

TICKS (ACARI, IXODIDA: IXODIDAE, AMBLYOMMIDAE) IN LATVIA

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Until now eleven tick species of the families Ixodidae and Amblyommidae have been recorded in Latvia. Of those five are common elements in fauna of Latvia.

The most common are *Ixodes ricinus* (about 90% of all ticks recorded) and *I. persulcatus*. Hosts of those two species are various vertebrates, and they often parasitising humans. *Ixodes apronophorus* is a specific parasite of European water vole *Arvicola terrestris*. *Ixodes lividus* is a specific parasite of sand martin *Riparia riparia*, and spending whole life cycle in their burrows. *Ixodes trianguliceps* is a parasite of small rodents and insectivores.

Ixodes vulpicola was recorded in small amounts. This is a specific parasite of red fox *Vulpes vulpes* and other predators. During the late ten years new species *Dermacentor reticulatus* and *Dermacentor marginatus* for the several times were found parasiting on cattle.

Finding of *Hyalomma detritum* and *Rhipicephalus* sp. on goods and animals imported from south European countries in last century was accidental.

There is a single finding of *Hyalomma detritum scupense* on cattle in Latvia.

All those tick species are vectors of human and/or animal transmissible diseases.

References

Grīnbergs A. 1966. Zooparazitoloģiskie faktori ērcu encefalīta epidemioloģijā Latvijas PSR. Doktora disertācija, Rīga: 204.