Abstract:

A study was conducted on 556 heads of different age groups in 9 herds of sheep and goats in 5 villages in Elshukaba area near Wad Medani, Sudan. They were reared in a semi-intensive system. Goats were the main livestock species in the area, and 22.2% were mixed herds. Average herd size was 60 (40-100) for goats and 75 (70-80) for mixed herds. Males formed 2.2% of herds, and females distribution (%) was 28.9, 15.5, 21.9 and 31.5 not kidding, kidding once, kidding twice and kidding more than twice, respectively. The characteristics of Nubian goats were dominant in the area. Body weight and measurements were generally increased with age. Heart girth, body length and height at withers were used to predict body weight for different age groups. The correlation between measured and predicted body weights were high (0.82-0.95) in the first four age groups and weak (0.35-0.45) in the last two groups.