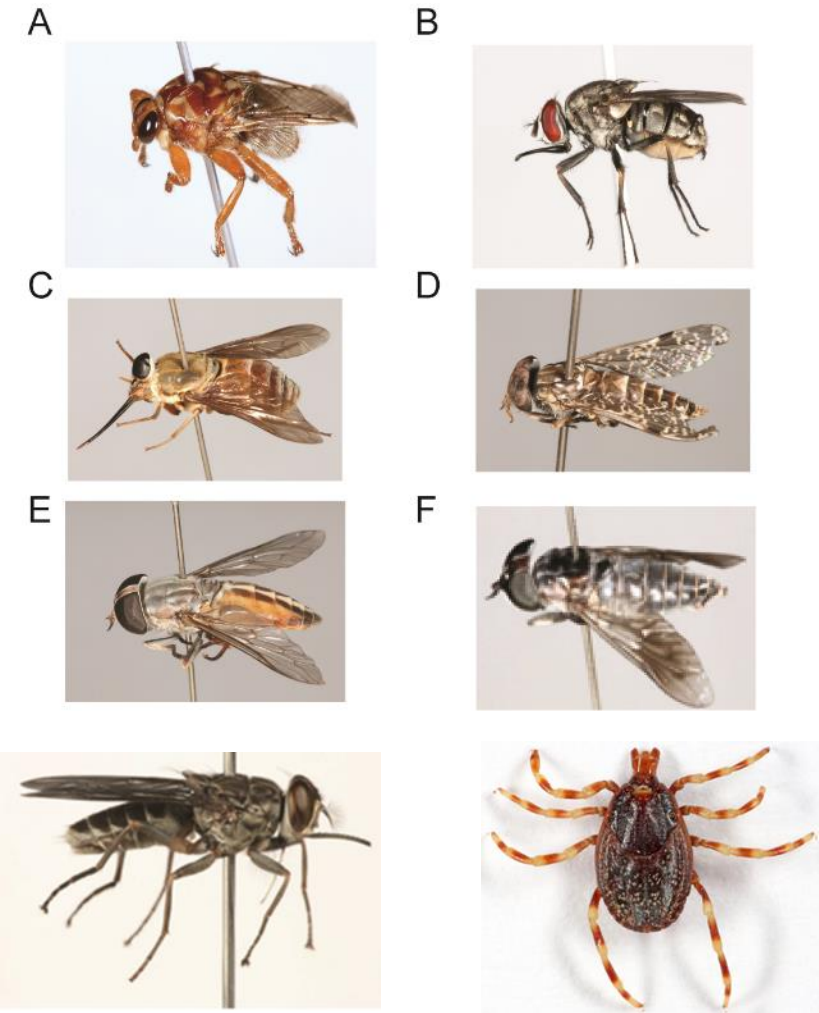


undulating membrane (UM)



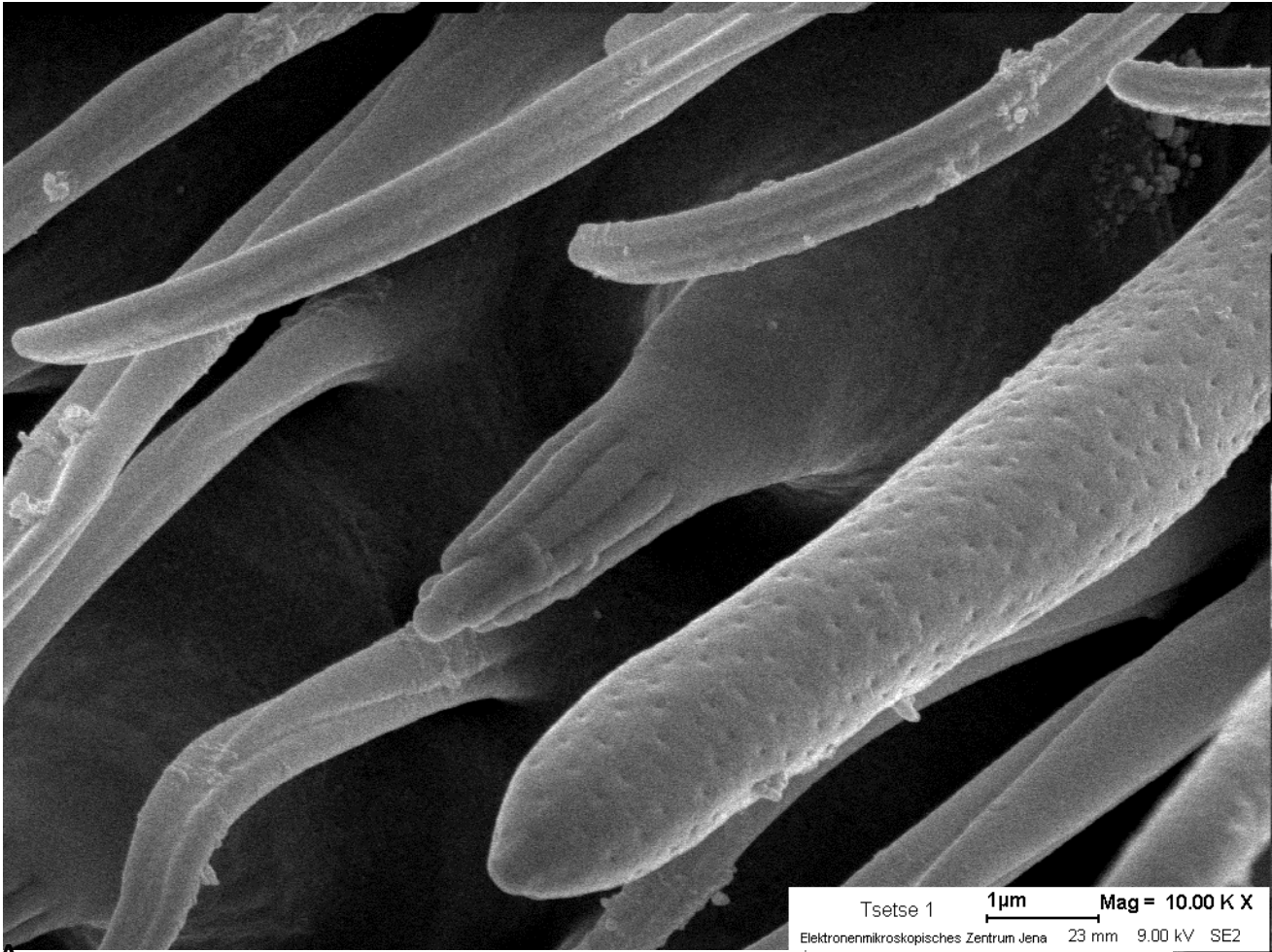
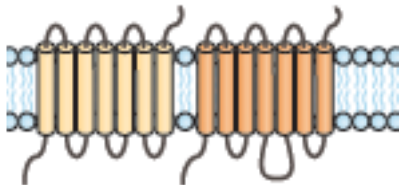
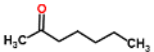
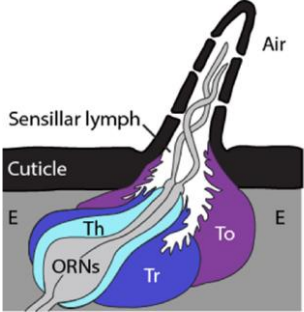
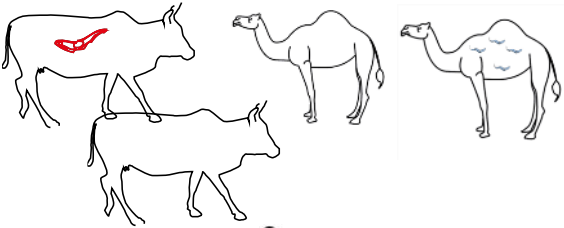
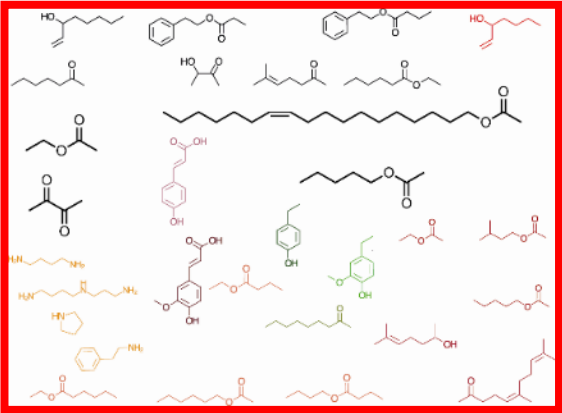
- ❖ Animal African trypanosomiasis caused by *T. congolense* and *T. vivax* is still one of the most serious livestock illnesses in sub-Saharan Africa, affecting millions of cattle every year
- ❖ High trypanosomes prevalence (14%)
- ❖ Infected cattle were considerably anemic, an indication of trypanosomosis severity

# Various potential vectors of trypanosomes, anaplasma



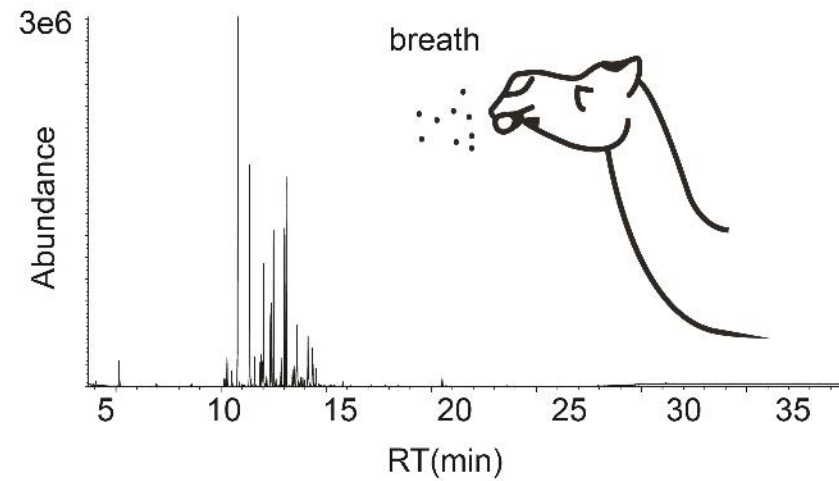
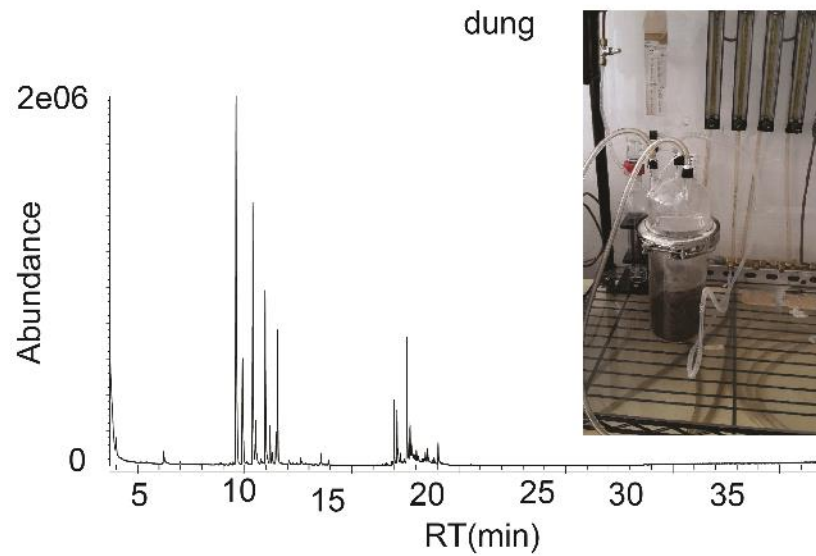
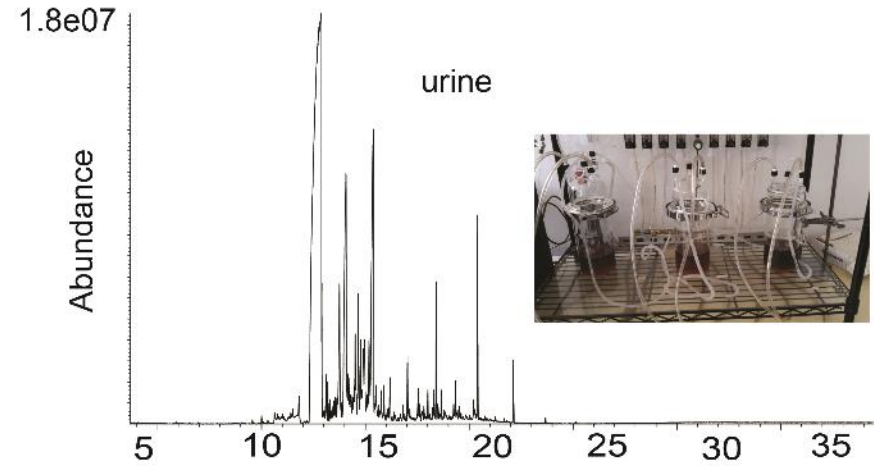
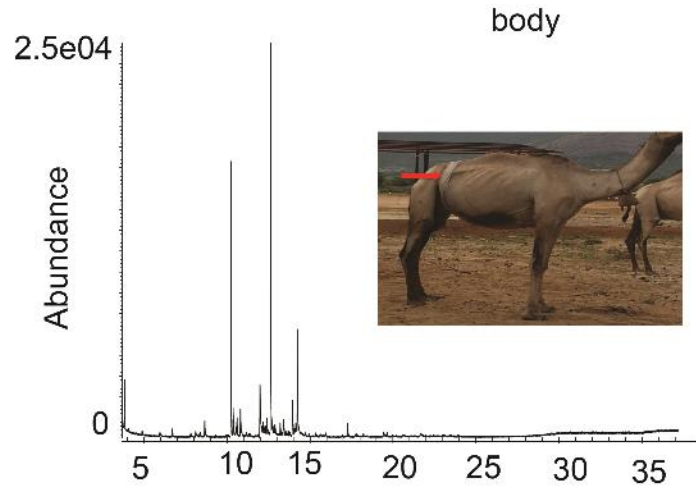
**High correlation of pathogens between biting flies and camel**

# Livestock-pathogens-vectors interaction to develop tools for vector control and diseases diagnosis

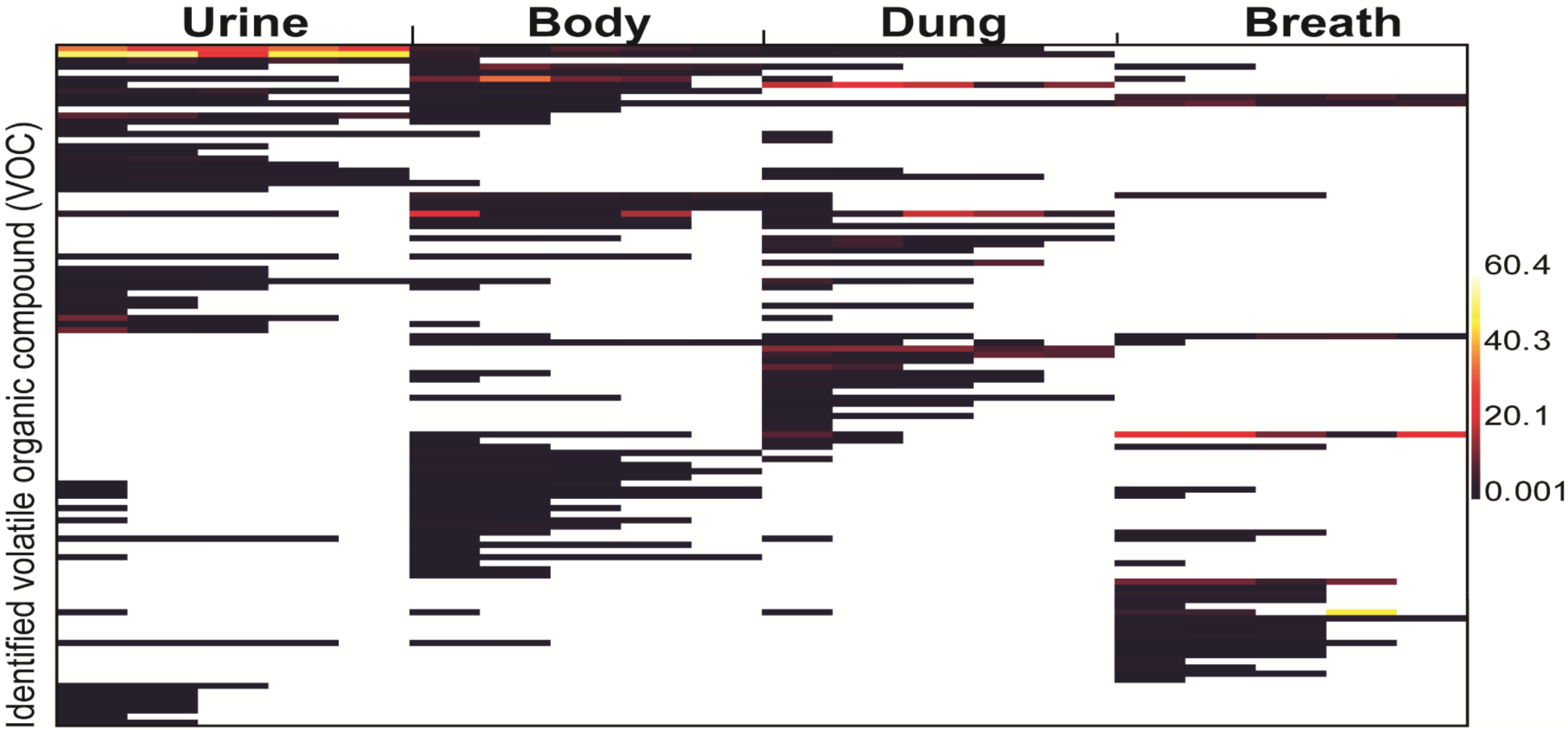




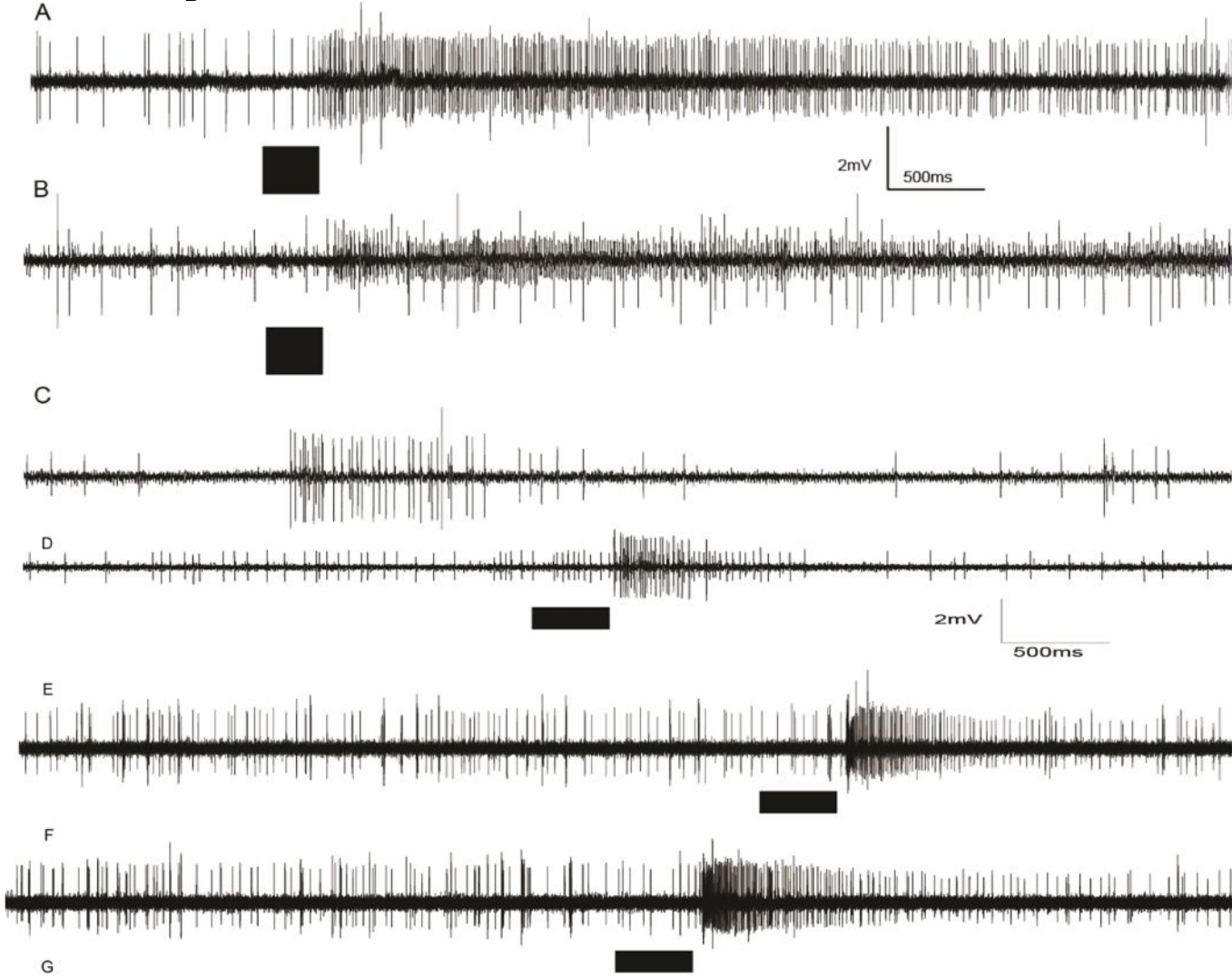
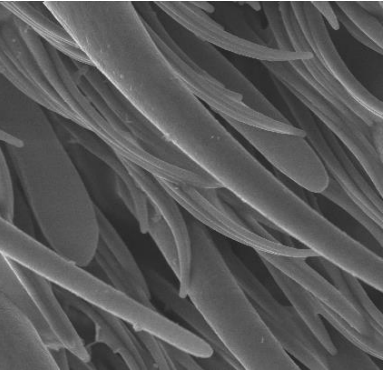
# How to mimic camel by its odor?



# Odours between metabolic pathways are distinct with some overlaps

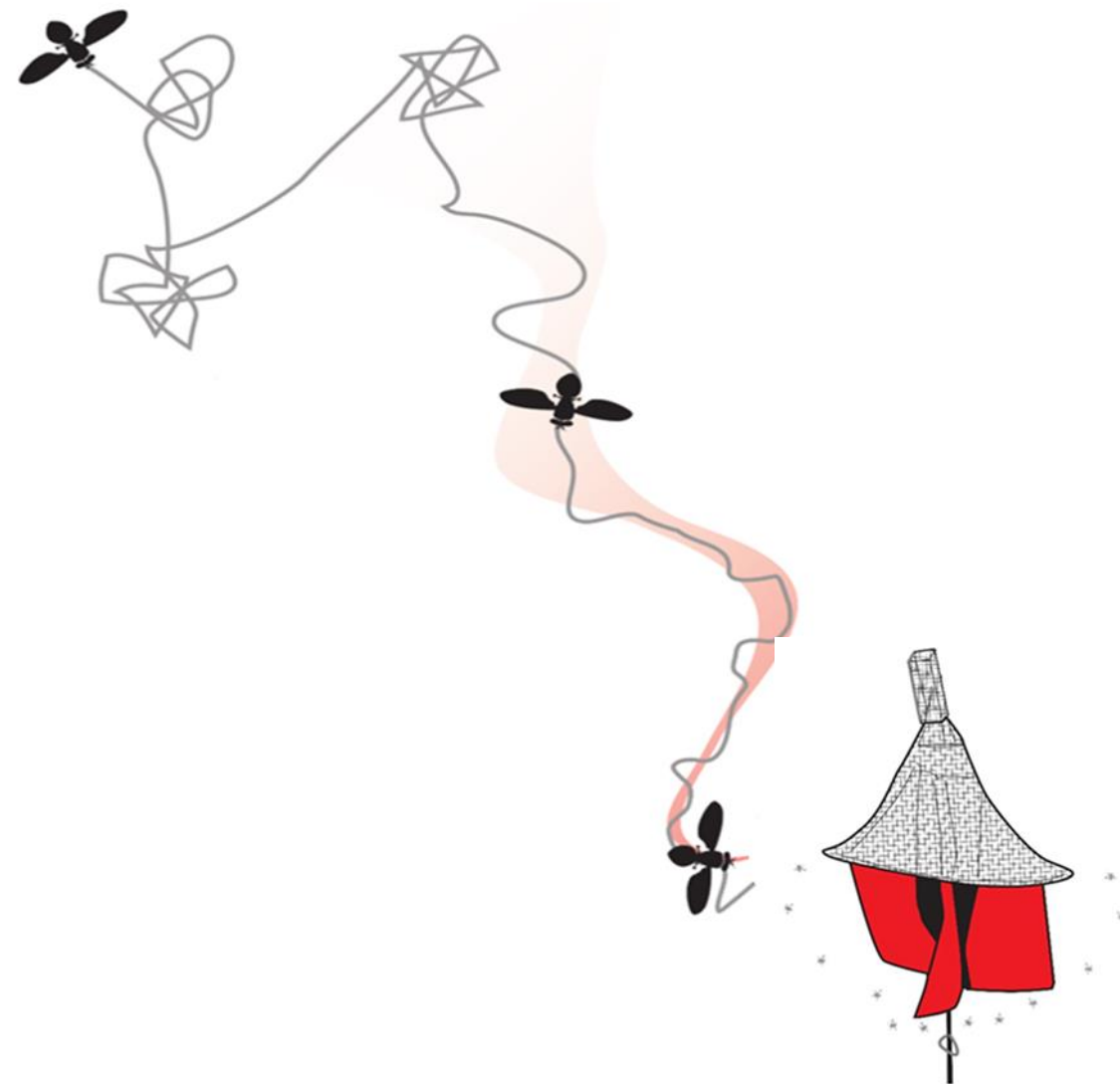
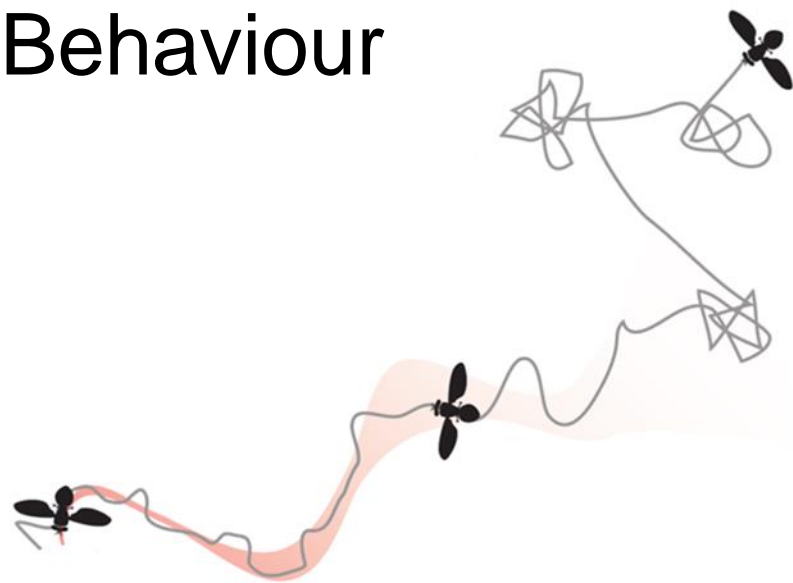
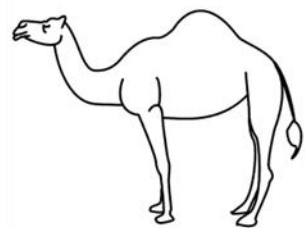


# Neurobiology: Camel semio-chemicals coding by stable fly olfactory system



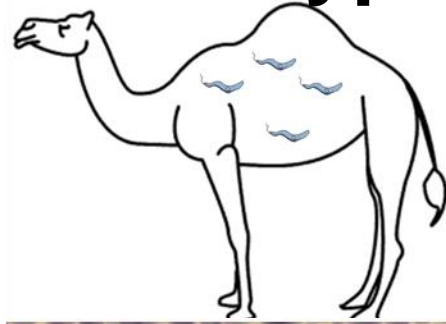
Getahun et al., 2020b

# Behaviour

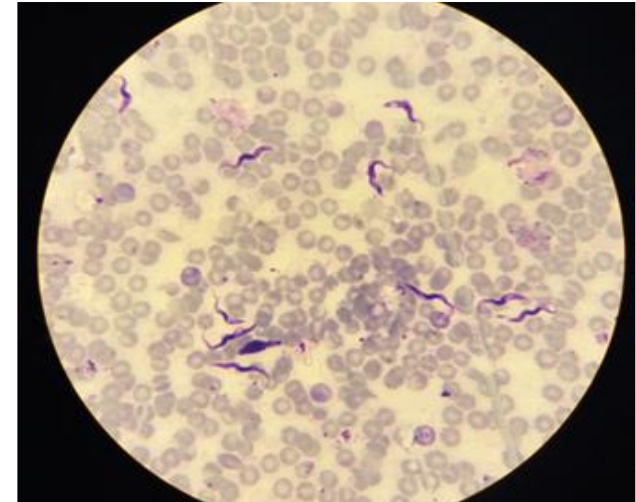
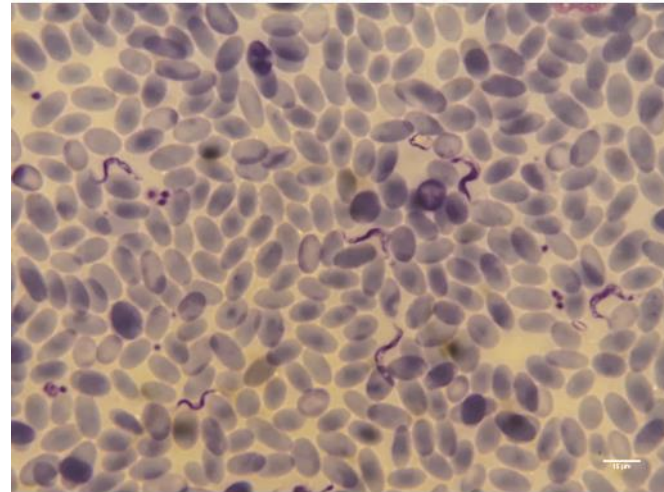




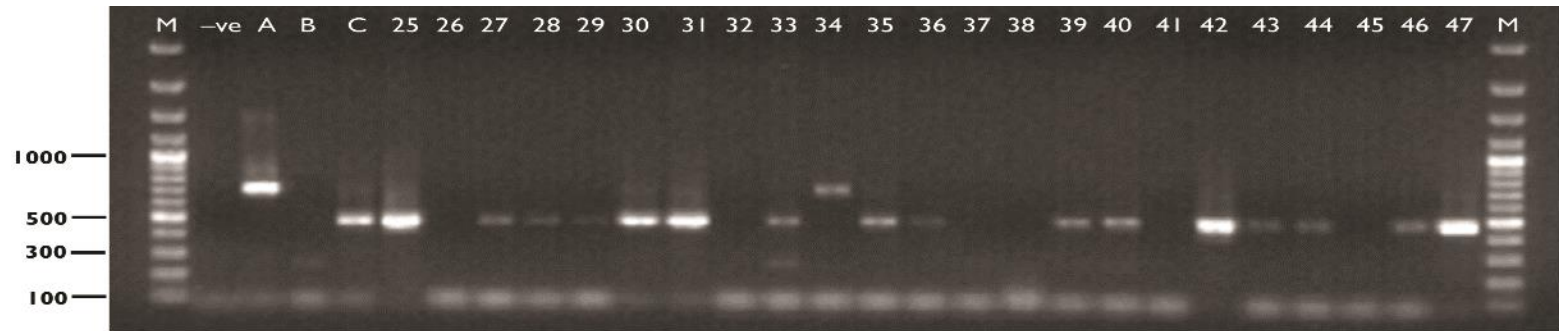
# How to diagnosis animal trypanosomiasis and surra



## Microscopy



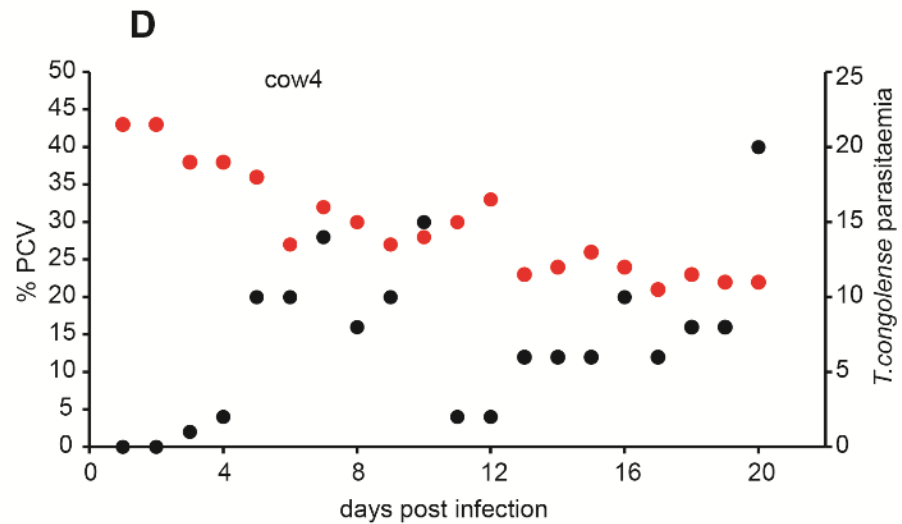
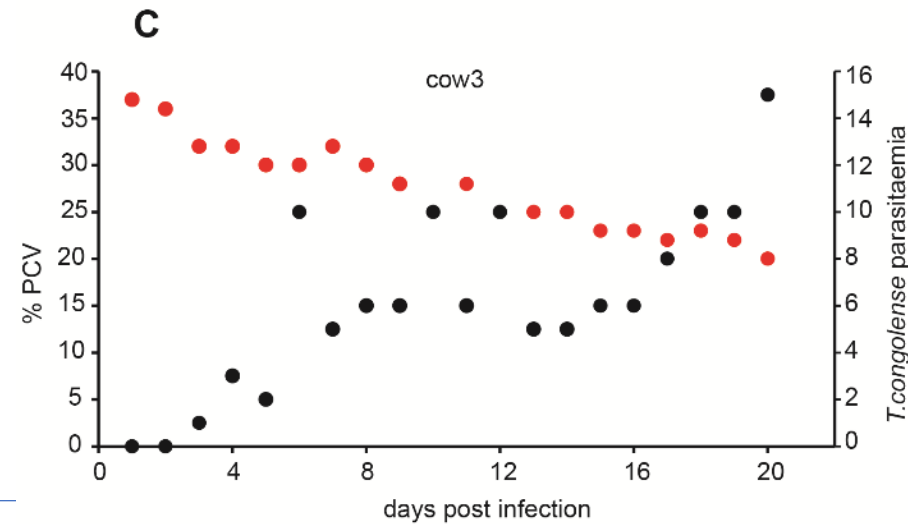
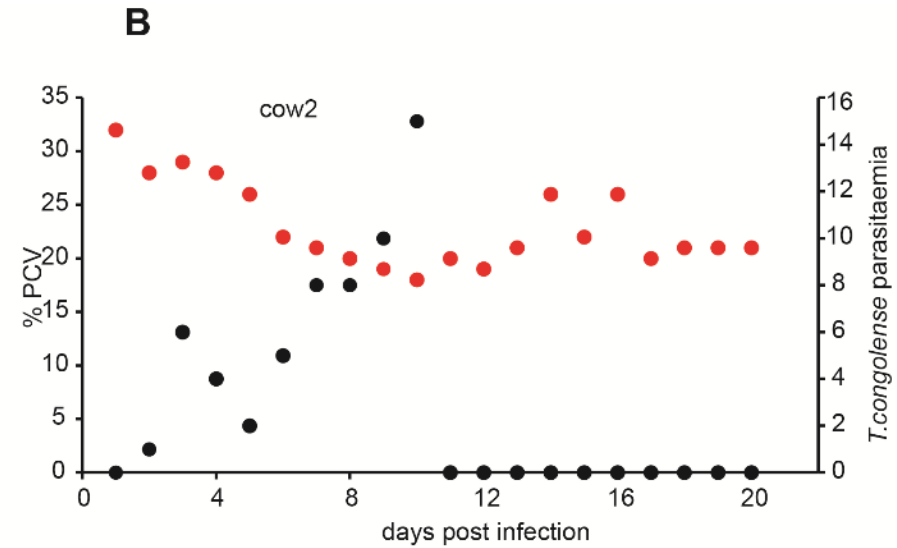
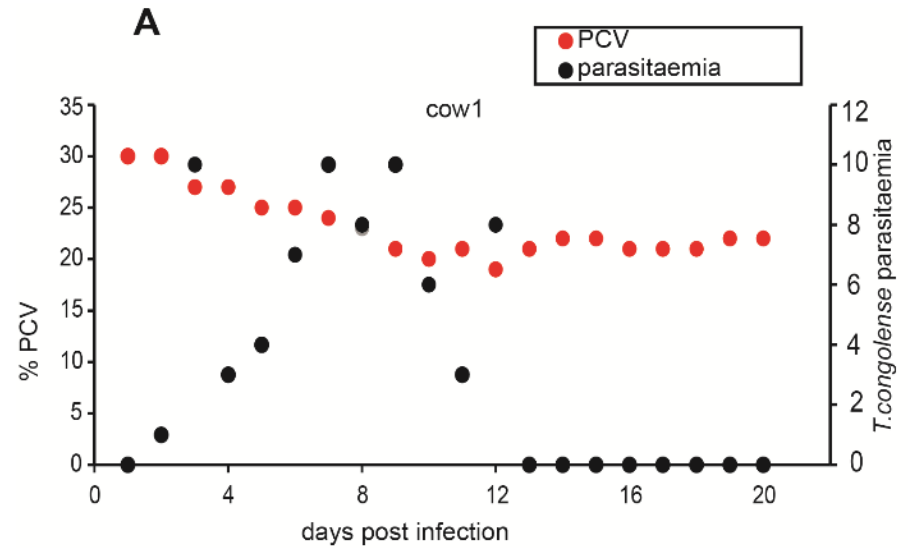
## PCR



# Developing simple animal trypanosomiasis diagnosis

Animal trypanosomiasis diagnosis has been challenging due to the technicality of the current diagnostic tools, PCR and microscopy. To democratize animal trypanosomiasis diagnosis we applied the use of **reliable simple organic compounds biomarkers which are the intermediate or the end products of various cell processes and closely reflect the pathophysiological changes involved in the disease on set and progression.** In our finding, trypanosome infection caused consistent changes in volatile organic compounds, in their urine and breath as reliable biomarkers of trypanosomiasis and we used those odors as diseases indicator.

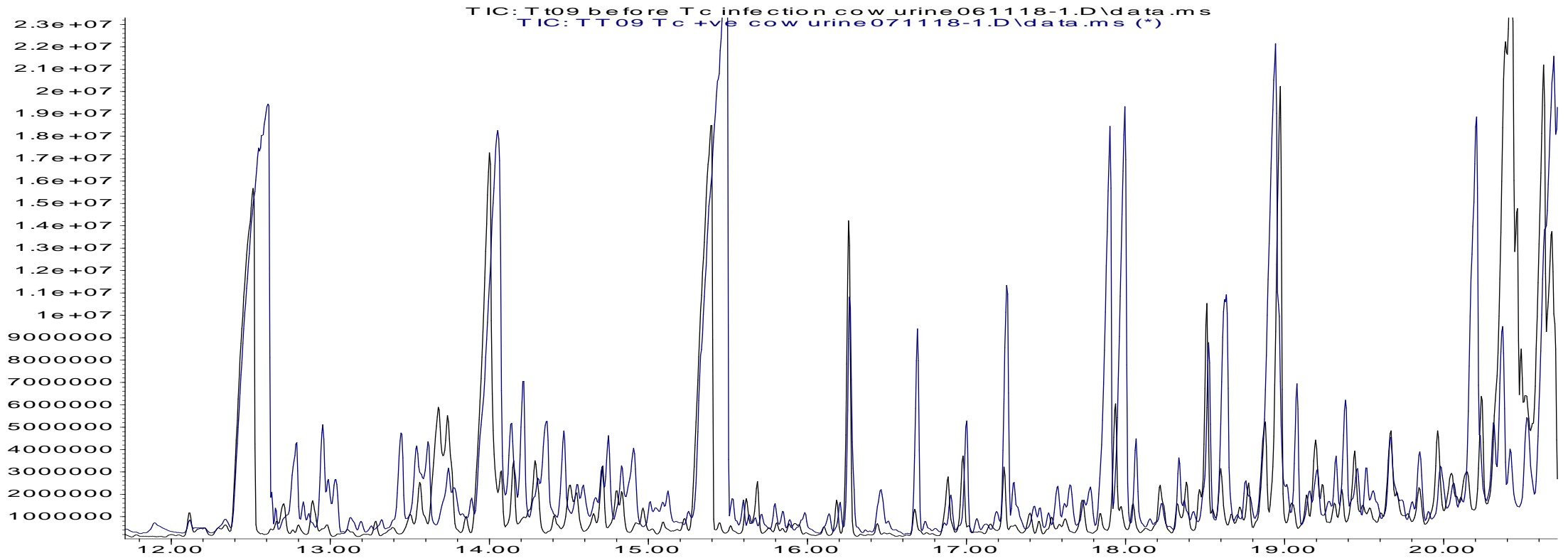
# Trypanosoma congolense Infection Reduced PCV





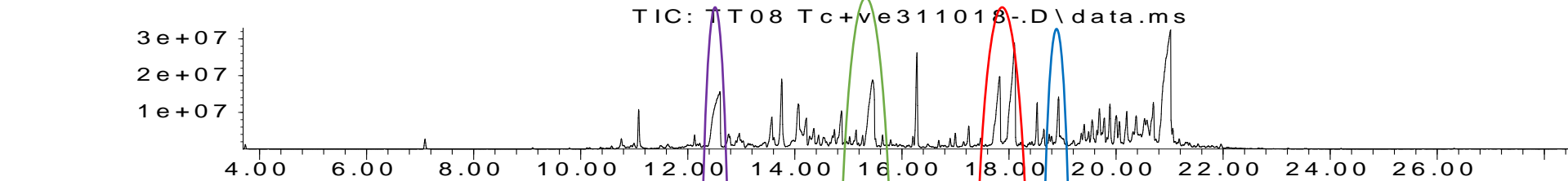
# *Trypanosoma congolense* Infection modified cow urine odor chemistry

Abundance

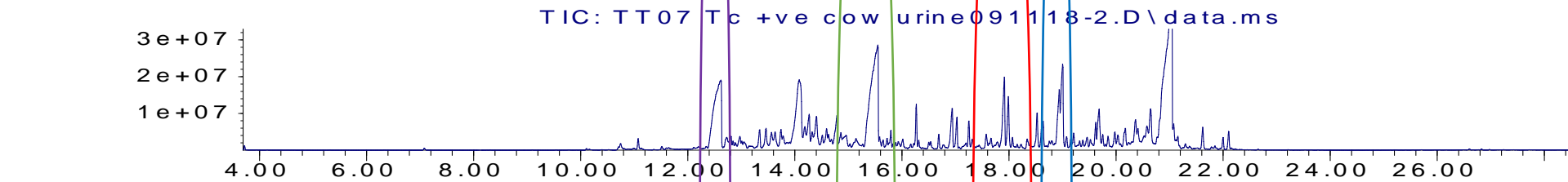


# Metabolites profile of trypanosome infected cow urine

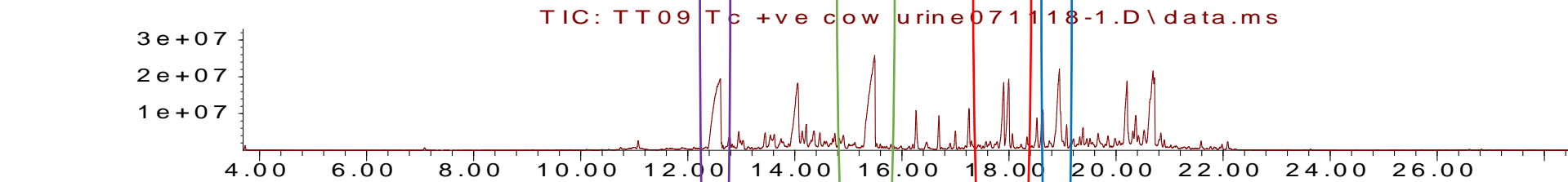
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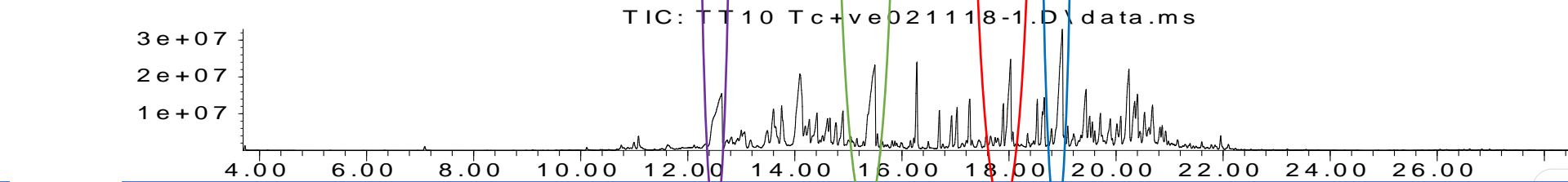
Time-->  
Abundance



Time-->  
Abundance



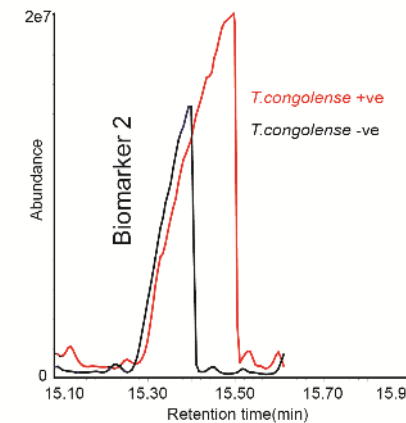
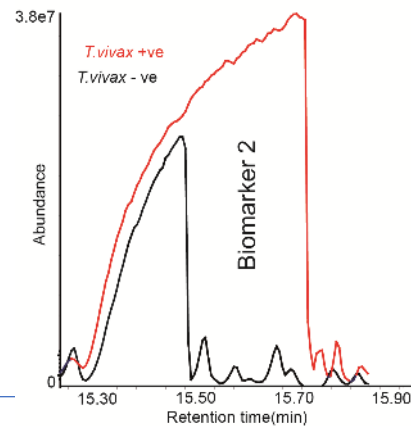
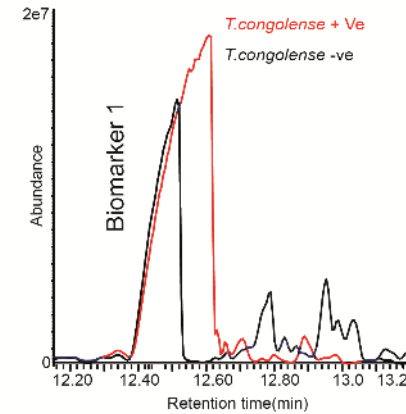
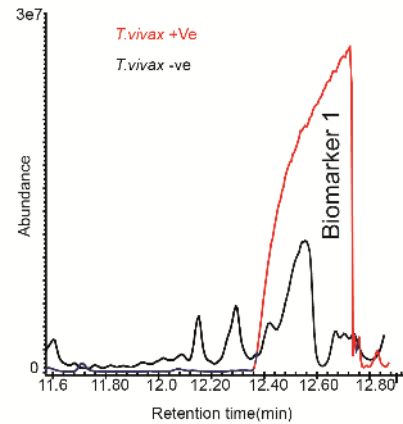
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Abundance



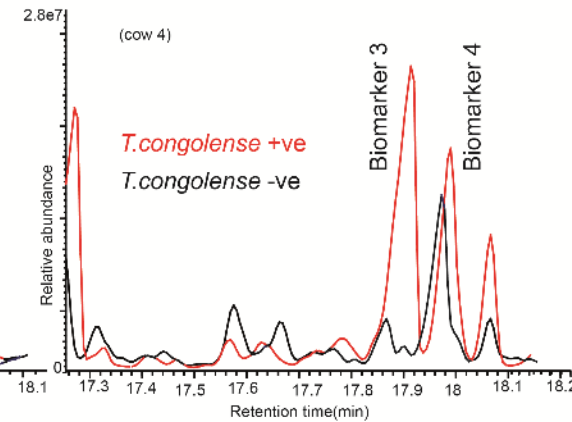
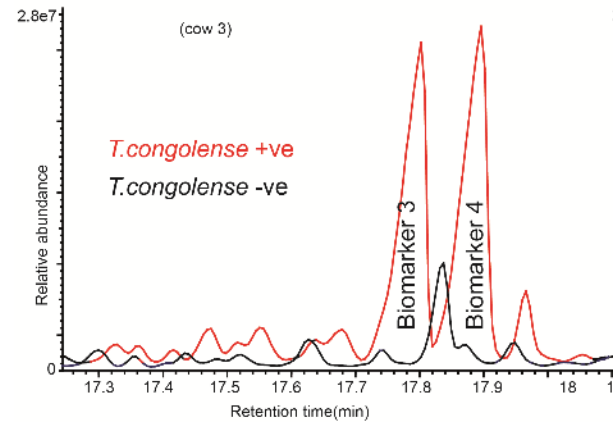
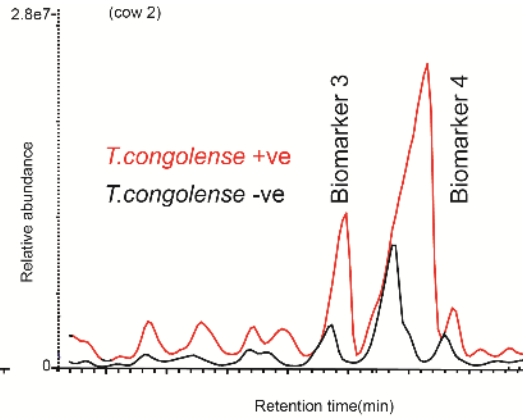
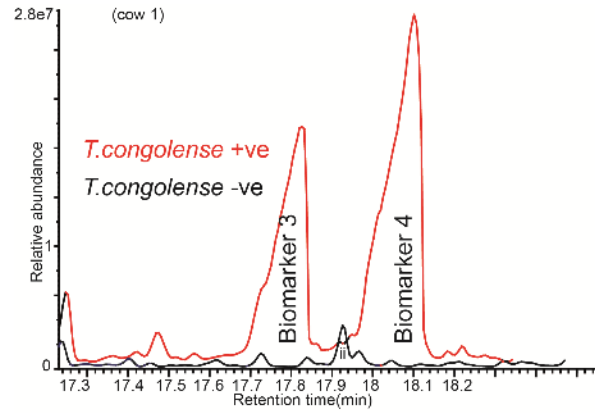
Time-->  
[www.icipe.org](http://www.icipe.org)



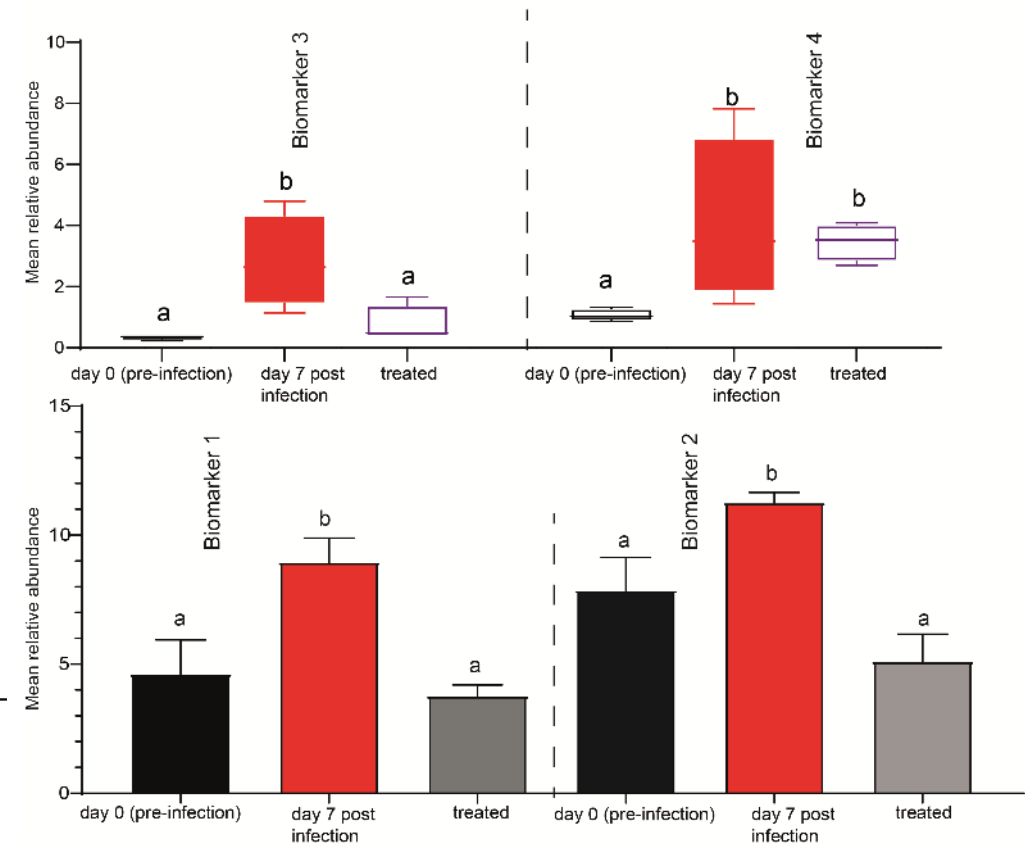
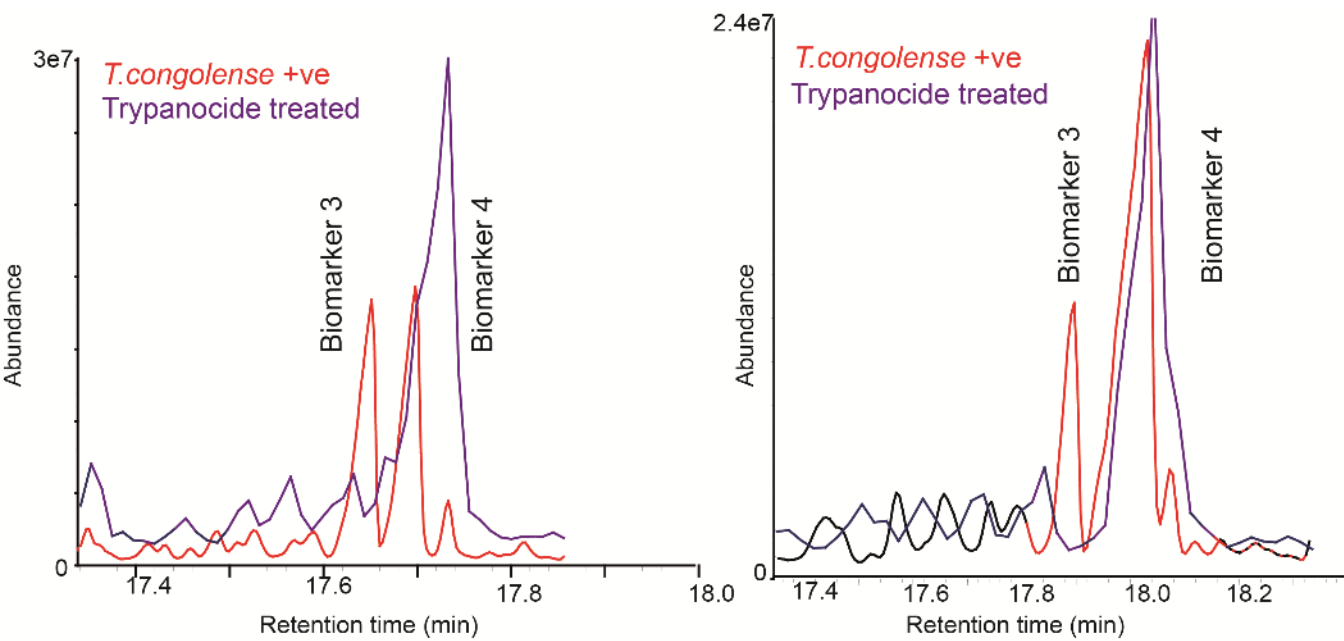
# Phenolics concentration significantly increased in trypanosome infected cattle and they are potential biomarkers



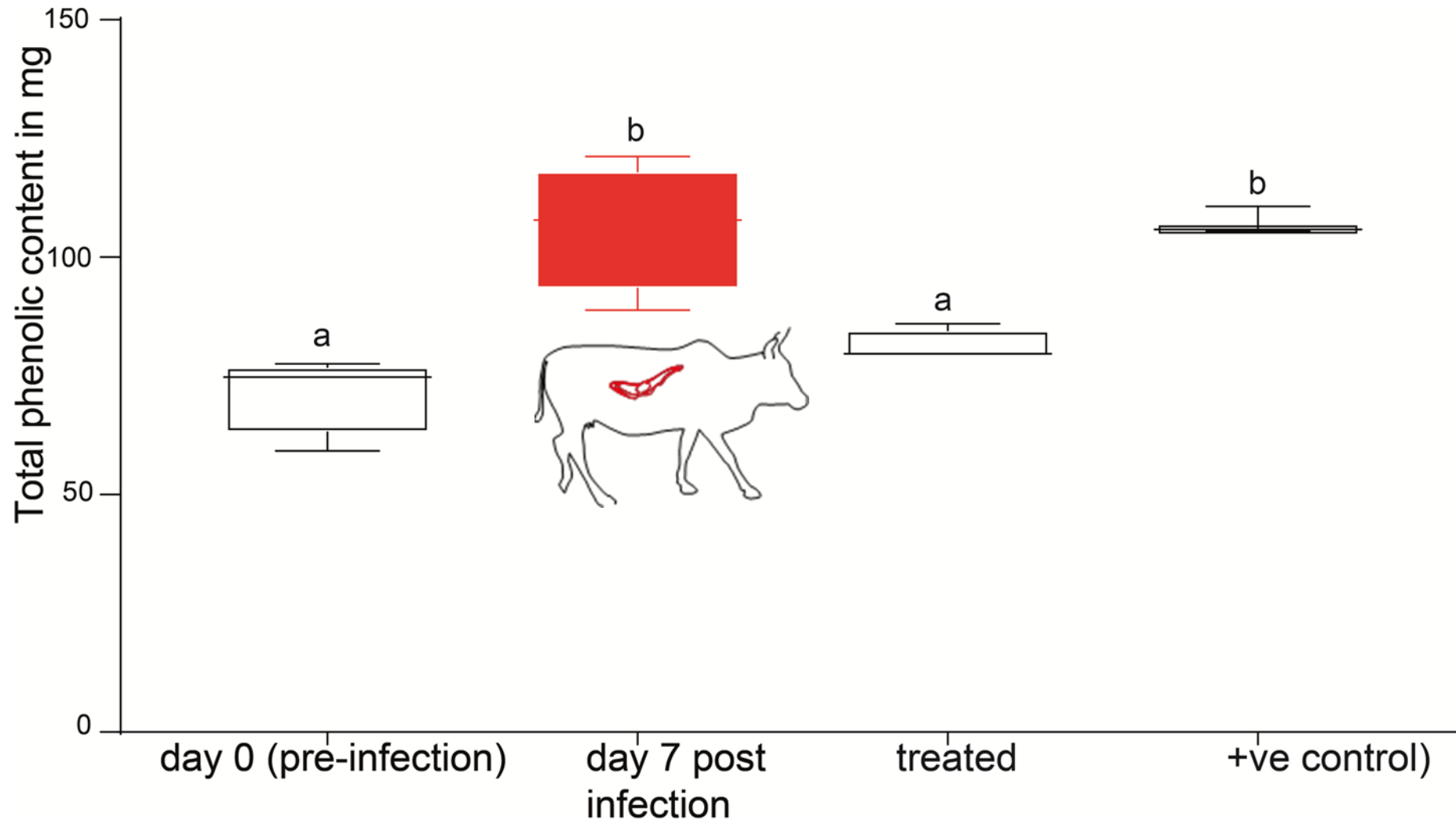
# Ionones are Signature Scent of *Trypanosoma congolense* Infection



# Treatment of Experimentally Infected Cow Restores Biomarkers to Pre-infection Levels



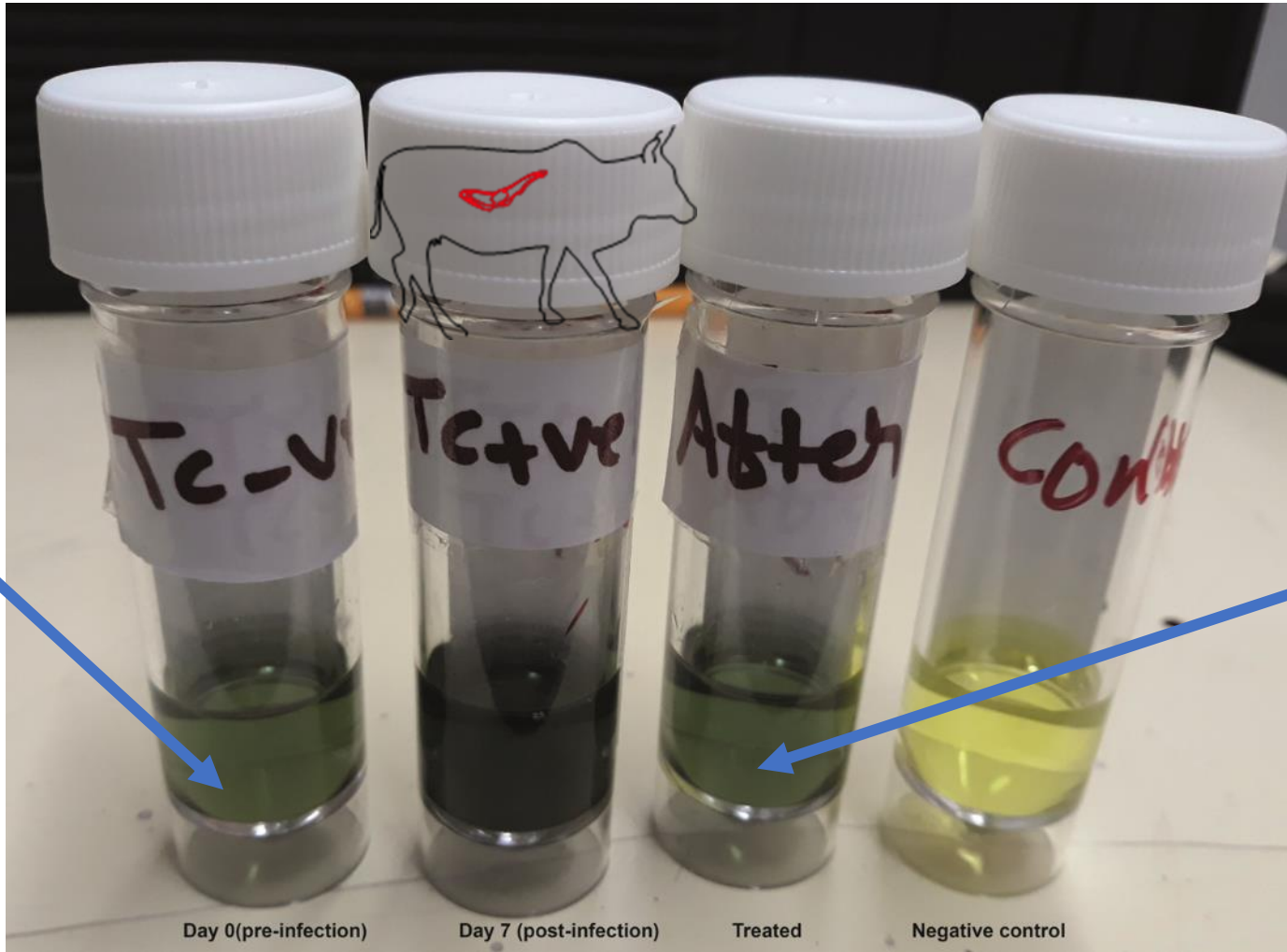
# Significant increase of phenolics due to animal trypanosomosis infection



**As the concentration of Phenolics biomarkers were significantly increased due to trypanosomes infection we asked as to whether our biomarkers could be used to diagnose cows suffering from trypanosomosis.**

We used The **Folin–Ciocalteu reagent** to target **phenolic biomarkers** in the urine. Phenols in biological sample extracts react with Folin–Ciocalteu reagent to form a blue complex that can be quantified by visible-light spectrophotometry and visible with our eye

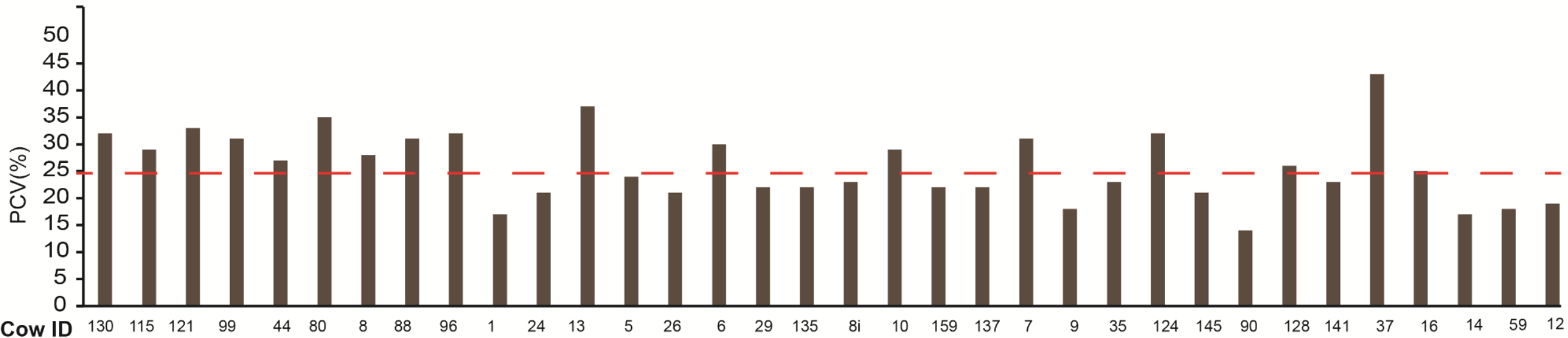
# Phenolic Biomarkers identified trypanosome infection with high accuracy



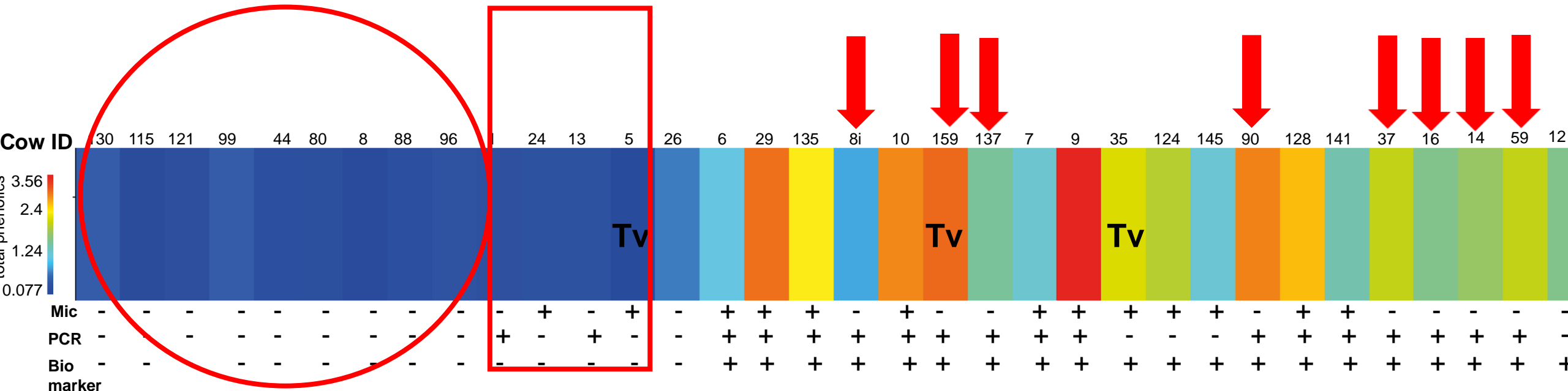
It detects an active infection as treated animals were identified as negative



To validate our novel animal trypanosomiasis diagnostic method developed using controlled experiment we challenged it with field samples



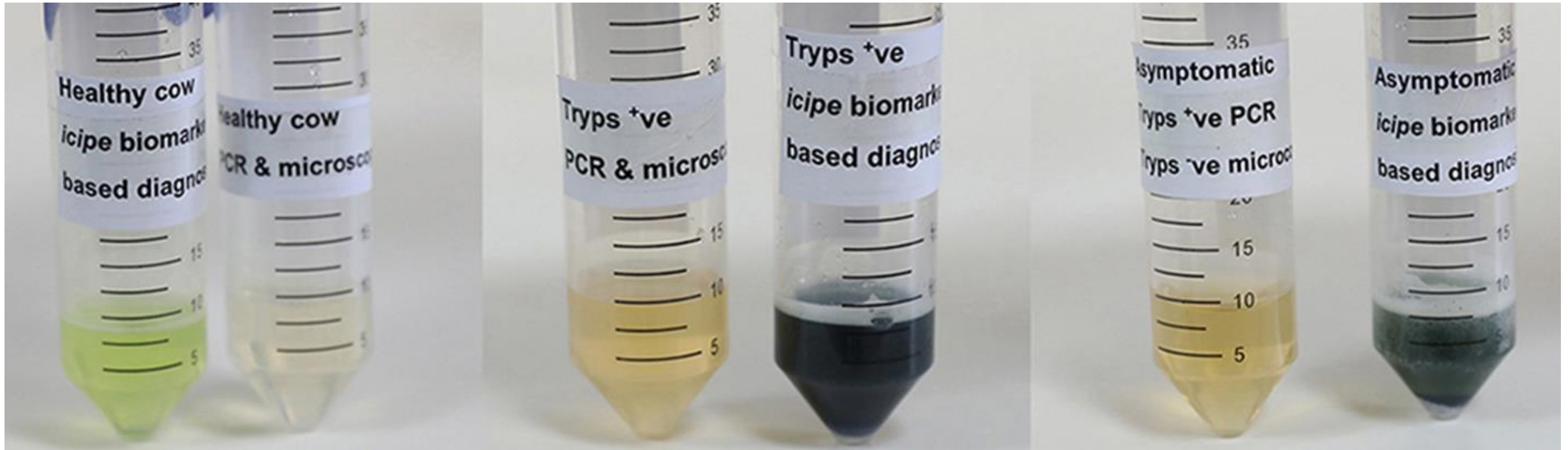
# Biomarkers Identified Animal Trypanosomosis From Field Samples With High Accuracy and Sensitivity



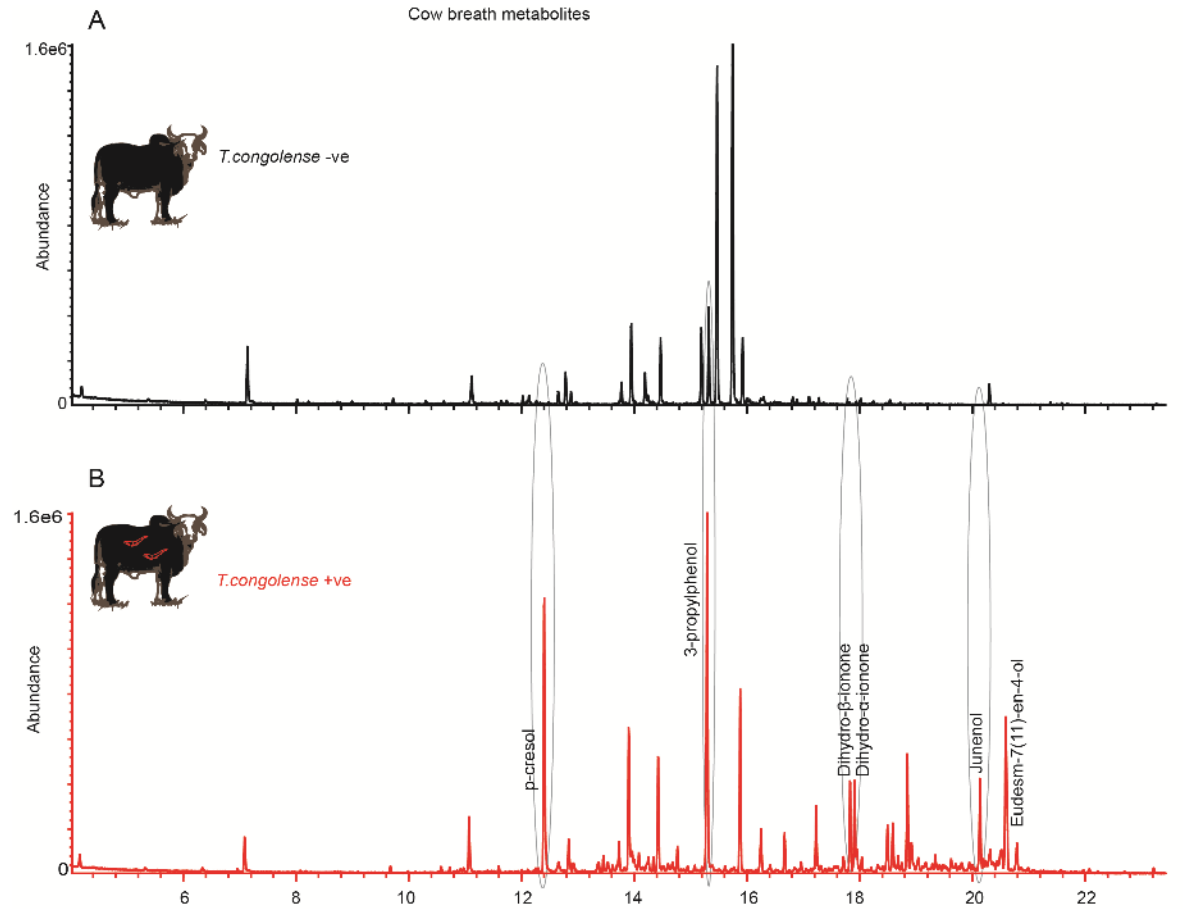
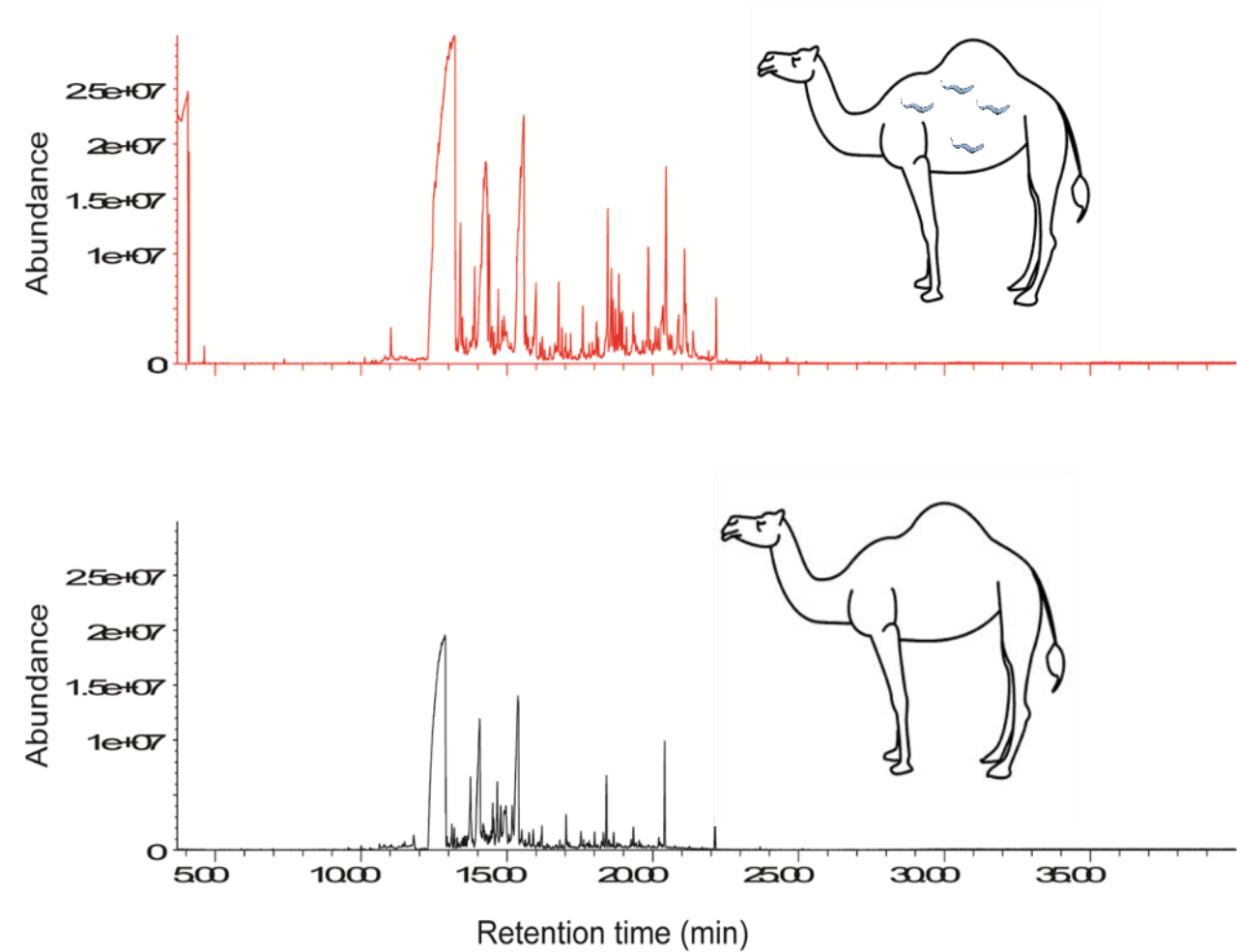
Trypanosome presence (+) and absence (-) with three different diagnostic methods

Getahun et al., 2022

# Our biomarker based diagnosis detects including asymptomatic



# Trypanosomes manipulate livestock metabolome

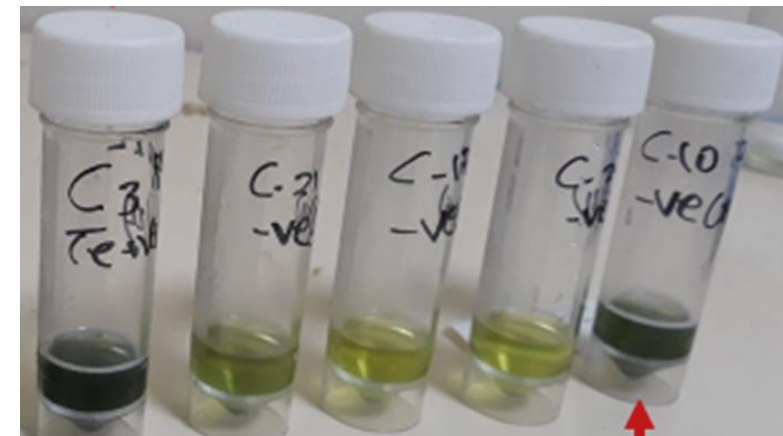
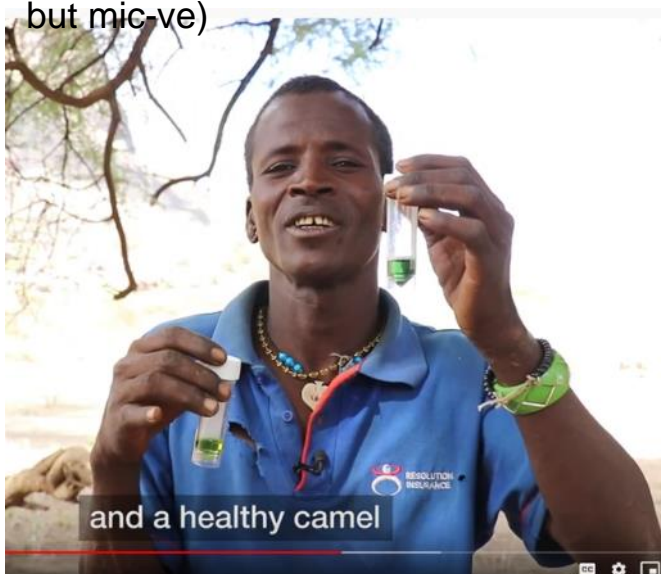







# Noninvasive trypanosomiasis diagnosis.....



-ve control *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* and *Theileria velifera* positive

T. congolense +ve (confirmed with PCR, and Biomarker, but mic -ve)



					
Mic	+	-	-	-	-
PCR	+	-	-	-	+
Bio marker	+	-	-	-	+

# Summary

VBDs are the main challenge that affect livestock resilience and productivity

A combination of attractant and repellent can minimize trypanosomiasis transmission and improve livestock health and productivity

Trypanosome rewired livestock metabolites –biomarkers may be used to diagnosis and manage surra and animal trypanosomosis

Biomarker based animal trypanosomosis diagnosis is sensitive, simple, affordable.

**Such user-friendly diagnosis empower farmers/pastoralist to make decision based on knowledge, reduce livestock mortality, drug resistance**



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*African Insect Science for Food and Health*

## Acknowledgement



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# Thank you



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