

TICKS FROM TAPIRS OF PANAMA

This note records the ticks collected from three specimens of *Tapirella beardi* (Gill) in Panama. Tapir No. 1 was a young female (weight 396 pounds) killed near Summit, Canal Zone. The ticks were collected a few hours after death, before many ticks had left the carcass. The other two animals were very young specimens, not yet weaned, captured near Aguas Buenas, Republic of Panama. No. 2 appeared to be 4 to 6 weeks old, No. 3, 8 to 10 weeks old. The ticks were collected from these two small tapirs during life.

On the young animals the ticks were generally distributed, but on the adult tapir they were much more numerous on the ventral surface, especially on the breast between the fore legs and on the upper inner parts of the hind legs.

The species of ticks collected were as follows:

Amblyomma tapirellum Dunn (Parasit., 25: 353-355, 1933). No. 1, 169 adults; No. 2, 88 adults; No. 3, 62 adults. The most abundant species present.

Amblyomma oblongoguttatum Koch. No. 1, 45 adults; No. 2, 23 adults; No. 3, 16 adults. Also abundant, attaching especially about the head and neck.

Amblyomma coelebs Neumann. No. 1, 30 adults; was also present on the two smaller animals.

Amblyomma cajennense (Fabricius). No. 1, 7 adults; No. 2, 2 adults; No. 3, 1 adult. Although rare on the tapirs this species is very abundant in Panama on a wide variety of hosts.

Amblyomma ovale Koch. No. 1, 5 adults; No. 2, 5 adults, No. 3, 2 adults.

Amblyomma humerale Koch. No. 2, 1 adult. This tick is normally found on the tortoise.

Haemaphysalis kochi Aragao. No. 1, 37 specimens; No. 2, 3 adults; No. 3, 2 adults. This species is common on deer in Panama, but I have seen no previous record from tapirs.

In addition to the adult specimens recorded above, larval and nymphal ticks were extremely abundant on all three tapirs.

Since these tapirs are commonly found in low swampy areas and frequently enter the water to feed on aquatic vegetation or as a place of refuge, it seems rather remarkable to find their tick infestation so heavy, both in individuals and species.

Goldman (Smiths. Misc. Coll., 69: Publ. 2498, p. 83, 1920) has also noted the heavy tick infestation of this species in Panama, so that it is probably of common occurrence.—LAWRENCE H. DUNN, *Gorgas Memorial Laboratory, Panama.*