

DIVERSITY AND TICK DISTRIBUTION (ACARI: IXODIDAE) PARASITIZING DOGS IN RURAL AREAS, IN THE REGION CORRIDOR NORTH SEA ECOLOGICAL SERRA, BRAZIL

G.P. Furusawa¹, W. Flausino², H.F. Santos¹, P.B. de Oliveira¹ & J.L.H. Faccini²

¹Students in the PPGCV, Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro (UFRRJ), Seropédica, RJ, Brazil; ²Department of Animal Parasitology, Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro (UFRRJ), Seropédica, RJ, Brazil.

With the increasing advance of anthropobiocenoses towards the wild areas, which results in the reduction and fragmentation of the native forests, as a result of this approach, a greater interaction between several previously separated organisms is verified. Among the new relationships that are established, there are several commensals and parasites, which eventually adapt to this new reality, approaching the anthropized environments, attracted by the accumulation of biomass or associated with domestic animals. Of the domestic animals commonly found with man, the domestic dog, *Canis lupus familiaris* (Linnaeus, 1758) stands out, being able to serve as host of several wild parasites, with an emphasis on ticks (Acari: Ixodidae). This work investigated the distribution of ticks associated with the semi - domiciled or erring domestic dog in the years 2016 and 2017 found in communities located in rural areas of the Ecological Corridor of Serra do Mar, in three nuclei of the Serra do Mar State Park, SP, nuclei: São Sebastião, PESN-NSS, Picinguaba, PESN-NP and Cunha, PESN-NC, in addition to an area of the Serra da Bocaina National Park in Paraty, RJ. In all the studied areas, 230 dogs were inspected, of which 129 (56.08%) presented infestation by ticks, from which 589 specimens were collected, 352 of which were collected in the PESM-NP area, 126 collected in the PESM- NSS, 88 ticks collected in Paraty, in the PNSB area and 23 in the PESM-NC. The species collected were: 332 (56.36%) *Amblyomma ovale* (Koch, 1844), 230 (39.04%) *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* sensu lato (Latreille, 1806), 17 (2.88%) *A. aureolatum* (Pallas, 1772) and 05 (0.84%) *A. sculptum* (Berlese, 1888), in addition to 05 larvae that were not identified. Of these sites, Paraty, PNSB, was the only place where there was sympatry among the four species of ticks. Among the ticks collected, *R. sanguineus* was the only species present in all collection areas, standing out in the most urbanized areas. *A. ovale* already stood out in less disturbed areas with altitudes of up to 600m. In addition, 19 free-living ticks were collected in PESM-NSS and PESM-NP areas, six of which were *A. ovale*, nine *A. naponense* collected in PESN-NP, and two *A. ovale* and two *A. sculptum* nymphs collected in the PESN-NSS. The collected ticks were identified in stored in RNA later for future investigation of pathogens.

Keywords: Serra do Mar, ticks, dogs, *Amblyomma* spp., *Rhipicephalus sanguineus*.