

TO THE FAUNA OF IXODID TICKS OF MONGOLIA

In papers of different authors heretofore published in Mongolia the following species belonging to the family Ixodidae have been reported: *Dermacentor nuttalli* Ol., *D. silvarum* Ol., *D. daghestanicus* Ol., *Ixodes crenulatus* Koch, *Haemaphysalis warburtoni* Nutt., *Hyalomma asiaticum* P. Sch. et Schl., *H. dromedarii* Koch.

The present studies have been based on the tick material collected from various species of domestic and wild animals and also on vegetation of pastures. The ticks have been identified according to POMERANTSEV (Fauna SSSR, Paukooobraznye, IV, 2: 1-223, 1950) and some materials have been subsequently examined at the Irkutsk Anti-pest Research Institute of Siberia and the Far East (by N. D. Yemel'yanova).

Xerophilous steppes of the country are mostly inhabited by *Dermacentor nuttalli* Ol., 1929. This tick parasitizes all species of domestic and many wild animals. The number of ticks per one animal, especially towards the end of April and in May ranges from several hundred to one thousand or more. In high altitude arid steppes (Hangai, Tarvagatai, Taishiri, Mongolian Altai) of the central and western Mongolia *Haemaphysalis pospelovashstromae* Hoog., 1966 is to be found. (This species was earlier erroneously registered as *Haemaphysalis warburtoni* Nutt., 1912.) Adult ticks have been found on sheep (localized exclusively in the region under their lower jaw, April, May, June), larvae and nymphs on *Citellus undulatus*, *Ochotona pricei* and *Alticola argentatus* (May—November).

In valleys, upland steppes, where the micro-relief is basically formed by burrows of *Marmota sibirica*, the tick *Ixodes crenulatus* Koch, 1841 is to be found. All its stages parasitize rodents, carnivores and insectivores (hedgehogs). This tick, together with *Dermacentor nuttalli*, represents here the ixodid species of the northern and central parts of the Republic.

In the north-eastern part of the country the nests of bank swallows (*Riparia riparia*) are

infested with *Ixodes lividus* Koch, 1844. In the forest and taiga areas of the Hentei mountain range the Siberian tick *Dermacentor silvarum* Ol., 1932 is known, while in the surroundings of Undurkhan, in the valley of the river Onon and its left tributary Balzh *Dermacentor asiaticus* Em. et Kozl., 1967 occurs in May and June. These ticks have been reported only from several localities of northeastern Mongolia.

The genus *Hyalomma* predominates in southern Mongolia. *H. asiaticum* P. Sch. et Schl., 1929, has been found in the vast deserts beyond the Gobi and Mongolian Altai, within the Huisin Gobi, in the surroundings of the town Sainshand, Zunbaian, the lower reaches of the river Onga and Ulan-nur lake. Adults (April—August), juvenile stages (July, on camel) have been found on domestic animals. (Several hundred of specimens on camels per decade.) *H. dromedarii* Koch, 1844 parasitizes camels, donkeys, goats in the Trans-Altai Gobi (April, May). The representative of the Turan fauna, *Rhipicephalus pumilio* P. Sch., 1935 (adults) have been found on camel (22 April) in the Trans-Altai Gobi and on pika (5 August) in the desert between the mountain ridges Adj-Bogdo and Baga-Bogdo. *Dermacentor daghestanicus* Ol., 1929 has been found along the desert stretching beyond the Mongolian and Gobi Altai. Under conditions of the desert this species takes the second place after the representatives of the genus *Hyalomma* in its numbers infesting domestic animals.

In the ixodid fauna of the Mongolian People's Republic 10 species of the family Ixodidae have been registered: *Ixodes crenulatus*, *I. lividus*, *Haemaphysalis pospelovashstromae*, *Dermacentor nuttalli*, *D. daghestanicus*, *D. silvarum*, *D. asiaticum*, *Rhipicephalus pumilio*, *Hyalomma asiaticum*, *H. dromedarii*.

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