OCCURRENCE OF THE TICK IXODES LAGURI OL. ON THE TERRITORY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Ixodes laguri Olenov, 1929 represents one of the three species of the subgenus *Ixodes* occurring on the territory of Czechoslovakia. It reaches here the northwestern boundary of its geographical distribution in Europe (Kolonin, 1981: World distribution of ixodid ticks (genus *Ixodes*). Nauka, Moskva, 115 pp., in Russian). Its presence is closely bound to its main host — the European suslik (*Spermophilus citellus* (L.)). But little is known about the localities of its occurrence in Czechoslovakia. Rosický (1953: Zool. ent. listy 2: 2—12) mentions only Jablonov nad Turnou, Černý (1960: Čas. čs. spol. ent. 57: 178—184) reports Dvorníky. Both localities are situated in southeastern Slovakia near the frontier with Hungary.

The known distribution of the European suslik covers a great part of Czechoslovakia. This host was reported in Slovakia till 950 m and in Bohemia and Moravia till 700 m a.s.l. (Grulich I., 1960: Práce brněn. zákl. ČSAV 32 (11): 473—563). Sládek and Mošanský (1985: Mammals around us, Osveta, Martin, 252 pp., in Slovak) mention its findings exceptionally till 1300 m a.s.l. The suslik is a typical element of open biotopes of cultivated steppe. In the last time due to various types of human activities, mainly in agriculture, the numbers of this rodent decreased and in some localities it disappeared completely so that it is classified recently as an endangered species of Czechoslovak fauna (Baruš V. et al., 1988: Acta Sc. Nat. Brno 22 (3): 1—33).

It is therefore considered as useful to present our findings of *I. laguri* in the nests of *S. citellus* obtained during field expeditions of the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, 13—30 years ago. They demonstrate the presence and abundance of this tick species in several localities of southeastern Slovakia and, in the same time, they may serve as a basis for a comparison with the present-day state of its occurrence.

The following material was collected (locality, code of map quadrate, number of nests examined, number of positive nests, ticks collected, average number of ticks per nest, average number of ticks per positive nest): April 1959: Barca, 7393, 4, 1, 1 N, 0.2, 1.0; Brzotín, 7388, 14, 7, 12 L 21 N 4 ♀ 10 ♂, 3.4, 6.7; Budulov, 7492, 8, 5, 3 L 21 N 6 ♂, 3.7, 6.0; Čečejovce, 7492, 2, 1, 1 L 2 N, 1.5, 3.0; Dvorníky, 7390, 6, 3, 4 L 3 N 4 ♀ 10 ♂, 3.5, 7.0; Slavec, 7488, 4, 2, 1 L 2 ♀, 0.7, 1.5; Soroška, 7389, 4, 1, 1 L 4 N 1 ♀ 7 ♂, 3.2, 13.0. Four nests from the locality Silica were negative. August 1959: Budulov, 4, 3, 12 N 4 ♀ 3 ♂, 4.7, 6.3; Brzotín, 10, 4, 2 L 3 N, 0.5, 1.2; Dvorníky, 22, 13, 7 L 36 N 15 ♀ 24 ♂, 3.7, 6.3; Soroška, 6, 2, 2 N, 0.3, 1.0; Turna nad Bodvou, 7391, 3, 3, 7 N, 2.3, 2.3. Nine nests from the locality Mužla were negative. March 1973: Brazda, 7488, 6, 3, 1 L 7 N 4 ♀ 4 ♂, 2.7, 5.3; Silická Brezová, 7488, 12, 7, 3 L 28 N 7 ♀ 10 ♂, 4.0, 6.9; Silická Jablonica, 7489, 5, 3, 1 N 1 ♀ 2 ♂, 0.8, 1.3. March 1975: Kečovo, 7588, 14, 3, 2 N 1 ♀ 3 ♂, 0.4, 2.0; Licince, 7487, 6, 1, 1 N, 0.2, 1.0; Silická Jablonica, 4, 3, 3 N 9 ♀ 9 ♂, 5.2, 7.0. Six nests from the locality Neporadza were negative. April 1976: Janík, 7491, 12, 6, 30 L 159 N 2 ♂, 15.9, 31.8; Kečovo, 8, 1, 1 N, 0.1, 1.0; Silická Jablonica, 2, 1, 1 L 1 N 1 ♀, 1.5, 3.0. Twelve nests from the locality Neporadza were negative.

In individual nests mostly only several tick specimens belonging to one, two or all developmental stages were found. A maximum of 28 larvae and 100 nymphs was collected from one nest in April 1976. Two localities, although with abundant suslik population, seem to have been negative for tick presence (Mužla, Neporadza). Another locality, although surrounded by positive localities, seems to be also tick free (Silica). But for the reliability of the last two statements more material would be needed. In 1959, from 31 larvae, 112 nymphs and 30 females collected from the nests, only 7 larvae and 5 nymphs were found to be engorged.

In addition to the 14 localities mentioned above and the locality Jablonov nad Turnou (7490) reported by Rosický (1953) *I. laguri* was found also in the following 3 localities (Cyprich and Kiefer, in litt.): Chyžné (7386), Plešivec (7488) and Trstené pri Hornádu (7494).

It results from these findings that in the given years *I. laguri* belonged on the territory of the Slovak Karst and closely situated localities to common parasites of the European suslik. Contrarily, examination of several tens of this host species in southern Moravia and northern Bohemia on the presence of this tick in the past decades gave only negative results.

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