RESEARCH NOTE

Noteworthy Records of *Ixodes auritulus* Neumann, 1904 (Acari, Ixodida) on Birds from Paraná, Southern Brazil

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The genus *Ixodes* Latreille (Acari, Ixodida) includes about 231 species distributed in 14 subgenera worldwide (C Clifford et al. 1973 *An Ent Soc Am 66:* 489-500). Some species can parasite birds or mammals in their different stages, others have been found only on mammals, mainly in their nymphal and adult phases (H Aragão 1936 *Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz 31:* 759-843, R Cooley & G Kohls 1945 *Nat Inst Hth Bull 184:* 1-246). Many *Ixodes* species are associated with paralyse promotion or pathogenic agent transmission to several animals (A Kocan 1988 *Jama 192:* 1498-1500, J Butler & H Denmark 1990 *Ent Circ 326,* F-F Matuschka & A Spielman 1992 *Ex Parasitol 74:* 151-158).

In Brazil, nine species of *Ixodes* are known: *I. amarali* Fonseca, *I. aragaoi* Fonseca, *I. cooleyi* Aragão & Fonseca, *I. coxaefurcatus* Neumann, *I. didelphidis* Aragão & Fonseca, *I. fuscipes* Koch, *I. loricatus* Neumann, *I. luciae* Sennevet, and *I. schulzei* Aragão & Fonseca (H Aragão & F Fonseca 1961 *Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz 59:* 115-129).

During bird banding in the municipality of Curitiba, next to the Passauna River, in an Araucaria forest (*Araucaria angustifolia*) from March to May 1992, autumn months, three specimens of *Turdus rufiventris* and one specimen of *T. albicollis* were captured and examined for ectoparasites. Four ticks specimens were found. They were removed from the hosts and were preserved in Oudeman's fluid, according to G Krantz (1978 2nd ed. Oregon State University Book Stores, Oregon, 509 pp). The ticks were identified as *I. auritulus* using criteria proposed by M Méndes-Arocha and I Ortiz (1958 *Mem C Nat La Salle 51:* 196-208). The specimens, two females (F) and two nymphs (N) were deposited in the Parasitological Collection of the Museum of Natural History "Capão da Imbuia" (MHNCI 92, 93-F; MHNCI 93, 94-N).

Although *I. auritulus* is common ectoparasite of birds, including sea birds (Clifford *loc. cit.*), it has been also observed on mammals. E Jones et al. (1972 *B Y Un Sc Bull 17:* 1-40) found larvae and nymphs on wild rodents from Venezuela. J Botelho (personal communication) observed this species on *Dasyprocta fuliginosa* (Rodentia) in Brazil.

The only record for *I. auritulus* in Brazil (Cooley & Kohls *loc. cit.*) is restricted to birds, *Knipolegus nigerrimus, Thamnophilus ruficapillus,* and *T. caerulescens* from Itatiaia Mountains in the State of Rio de Janeiro. It seems that Aragão and Fonseca (1961 *loc. cit.*) omitted mentioning the occurrence of this species, although they were aware of it (H Aragão & F Fonseca 1952 *Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz 50:* 727-728). In the State of Paraná, there are only records of *I. loricatus* and *I. didelphidis* on mammals (L Guimarães 1945 *Arq Mus Paran 4:* 179-190, S Ribeiro 1966/1967 *An Fac Med Un Fed Paraná 9/10:* 7-47, D Barros & D Baggio 1992 *Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz 87:* 291-296).

This communication records the first occurrence of *I. auritulus* in Paraná, and probably constitutes the first report on *T. rufiventris* and *T. albicollis.* These two *Turdus* species are not migratory but are well disseminated in Brazil and other South American countries (R Schauensee 1982 Intercollegiate Press, Filadelfia, 498 pp, H Sick 1988 3rd ed. I/II, Brasília, 827 pp). Studies on biology and ecology of *Ixodes* spp. parasiting birds are being carried on so that aspects of their dispersion may be clarified.

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