

SPALAX EHRENBergi. A NEW HOST FOR HAEMAPHYSALIS (HAEMAPHYSALIS) OTOPHILA SCHULZE 1918 (METASTIGMATA: IXODIDAE)

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In previous studies, Hemaphysalis (Haemaphysalis) otophila Schulze 1918 has been recorded on Spalax leucodon. However, in this study, this species was found on Spalax ehrenbergi.

Key words: Ixodidae, Haemaphysalis (Haemaphysalis) otophila, Spalax ehrenbergi, new horst

INTRODUCTION

Haemaphysalis is the second largest tick genus in the family Ixodidae. All known Haemaphysalis species are parasitic on birds and mammals and have a three-host life cycle. For many Haemaphysalis species, the host of immature stages are significantly different from hosts of adults. Within this genus, many species are vectors of disease agents such as Russian spring-summer encephalitis and Kyasanur Forest disease (Tanskul and Inlao, 1989).

Haemaphysalis (Haemaphysalis) otophila is parasitic on various vertebrates (Hubbard, 1955; Hoogstraal and Kaiser, 1958a; Hoogstraal, 1958; 1959).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The ticks were picked up from their hosts by forceps and brush. The collected specimens were kept in 70% alcohol. For identification the keys and descriptions of Hoogstraal (1955) were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result of identification showed the ticks to be;

HAEMAPHYSALIS Koch, 1844

H. (Haemaphysalis) otophila Schulze, 1918

Locality:

2L, 2N Turkey, Adiyaman, Besni, Besni-Araban road 30. km, 21.v.1989 (ex Spalax ehrenbergi intermedius)

4L, 8N Turkey, Adiyaman, Besni, Besni-Kizilin road 20. km, 28. v. 1989 (ex Spalax ehrenbergi intermedius)

H. (H.) otophila was described and determined by Schulze (1918). This species was recorded in many provinces of Turkey (Kurtpinar, 1954; Hoogstraal, 1958; 1959). This tick was found on Spalax leucodon (mole rat) by Hubbard (1955) and was recorded on S. leucodon from Turkey (Hoogstraal, 1958; 1959).

This species was firstly found on Spalax ehrenbergi (S. e. intermedius-lesser mole rat) in this investigation. The collected ticks were identified and compared with specimens which are kept in the Natural History Museum (British Museum). No differences were seen between the collected ticks and museum specimens.

Adults of H. (H.) otophila usually feed during a cold period (Hoogstraal, 1958; 1959). The known range on rodents widely extends for the immature-stage (Hoogstraal, 1958; 1959). The ability of numerous tick species to transmit or to harbour for long periods (or both) a variety of pathogenic organisms, especially viruses and rickettsiae, causes them to be suspect as reservoirs of disease-causing organisms wherever they are found (Hoogstraal et al. 1961). Small rodents are the chief or incidental vertebrate reservoirs of a variety of viruses and rickettsiae pathogenic to man and economical animals. We can struggle with tick-borne diseases when we know the host of the ticks.

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SPALAX EHRENBergi: NOVI DOMAĆIN ZA HAEMAPHYSALIS OTOPHILA SCHULTZE 1918 (METASTIGMATA: IXODIDAE)

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SADRŽAJ

U radu je iznet prvi nalaz u svetu da krpelj Haemaphysalis otophila može da perzistira kod slepog kučeta Spalax ehrenbergi kao novom domaćinu.