

## **BIODIVERSITY, PREVALENCE AND SEASON DSTRIBUTION OF TICKS OF SMALL RUMINANTS IN NORTHWEST PART OF SERBIA**

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Ticks are a widespread problem for livestock producers. They also spread a number of serious diseases, the most notable being anaplasmosis, babesiosis, theileriosis and etc. The study about tick biodiversity and season distribution of tick of small ruminants in Northwest part Serbia was performed in period 2017-2020 at 45 small ruminants flocks. Collecting ticks from hosts was done by manual extraction. The tick species were detected by morphometric characteristic. Ticks were found in a total of 125 animals (50.40%). The following ticks species were found: *Ixodes ricinus* (16,93%), *Rhipicephalus bursa* (15,98%), *Haemaphysalis punctata* (3,32%), *Dermacentor marginatus*(3,00%), *D. pictus* (1,10%), *R. sanguineus* (0,53%) and *Ha. inermis* (0,31%). During our research, the sex ratio of ixodid species was in favor of females and amounted to 61.02%:38.98%. In March, we established the presence of *Ixodes ricinus*, *Rhipicephalus sanguineus*, *Dermacentor marginatus* and *Haemaphysalis punctata*. *Dermacentor marginatus*, *Haemaphysalis punctata* and *Haemaphysalis inermis* reach their maximum abundance in April. *Ixodes ricinus* and *Dermacentor pictus* reach their maximum abundance in May. *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* and *Rhipicephalus bursa* are the most frequently found species in July and August. In September, we observe an increase in the population of *Ixodes ricinus* and *Dermacentor marginatus*, while in October we observe the appearance of *Ixodes ricinus* and *Rhipicephalus sanguineus*. In addition to the immediate harmful effects caused by the hemophagous diet and allergic manifestations, the toxins excreted by ticks transmit many infections, a large number of which are zoonotic in nature.