

Atypical location of tick *Ixodes ricinus* in red foxes *Canis vulpes*

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Ixodes ricinus is the most common tick species in Poland. Due to its low specificity, we can find it on amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals including humans. Game mammals are a constant host of this parasite.

MATERIALS. The material were red foxes obtained during the shooting in 2018 and 2019. Red foxes are now considered as pests and are hunted throughout the year, only during rising young individuals, hunters do not shoot at them. After removing the skin from three individuals, in subcutaneous fat were found atypical cysts dissected and cleaned of fat and connective tissue.

RESULTS. In the cysts, were found chitinous *Ixodes ricinus* ticks, they were present only the chitinized parts, soft tissues have been spread out. The cyst was dissected of the mouth apparatus, limbs and idiosomes. The cysts contained single mites.

DISCUSSION. Cases of this type in foxes in Poland were described by Drózdź, however they are still very rare, and mechanism of creation of the cyst is still unknown. In Poland in cysts had found *I. ricinus*. In Czech Republic and Romania described *I. ricinus*, *I. hexagonus* and *Dermacentor reticulatus*.