

# First record of *Haemaphysalis concinna* (Koch, 1844) ticks infesting horses in Poland

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**INTRODUCTION.** The data regarding ticks as horse parasites are relatively scarce, despite increasingly frequent reports of tick-borne diseases in horses. In Poland, so far on horses only two of the 16 hard tick species considered as a permanent element of Polish fauna (*Ixodes ricinus* Linnaeus, 1758, *D. reticulatus* Fabricius, 1794) have been found. The estimation of the species composition of ticks on horses as well as the intensity and extensiveness of invasion is particularly important both in the veterinary and medical aspect.

The aim of this study was to determine the species composition of ticks parasitizing on horses in the selected stable in SW Poland.

**METHODS.** From April to October 2018, ticks were collected every month from 13 horses (*Equus caballus*) in “Horda” Stable located in Księginice (SW Poland). All collected ticks were determined by life stage, sex, and species.

**RESULTS:** In total, during 91 horse examination, 328 specimens of ticks were found. Among the collected ticks, three species were identified: the dominant species was *Ixodes ricinus* – 86.0% (n = 282; 221 ♀, 46 ♂, 15 nymphs), less frequently was *Dermacentor reticulatus* – 13.4% (n = 44; 24 ♀, 20 ♂), and the least reported *Haemaphysalis concinna* – 0.6% (n=2; 2 ♀). *I. ricinus* was found in the whole period of research while *D. reticulatus* was collected in April and June – October. All specimens of *H. concinna* (two engorged females) were found only in May. The mean prevalence of infestation with *I. ricinus*, *D. reticulatus*, and *H. concinna* was 39.5%, 31.2% and 1.1%, respectively. The mean intensity for *I. ricinus* was 3.00, for *D. reticulatus* was 0.48, and for *H. concinna* 0.02.

**CONCLUSION.** Horses in SW Poland can be infested by at least three species of ticks: *I. ricinus*, *D. reticulatus* and *H. concinna*. The dominant species of ticks infesting horses in Lower Silesia is *Ixodes ricinus*. The occurrence of *H. concinna* on horses was found for the first time in Poland.