

The occurrence of *Dermacentor reticulatus* (Acari: Ixodida) on dogs in Olsztyn

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Ticks parasitizing dogs are mites of the order *Ixodida*, class *Arachnida*. In Poland, the most common hard ticks belong to the following four species: *Ixodes ricinus*, *Ihexagonus*, *I.crenulatus* and *Dermacentor reticulatus*. They act as vectors in many serious diseases of animals and humans. Adult ticks display the phenomenon of diapause, i.e. two peaks of feeding activity: one in the spring and another in the autumn. Juvenile forms have only one period of activity, which occurs in the summer. As tick species are not classified in day-to-day veterinary practice, knowledge of the percentile participation of each species in infestations, especially concerning *D. reticulatus* (Fabricius, 1794) which is far rarer than the common *Ixodes ricinus*, is incomplete. *D. reticulatus* (the ornate dog tick) is typically present in eight separate clusters in north-eastern Poland. It is a reservoir and carrier of a number of pathogenic protozoa involved in numerous disease outbreaks.

Ticks from the skin of dogs, patients of several veterinary clinics in the city of Olsztyn, were collected in the May to June period of five consecutive years. They were placed in 70% ethanol and their species affiliation was determined according to their morphology using a species classification key. Species percentiles are shown in the following table.

Year	Total Ixodida	<i>Dermacentor reticulatus</i>	
		nymphs	adults (females)
2010	394	141 (35.8%)	45 (11.4%)
2011	426	83 (19.6%)	43 (10.1%)
2012	483	71 (14.8%)	83 (17.3%)
2013	493	126 (25.6%)	78 (15.8%)
2014	627	124 (19.8%)	92 (14.7%)
Total	2 423	545 (22.5%)	341 (14.1%)
		886 (36.6%)	

Dermacentor reticulatus accounted for over one-third (36.6%) of the ticks collected between 2010 and 2014. In addition, adult *D. reticulatus* females were almost three times less common (only 28% of total population) than nymphs during the first two years (2010–2011). However, adults became more common than larvae in 2012, and from then on (2013–2014) the proportion of mature females increased to 40% of the total population.