

SHORT NOTE

**Ticks (Acari, Ixodida: Ixodidae & Amblyommidae)
of Latvia**

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Until now eleven tick species were recorded in Latvia. Five of them are common elements in fauna of Latvia.

The most common ticks are *Ixodes ricinus* (LINNAEUS, 1758) and *Ixodes persulcatus* SCHULZE, 1930 (Bormane 1999). About 90% of the recorded ticks belong to the first species, which is distributed in the whole territory of Latvia. The other, *I. persulcatus*, is recorded from the eastern and central part of Latvia, as it has western border of distribution area there. Nevertheless, this species is frequent in Latvia and together with previous are the main vectors of many transmissible diseases like tick borne encephalitis, Lyme borreliosis, ehrlichiosis etc.

Three more tick species are specific parasites of vertebrates, and they are common in Latvia: *Ixodes trianguliceps* BIRULA, 1895 is a parasite of small rodents, *Ixodes*

lividus C.L.KOCH, 1844 – of the sand martin *Riparia riparia*, and *Ixodes apronophorus* SCHULZE, 1924 – of the European water vole *Arvicola terrestris* (Grīnbergs 1966).

Ixodes vulpicola SCHULZE, 1937 is known from several findings in Latvia; it is a specific parasite of the red fox *Vulpes vulpes* and other predators (Grīnbergs 1966).

Finding of *Hyalomma detritum* (SCHULZE, 1919) on exported neat pelt and *Rhipicephalus* sp. on dog visited Africa was accidental in the last century (Grīnbergs 1966).

Dermacentor reticulatus FABRICIUS, 1794 and *D. marginatus* SULZER, 1776 were found for the several times parasitizing on large vertebrates during the last decades (A. Bormane, V. Spunģis, pers. comm.). The first species is distributed in the mixed and deciduous forests and the second in the lowland and mountain-steppe biogeographic regions of the

Euro-Siberian ecozone (Pomerantsev 1950).

Male of *Hyalomma scupense* DEPLY, 1946 was recorded for the first time in Latvia on cow in Talsi district in 2006 (V. Spuņģis, pers. comm.). Ticks of this genus are recorded of the Ukraine, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Caucasus region and surrounding territories, as well as from Hungary and Central Asia (Pomerantsev 1950).

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