

2 DIAGNOSIS OF *IXODIOPSIS*

Of the 15 widely recognized subgenera of *Ixodes*, only one (*Pholeoixodes*) is morphologically similar to *Ixodiopsis* (Clifford et al. 1973). There is much variation within *Pholeoixodes*, and the group may be polyphyletic. For example, several *Pholeoixodes* possess preimaginal processes on palpal segment I, while others entirely lack them. However, those *Pholeoixodes* possessing processes (e.g., *Ixodes sculptus*) are almost certainly the closest relatives of *Ixodiopsis* because similar elaborate structures in other *Ixodes* subgenera (*Endopalpiger* Schulze 1935, *Exopalpiger* Schulze 1935, *Partipalpiger* Hoogstraal et al. 1973) are nonhomologous, having arisen from a palpiger. *Pholeoixodes* is also almost entirely Holarctic in distribution and, as in the case of *Ixodiopsis*, most species are parasites of small mammals and their predators. The chief characters separating *Pholeoixodes* from *Ixodiopsis* are those of the female palps and the male and female coxae. In *Pholeoixodes*, the female palps are thick and clublike, with a length/width ratio $\leq 3:1$, whereas in *Ixodiopsis* the female palps are slender and distally tapered, with a length/width ratio usually $>3:1$. Also, in *Pholeoixodes*, the internal spur of coxa I is much longer than the external spur, while in *Ixodiopsis* these spurs are about equal in length.