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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Veterinary Services

**APHIS 91-39** 

#### National Tick Surveillance Program

Calendar Year 1987



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#### National Tick Surveillance Program Calendar Year 1987

During calendar year 1987, the collection and submission of ticks from native and imported animals, plus plant and animal material, was 30.63 percent greater than in 1986. There were 10,214 collections in 1987, 7,819 collections in 1986, 5,037 in 1985, and 7,213 in 1984.

#### **Antigua Pilot Tropical Bont Tick Eradication Project**

During 1987 considerable progress was made in the organization of a Caribbean-wide program to eradicate Amblyomma variegatum, the tropical bont tick, and its associated diseases (heartwater and acute dermatophilosis) from the area. In March 1987, the feasibility proposal written by experts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), with the input of consultants from a number of international organizations, was finished and widely distributed. It was discussed at a workshop held in Barbados, West Indies, in March, where representatives from many Caribbean Islands, USDA, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), IICA, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and other public and private organizations reviewed the document. The proposal described the present situation with the tick and diseases in the Caribbean. The group passed four resolutions: (1) establish an Amblyomma Program Council under the purview of the English-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM); (2) establish a pilot project to demonstate tick eradication techniques on an island; (3) convene a donor's conference; and (4) seek emergency support for current tropical bont tick control activities on infested islands.

In September 1987, the \$2 million that Congress appropriated to USAID for a tropical bont tick program in the Caribbean was transferred to USDA in order to carry out a demonstration tick eradication program on Antigua. This demonstration project has three main facets: (1) an eradication component to be carried out by the Office of International Cooperation and Development (OICD) and USDA; (2) a research, information, and evaluation component to be carried out by OICD-USDA; and (3) a policy and strategy component to be carried out by USAID. Some of the funds given to OICD-USDA will be transferred to ARS-USDA for research on the biology and control of the tropical bont tick in the Caribbean. Other research will be on the economic aspects of eradication and the effects of the acaricides on wildlife.

The eradication component consists of four phases: (1) Planning Phase; (2) Preoperation Phase of 6 months, which includes education, training, surveillance, construction, and procurement; (3) Eradication Phase, which consists of application of acaricides (amitraz or permethrin) to all cattle, sheep, goats, and horses every 2 weeks for 2 years; and (4) Posteradication Phase, which consists of a followup surveillance for 6 months to determine if the ticks have been eliminated from the island. The eradication component is proposed to begin in 1988.

In November 1987, at a meeting in Rome, the Standing Committee of the Ministries of Agriculture of CARICOM established an *Amblyomma* Steering Committee. This committee will provide a focus for implementing a coordinated *Amblyomma* eradication program throughout the Caribbean.

#### Updated on *Boophilus microplus* Eradication in Puerto Rico

The USDA and Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture continued their cooperative efforts to eradicate *Boophilus microplys* from the island. The program maintained an average of 9,000 premises under treatment (average number of animals per premise was 11). In excess of 2.5 million individual animal treatments were administered during the year.

The computerized field data system is in operation in two of the three eradication zones. The third system will be established by mid-1988. The system maintains such data as the location of the premises, number and type of animals, status in the treatment cycle, and changes in animal numbers or in the infestation status. The system permits program managers to rapidly assess the status of a premise, region, or the entire island. This allows more effective planning, budgeting, and execution of the eradication program.

The new eradication zone established last year is in full operation. Additionally, program success has allowed the Arecibo Region to move some resources forward into new areas toward the east. The other two regions (Guanica and Juncos) are expected to expand toward the center of the island in 1988. Approximately 7,000 premises were declared free during 1987.

Funding for the *Boophilus* eradication program, as in recent years, came from three sources: a Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-FNS) block grant, \$8.6 million; Veterinary Services (USDA-APHIS-VS), \$1.5 million; and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture (PRDA), \$1.0 million. This cooperative funding permitted major purchases for the necessary program expansion and to retain the flexibility to meet day-to-day demands.

#### Status of Amblyomma variegatum in Puerto Rico

The main island of Puerto Rico is considered free of *A. variegatum*. A Commonwealth imposed quarantine is in effect for the smaller island of Culebra, where *Amblyomma variegatum* is known to be present. Treatment of livestock on Culebra is mandatory and performed on a routine basis, but rugged terrain has hampered the gathering of animals and slowed eradication efforts. Movement of animals off the island is permitted only when the shipment is going directly to slaughter and only following inspection to ensure tick-free status and application of a pesticide treatment.

#### Amblyomma variegatum Reintroduced in the U.S. Virgin Islands

Amblyomma variegatum, the tropical bont tick, was discovered on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, during July 1987. This tick had been considered eradicated since 1970, when the previous eradication program consisting of quarantine, rigorous individual animal treatment with coumaphos, and premises treatment with sprayable carbaryl came to an end. It is of interest that a few isolated male ticks were discovered sporadically on St. Croix after 1972, but no evidence of infestation or further spread could be found.

The current outbreak is limited to one area of about 31 acres of brush pasture on which cattle, horses, swine, dogs, and chickens roamed freely, as well as mongooses and a few head of deer. Several cattle had died of a condition resembling dermatophilosis. Clinical cases of dermatophilosis were subsequently observed. A 5-acre portion of the premise was found to be heavily infested and has been treated twice with sprayable chlorpyrifos.

Cattle, horses, swine, and dogs have been under quarantine and regular biweekly treatment with coumaphos. Cattle, swine, and chickens have now been removed from the premise. The biweekly scratch and treatment of all adjacent animals, as well as the trapping of chickens and mongooses for surveillance and elimination, is continuing. The hunting of deer has, thus far, been unsuccessful. The origin of this infestation is not clear.

#### Boophilus Research Highlights for 1987 from the Cattle Fever Tick Research Laboratory, USDA, Agricultural Research Service Kerrville and Mission, Texas

Research began several years ago on organophosphate (OP)-resistant Boophilus microplus from Mexico and continued with investigations on the biochemical mechanisms accountable for the altered susceptibility of the ticks to coumaphos and related acaricides. One study determined that in the resistant strain, which originated near Tuxtla, Chiapas, Mexico, two types of the enzyme acetylcholinesterase (AChE) were present. One form of AChE was prone to inhibition by OP's, but the activity of the second form of AChE was less affected by these acaricides. These experimental results suggest that an altered AChE with decreased sensitivity to inhibition is probably an important factor in the altered susceptibility of the B. microplus in parts of Mexico to coumaphos, chlorfenvinphos, and related acaricides. A parallel investigation determined that in resistant ticks there was also enhanced metabolic detoxification of coumaphos and toxic metabolites of this compound.

As the age of tick larvae increases, the ticks undergo undetermined biochemical and physiological changes that

result in increased susceptibility to pesticides and lowered survival rates. It was hypothesized that a reduced quantity of AChE in older tick larvae is related to their increased susceptibility to acaricides. But, experimental evidence from investigations of the AChE of five species of ticks, including *B. microplus*, determined that in these ticks amounts of AChE actually increased with age.

Because of an apparent failure of amitraz to control B. microplus on cattle in the vicinity of Juncos, Puerto Rico, engorged females of this species were collected and shipped to the Cattle Fever Tick Research Laboratory for tests of their susceptibility. Groups of calves infested either with F1 larval ticks from Puerto Rico or larvae of an amitrazsusceptible B. microplus strain from Texas were sprayed with 0.025 percent amitraz, prepared from the emulsifiable concentrate formulation. Initial comparisons of the degree of control of the Puerto Rico and Texas ticks indicated that the strain of ticks from Puerto Rico was as susceptible to amitraz as the ticks from Texas. This test was repeated with the second laboratory generation of ticks from Puerto Rico and a known amitraz susceptible strain of B. microplus from Texas. Once again, the test results indicated that the ticks from Puerto Rico were fully susceptible to amitraz.

A 0.025 percent concentration of amitraz wettable powder (WP), applied by immersing cattle in a dipping vat, controlled 99.8 percent of the B. annulatus on the animals. In addition to the evaluation of efficacy, a study was performed with the assistance of APHIS, VS personnel to determine the stability of the amitraz WP in a dipping vat under South Texas conditions. During a period of about 1 month, 4,056 head of cattle were dipped in an amitraz-charged vat. Test results demonstrated that the active ingredient settled very rapidly in the freshly charged vat, but that the amitraz remained in suspension longer as the amount of contamination in the vat increased. There was a tendency for the amitraz concentration to increase slightly after each replenishment, but in general the evaluation demonstrated that in a ranch vat in which large numbers of cattle are being dipped, amitraz WP remains stable and the concentration of the active ingredient can be maintained at the targeted level.

Because of a need by tick eradication officials for an acaricide to prevent the hatching of larvae from eggs deposited on tick-infested premises, such as a sales yard, the ovicidal activity of coumaphos, diazinon, dioxathion, chlorpyrifos, and crotoxyphos against *B. microplus* eggs of different ages was determined. Test results proved that of the acaricides tested, only crotoxyphos, applied topically at a rate of 0.5 percent active ingredient, would provide sufficient ovicidal activity (≥90 percent reduction in hatch) against eggs ranging in ages from 1 to 20 days for the compound to have value in premise cleanup activities.

Investigations to more precisely determine the suitability of white-tailed deer as alternate hosts for *B. annulatus* have

continued. Comparisons were made of the total number of adult female ticks recovered from deer and bovine hosts and of the associated ovipositional and reproductive parameters of these ticks. Significantly fewer ticks were recovered from deer (302) than from cattle (3,818). The difference was attributed to the more efficient grooming behavior of the deer. The mean weight of the female ticks collected from deer was significantly less than that of ticks from cattle (240.13 mg and 344.66 mg, respectively). About 15 percent of the engarged females recovered from the deer weighed less than 100 mg, and these ticks had probably been removed prematurely by grooming. A significant difference in the mean percent hatch of eggs from deer (65.22) and cattle (74.33) was observed. The index of reproduction (IR), a value that is based on the total number of engorged female ticks from a host, the mean weights of the egg masses from these females, and the mean percent hatch of the eggs was 19.7 times greater when cattle rather than white-tailed deer were hosts. It was concluded that the deer are biologically suitable hosts, but they are considerably less efficient host for B. annulatus than cattle.

The efficacy of a 20.2 percent emulsifiable concentrate formulation of the pyrethroid acaricide cyhalothrin was tested using two concentrations (0.007 percent and 0.01 percent) as a whole body spray against *B. microplus* on cattle. Based upon IR calculations, the 0.007 percent Al treatment provided 92.4 percent control and the 0.01 percent Al treatment provided 97.3 percent control. An evaluation of an "improved" cyhalothrin formulation has been scheduled.

#### **Boophilus Tick Program in Texas**

Tick eradication activities along the U.S.-Mexico border were successful in 1987. Thirty-four herds of Mexican livestock were apprehended by the Veterinary Services Tick Eradication Program employees along the Texas-Mexico border during this period. The herds totaled 26 cattle, of which 11 were infested with *Boophilus* ticks, and 22 horses which were free of cattle fever ticks. The total of 48 animals apprehended in 1987 compares to 74 Mexican animals apprehended in 1986.

The temporary preventative quarantine area in Cameron County was converted to a control purpose quarantine area to monitor livestock in the high-risk area. As a result, one premise was found infested with *Boophilus* ticks.

Three premises in the free area of Zapata County were found infested with cattle fever ticks in the vicinity of the previously infested Loma Llano Pasture. Range pasture conditions continued favorable due to adequate rainfall. Forage was abundant in most areas along the Texas-Mexico border.

Research Accomplishments for 1987 by Animal Diseases Research Unit (ADRU), USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Pullman, Washington, and Moscow, Idaho

Light and electron microscopes were used to obtain the first clear evidence that *Anaplasma marginale* infects tick salivary glands. Morphology of two strains of the parasite in salivary glands of three experimentally infected species of *Dermacentor* ticks suggests that the parasite replicates in this tissue before being introduced into cattle. If further studies confirm that the organism seen in the salivary glands represents the tick-transmitted stage of *A. marginale*, the antigenic profile of this stage can be characterized and unique antigens possibly included in a vaccine to protect cattle against tick-transmitted anaplasmosis.

A cloned DNA probe from the gene coding for an *A. marginale* surface polypeptide was used to detect *A. marginale* infections in individual tick tissues from three *Dermacentor* species. The DNA probe can detect all strains of *A. marginale* thus far tested, but does not cross-hybridize with *A. centrale* or *A. ovis. Anaplasma marginale* infection of *Dermacentor* tick salivary glands was confirmed with the DNA probe, revealing that the parasite was present before it could be detected microscopically and before it was infective for cattle.

Immunization of cattle with a purified *A. marginale* surface protein of 36,000 M.W. induced protection against both homologous and heterologous challenge. Cattle that did not develop infections were confirmed negative by DNA probe.

Experiments with unifested cattle and cattle infested with marked male/female *Dermacentor* ticks held together in indoor/outdoor pens revealed that approximately 30 percent of ticks recovered from the animals had transferred to new hosts. Interhost transfer by adult ticks may be an important means by which ticks transmit *A. marginale* in nature.

Anaplasma marginale-infected male Dermacentor andersoni held in packets off the host and in the field survived for 7 months and transmitted the parasite to susceptible calves after 121 days. The ticks appear to act as reservoirs of A. marginale through the summer and fall, but chronically infected vertebrate hosts appear to be the only significant overwintering reservoir of A. marginale.

#### Tick Identification and Vat Management Training Along United States-Mexico Border

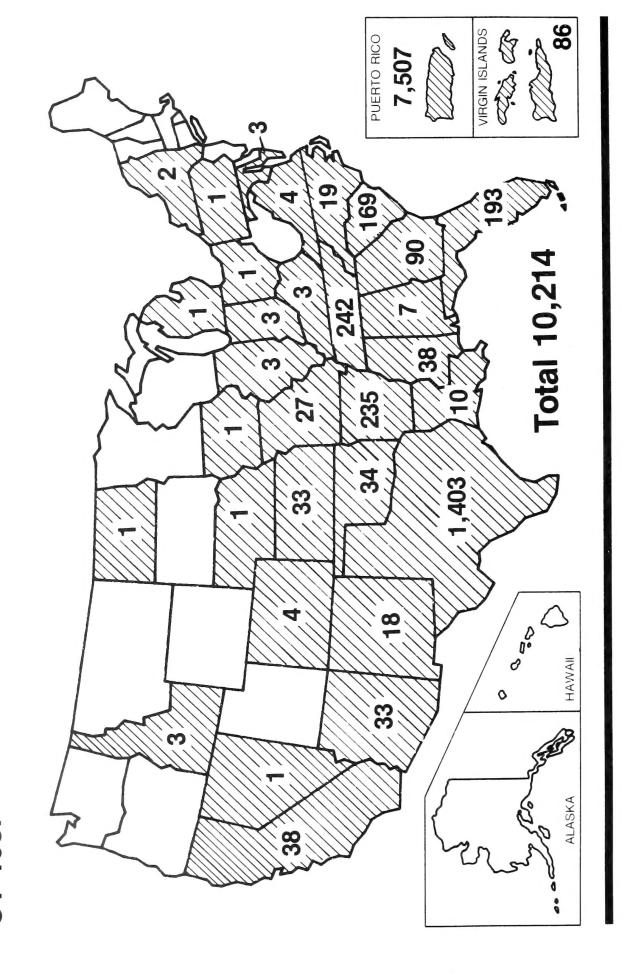
Tick identification and vat management training was conducted May 18 through June 6, 1987, for the personnel along the United States-Mexico border from Brownsville, Texas, to San Ysidro, California. The training included 52 State and Federal animal health personnel actively engaged

in the importation of livestock from Mexico. The training sites included Brownsville, Texas; Laredo, Texas; Del Rio, Texas; Presidio, Texas; El Paso, Texas; Nogales, Arizona;

and San Ysidro, California. Personnel from all the ports along the United States-Mexico border were represented at the training locations.

#### **Maps and Tables Section**

Tick Collections From All Hosts CY 1987



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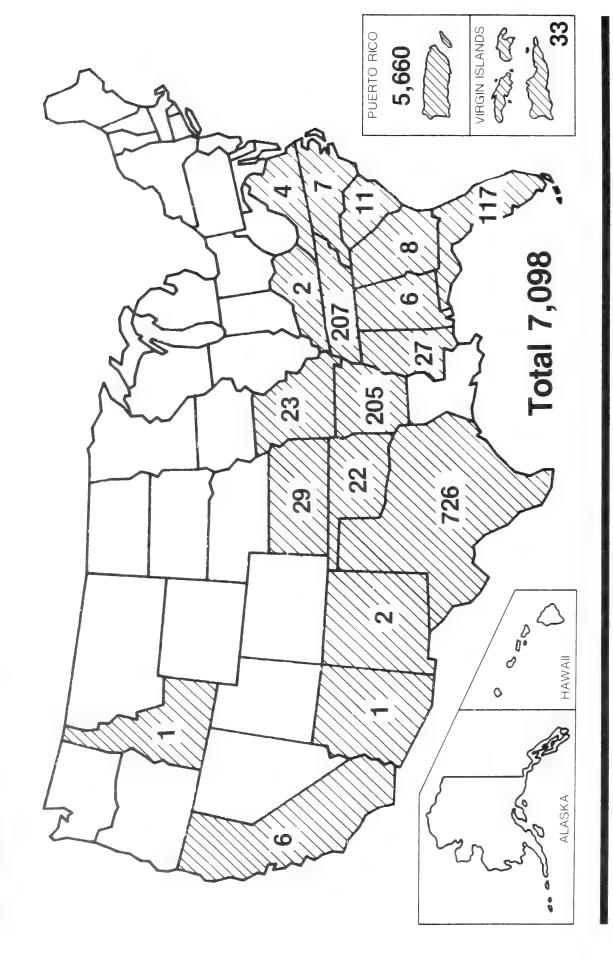
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Key to Host
BO Cattle OS Ostrich
DG Dog PL Plant
DH Deer Hide X Inanimate Object
HO Horse

Key to Species
h Amblyomma hebraeum
hy Hyalomma sp.
ht Hyalomma truncatum

\* Nymphal Stage

Tick Collections From Cattle CY 1987



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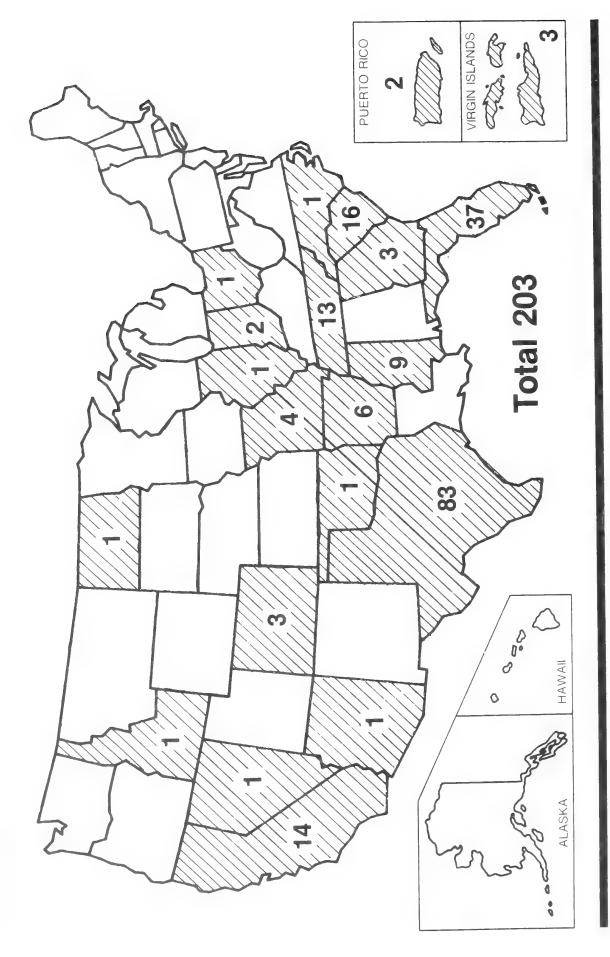
VS FORM T-4 (APR 84)

Key to Species

\* Nymphal Stage

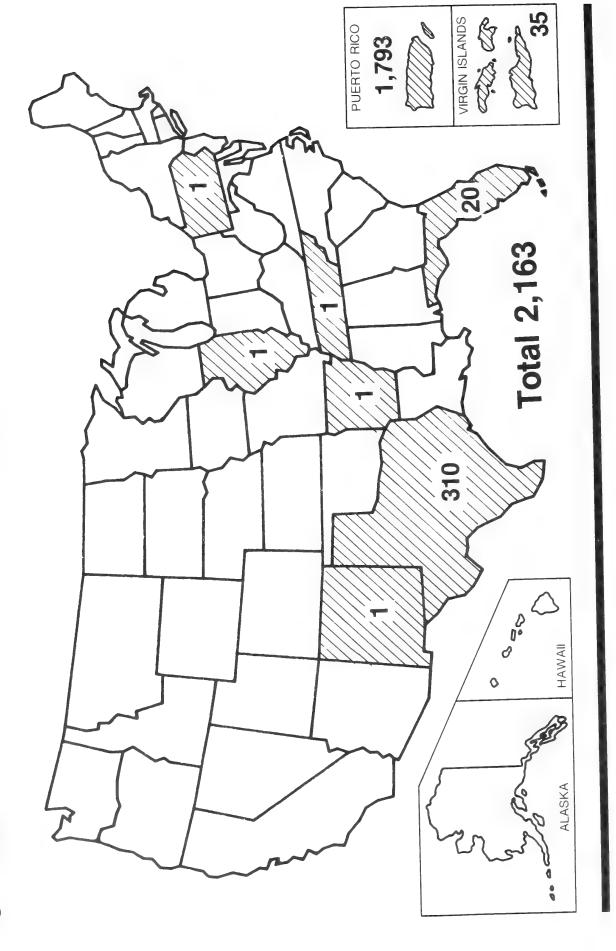
i Amblyomma inornatum
p Dermacentor parumapertus
v Amblyomma variegatum

## Tick Collections From Dogs CY 1987



					RFI	PORT	OF TIC	KS CO	LLECT	ED						USDA	PHIS	Calen	dar Ye	ar 100	.7		HOST Dogs				
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# Tick Collections From Horses and Mules CY 1987

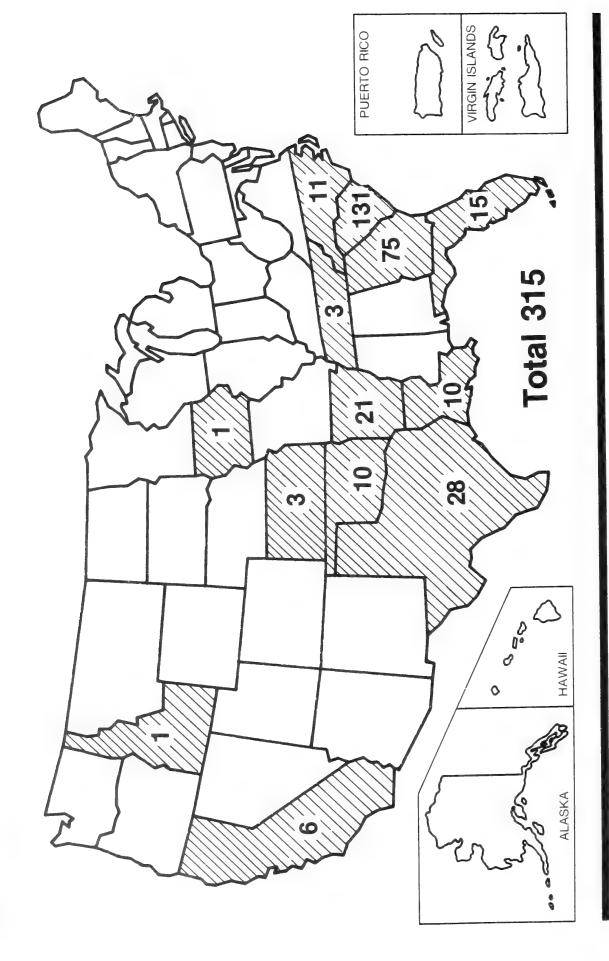


					RE	PORT	OF TIC	KS CO	LLECT	ED						USDA-/	APHIB	PERIOD		ar 198	7		HOST		du l n n		
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Virgin Islands	35		,			14			3		-	-		18		-	-	-	-				-				
VS FORM T-4 (APR 04)		to Spe					Nympha			1								1									

key to species

Mariegatum Variegatum

# Tick Collections From Native Wildlife CY 1987



TOTAL  Alabama  Alaska  Arizona  Arkansas  , California  Colorado  Connecticut  Delaware  Florida  Georgia  7  Hawaii  Ildaho  Illinois  Indiana  Iowa  Kansas  Kentucky	15	115	1	AMELY OUT	AND CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF	SPP COLLAND	AREAS IN		31 × 3	3/3//	3/ /	2   3   3   3   3   3   3   3   3   3	2 0 % N	3//		3/3/ 5	8/ /3/	2 2/	7	(0)	21/	/ 5	§ /	14/15	7 / E/	3/
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Key to Host
BB Black Bear
BC Bobcat
BI Bird
CG Cougar
CO Coyote
D Deer

E Elk F Fox GF Grey Fox MK Mink OP Opossum R Rabbit

RC Racoon RF Red Fox SK Skunk WT Wild Turkey

Key to Species

a Ixodes affinis
b Ixodes brunneus
id Ixodes dentatus
t Amblyomma tuberculatum

u <u>Ixodes</u> (species undetermined) x <u>Ixodes</u> <u>texanus</u>

### VIRGIN ISLANDS PUERTO RICO 52 Total 160 Tick Collections From Zoo Animals And Miscellaneous Hosts CY 1987 9 HAWAII 0 ALASKA

					RE	PORT	OF TIC	KS CO	LLECT	ED								1	dar Ye	ar 198	7		Misc	Animal ellane	ous Ho	sts	
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AD Axis Deer AE Anteater B Boa C Cat CH Chicken FD Fallow Deer

FW Fowl G Goat H Human IG Iguana LT Leopard Tortoise MN Mongoose

Q Host Not Given RH Rhinoceros S Sheep SD Sika Deer ST Star Tortoise TD Tick Drag

TH Trophy Hide TR CO2 Trap X Inanimate Object Y Swine

a Ixodes affinis al Amblyomma latum c Amblyomma clypeolatum d Amblyomma dissimile e Rhipicephalus evertsi h Amblyomma hebraeum

ht Hyalomma truncatum
m Amblyomma marmoreum
n Amblyomma nodosum
te Amblyomma testudinarium
v Amblyomma variegatum

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