

New records on the distribution of *Dermacentor reticulatus* ticks (Acari: Ixodidae) in the Olsztyn region (north-eastern Poland)

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The meadow tick, *Dermacentor reticulatus*, is the second most frequently reported tick species after *Ixodes ricinus* in central Europe. The geographical distribution of the meadow tick on this continent is divided into two separate areas—Western Europe and Eastern Europe (Russia). In Poland *D. reticulatus* is commonly found in the north-eastern and eastern parts of the country. However, at the beginning of the 21st century in western and central Poland, new locations of this species have been recorded. Up until now in the area of Warmia and Mazury, *D. reticulatus* ticks were reported in the “Mazury focus” which covers the Pisz and Mrągowo districts.

The presently reported study constitutes the first report of the occurrence of *D. reticulatus* in urban and natural biotopes of the Olsztyn region. In 2015–2016 (during the springtime activity of ticks) eight locations of *D. reticulatus* within the administrative borders of Olsztyn city and three sites located in the Szczytno district were discovered. A total of 250 tick specimens (161 female and 89 male) were collected. 175 host-seeking *D. reticulatus* ticks were collected from vegetation using the flagging method and 85 specimens from dogs. The host-seeking tick density, determined based on the number of ticks captured by one person in one hour, ranged from 2 to 36 specimens/person/hour. In all studied locations, *D. reticulatus* coexisted with *I. ricinus*.

The data indicate that *D. reticulatus* together with *I. ricinus* are a threat as a parasite and a vector of pathogens of humans and animals in the Olsztyn region.