

Ticks species (Ixodida) in the Summit Municipal Park and adjacent areas, Panama City, Panama

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Abstract From September 2007 to September 2009, we studied the species of ticks present in the Summit Municipal Park. Ticks were extracted from zoo animals, free-living wild mammals and reptiles trapped, dead mammals on the roads and environment (ground and zoo burrows). A total of 2,649 ticks were collected: 2,167 immature stages (1,345 larvae and 822 nymphs) and 482 adults. Seventeen species were identified: *Ornithodoros puertorricensis* (Argasidae), *Amblyomma auricularium*, *A. cajennense*, *A. calcaratum*, *A. dissimile*, *A. geayi*, *A. naponense*, *A. nodosum*, *A. oblongoguttatum*, *A. ovale*, *A. pecarium*, *A. sabanerae*, *A. tapirellum*, *A. varium*, *Ixodes luciae*, *Haemaphysalis juxtakochi* and *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* (Ixodidae), representing 36% of the species reported in Panama. *Amblyomma ovale* was the species most commonly infesting animals from the zoo.

Keywords Biodiversity · Ixodida · Native hosts · Ecological niches · Summit Municipal Park · Panama City