

lists where the information has come from badly made labels.

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in tables. Numbers should preferably appear as numerals, including 1 to 10. A good list of acceptable abbreviations is found on the 2nd page of any of Vol. 50 (1960), of *Phytopathology*.

THE BROWN DOG-TICK, *RHIPICEPHALUS SANGUINEUS* (LATR.) IN VANCOUVER

In summer, 1958 a veterinary surgeon in Vancouver sent me 3 ticks which he had removed from a Boxer dog whose past history he did not know. I sent the ticks to Mr. J. D. Gregson at Kamloops, the Canadian authority on ticks, who identified them as *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* Latr., the brown dog tick and warned me about its capacity for carrying disease. This was apparently the first western Canadian record of this species.

The last week in October 1959, another veterinary surgeon brought me some nymphal ticks and one engorged female which he had removed from a miniature poodle; I identified them as the brown dog tick and promptly got in touch with the owner of the poodle, to get its history. She told me that she had obtained a first poodle from California in early spring 1959 but the animal was not healthy and died in 3 or 4 months. She therefore imported another dog from the same stock in June and when this one also showed signs of sickness by October,

she took it to the veterinarian since, as she said, she was tired of picking ticks off a sick dog. She told me that from the animal itself, from its padded sleeping basket, from the walls of the closet where the animal slept and from the wall-to-wall carpet in the bedroom, she had picked up and washed down the toilet at least one hundred ticks, many of them engorged females: even halving this number, gives a heavy infestation. I searched the penthouse where the people lived and obtained 1 engorged female, 16 male and 33 female nymphs averaging 3 to 3.3 mm. in length, a total of 50 ticks.

Of this tick, Gregson¹ says, "... this cosmopolitan species . . . is potentially dangerous. Although normally a parasite of dogs, it may bite man and because of his close association with dogs there are frequent opportunities for the transmission of disease to him. In the Old World it is the vector of boutonneuse fever amongst dogs and man. It also transmits canine piroplasmiasis which is not only present

in Europe, Asia and Africa but has also been found in the southern United States, Panama and Brazil (Cooley, 1946a). This tick is moreover, suspected of being able to transmit Rocky Mountain spotted fever and is considered to be an important vector of this disease in Mexico (Varela and Ortiz, 1949). Miller (1947) cites it as being capable of transmitting at least 11 diseases of man and animals."

I felt certain that the poodle that died and the one I investigated, suffered from canine piroplasmiasis, so the owner's husband who is a medical doctor, treated the poodle himself accorded to standard methods recommended for this disease, and the ani-

mal recovered completely. They then telephoned my findings to the kennels in California where these poodles were bred and the breeders reported later that they had searched the premises and had found ticks swarming over the entire house and kennels and their dogs to be very sick. They therefore had the place fumigated and all the dogs inoculated for piroplasmiasis and latest reports showed all animals to have recovered.

Warning notices about this tick are being sent to all veterinary surgeons in the Vancouver area.

¹Gregson, John D., 1956. The Ixodoidea of Canada. Pub. 930, Science Service, Entomology Division, Canada Dept. of Agr., Ottawa.
—G. J. Spencer, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

References

1. Gregson, John D. 1956. The Ixodoidea of Canada. Pub. 930, Science Service, Entomology Division, Canada Dept. of Agr., Ottawa.