

FIRST CASE OF INTRODUCTION OF THE TICK RHIPICEPHALUS SANGUINEUS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The tick *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* (Latreille, 1806) is a species widely spread in all continents except the Antarctica, primarily in the tropic and subtropic regions. In the last 10—20 years reports about its findings in countries situated considerably northwards, such as the Netherlands, Denmark, Great Britain and Finland, have been published. Its relatively wide distribution was reported from the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin (Centurier C. et al., Berl. Münch. Tierärztl. Wschr. 92: 472—477, 1979). The introduced ticks may occur in human dwellings even for months, as evidenced by the case from Warsaw (Szymański S., Wiad. parazytol. 25: 453—459, 1979).

It was therefore only a matter of time until this species would be found in Czechoslovakia. The first such case is reported in the present note. The tick was brought into this country on a 3-year-old male dog (a black schnautzer) which had been taken by its owners for a 3-week stay with them in Yugoslavia (Svata Nedelja, island of Hvar). During the back trip a short stop was made at the locality Nove Zdenice near Dukovar. After the return home on 26 August 1984 the dog was treated against ectoparasites with the shampoo Orthosan BF 40, containing pyrethroid Neopynamin as the effective substance. The next day ticks

were found in the owners' flat crawling over the dog's bedding. While the dog was examined about 400 specimens of nymphs and larvae were detected on its body, attached primarily to auricles, legs and underbelly. No adult ticks were observed. A sample brought for identification revealed 12 nymphs of *R. sanguineus*. On 27 August the dog's owner collected three ticks and her daughter two ticks from their own bodies. The dog was thereafter treated four times with the above mentioned preparation and thus all specimens attached were killed. Other ticks dropped off were not observed.

The accidental introduction of the brown dog tick into more northern regions by dogs staying with their owners in Yugoslavia was recorded in literature (Centurier C. et al., 1979). Together with these parasites also cases of canine babesiosis brought in from Mediterranean countries, including Yugoslavia, are well known (Denning H. K. et al., Berl. Münch. Tierärztl. Wschr. 93: 373—379, 1980). This fact should be taken into account under our conditions.

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