

Results

- Overall 100% and 95.8% of the birds in the wet season and dry season respectively had specific antibody titers against NDV (>1:8)
- Overall, there was a statistically significant higher ($P<0.05$) titer during the wet season (GMT 65.85) (Table 1) compared to the dry season (GMT 31.08) (Table 2).
- In the wet season, titers ranging from 1:16 (2^4) to 1:256 (2^8) (Fig 1) while in the dry season the titer ranging from 1:4 (2^2) to 1:128 (2^7)
- Chicks and adult birds had a statistically significant higher titer ($P<0.05$) in the wet season. For growers, the titers were higher in the dry season, but the difference was not statistically significant.

Table 1: Newcastle disease virus antibody titers in the wet season

Age	Sample size	Titer								GMT
		1:2	1:4	1:8	1:16	1:32	1:64	1:128	1:256	
Chicks	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	30.66
Growers	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	31.62
Adults	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	74.65
TOTAL	24	0	0	0	2	3	13	4	2	65.85

Table 2: Newcastle disease virus antibody titers in the dry season

Age	Sample size	Titer								GMT
		1:2	1:4	1:8	1:16	1:32	1:64	1:128	1:256	
Chicks	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	20.16
Growers	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	38.09
Adults	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	26.25
TOTAL	24	0	1	3	6	4	5	4	1	31.08

Key
GMT= Geometric mean
titer calculates as:

$$G = \sqrt[n]{x_1 x_2 \cdots x_n}$$

Where G= Geometric mean, n= Number of variables, X= values of the variable

Conclusion

Based on the findings it can be concluded that:

- In all seasons birds had high titers, the antibodies waned off during the dry season
- The results are comparable to those of Njagi et al (2010)
- The presence of antibodies in the chicken indicate endemicity of ND virus in Mbeere district

Recommendations

- Vaccination is recommended during the start of dry season to maintain high levels of immunity and prevent outbreaks.

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References

- Njagi, L.W., Nyaga, P.N., Mbuthia, P.G., Bebora, L.C., Michieka, J.N., and Minjiri, J. (2010). A retrospective study of factors associated with Newcastle disease outbreaks in villages in Mbeere district, Kenya.