## SHORT NOTE

## Argasid ticks (Acari: Ixodida: Argasidae) in Latvia

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Suborder Ixodida includes hard ticks (Ixodidae) and soft ticks (Argasidae) (Hillyard 1996). As far as in 2012 author published species list and short review on 11 hard ticks known in Latvia until now (Salmane 2012). Until now only Stanyukovich (1990) recorded soft ticks on bats in Latvia and also in other Baltic states. Argasidae is a relatively small group of ticks, combining about 195 species known worldwide (Hillyard 1996; Hosseini-Chegeni, Tavakoli 2013; Krantz 1978). They are typical inhabitants of nests, caves, hollow trees and burrows, where parasitize on small mammals and birds. Very rarely Argasid ticks are found on humans (Hillyard 1996).

The single finding of *Argas* vespertilionis (LATREILLE, 1802) was made in mosses on the wooden roof of house in Baltezers locality, Garkalne municipality,  $3.07.2013 (1^{\circ}_{\circ}, 1^{\circ}_{\circ})$ .

Bats are almost exclusively the hosts of *A. vespertilionis* in all stages. These ticks occur on bats or also in caves and burrows inhabited by them. In the North West Europe the most frequent records are from Pipistrelid bats (Hillyard 1996). Occasionally birds become the hosts or humans can be bitten by this tick. Until now *A. vespertilionis* was recorded in United Kingdom (Baker, Craven, 2003; Jameson, 2011) and is widely distributed in Western Europe (Hillyard 1996; Rafalski 1956; Rupp et al. 2004; Zahn, Rupp 2004), but also was found in Poland, Estonia, and Lithuania (Haitlinger 1978; Stanyukovich 1990). Three Argasidae species are known in the North-West Europe: *Argas vespertilionis* (LATREILLE, 1802), *A. reflexus* (FABRICIUS, 1794) and *Ornithodorus maritimus* VERMEIL et MARGUET, 1967 (Hillyard 1996). All these species are blood-feeding parasites.

Lack of information on distribution of *Argas vespertilionis* in Latvia is most likely related to the absence of sufficient investigations.

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Received: 10.03.2015.