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WHITE-TAILED DEER, A NEW HOST FOR *Amblyomma inornatum*

An ecological study of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) fawns was conducted during the summer of 1964 on the Welder Wildlife Refuge in South Texas (Cook, 1966, Ph.D. Thesis, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 123 pp.). As part of this study fawns 1 to 14 days of age were captured and examined for ectoparasites. On July 8, 1964, approximately 35 adult ticks were found on the ears of a 4 to 5 day old male fawn. The ticks were identified as *Amblyomma inornatum* by J. O. Jackson, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin, Madison and were later confirmed at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Rocky Mountain Laboratory, Hamilton, Montana. Since the initial detection of *A. inornatum*, additional infestations have been noted on Refuge whitetails.

In the United States, the distribution of the genus *Amblyomma* is usually confined to the southeastern or southwestern coastal states (U.S.D.A., 1965, Manual on Livestock Ticks for Animal Disease Eradication, Division Personnel, Animal Disease Eradication Division, USDA, Hyattsville, Maryland, 142 pp.). *A. inornatum* is not commonly found and as far as is known has been collected in south Texas from javelina (*Tayassu*

angulatus), jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), pack rat (*Neotoma micropus*), cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), cotton rat (*Sigmodon hispidus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*), wolf (*Canis niger*), domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*), domestic cat (*Felis domesticus*), roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), and in Mexico from the ground squirrel (*Citellus* sp.) (Eads, 1951, *J. of Economic Entomol.* 44: 819-820).

Previously, four species of *Amblyomma* have been reported for white-tailed deer: *A. americanum*, the lone star tick, *A. maculatum*, the gulf coast tick, *A. cajennense*, the cayenne tick (Anderson, 1962, *Trans. Royal Canadian Inst.* 34: 57-92), and *A. imitator* (Kohls, 1958, *J. of Parasitol.* 44: 430-433).

The importance of *A. inornatum* in disease transmission is unknown. However, two other members of the genus, *A. americanum* and *A. cajennense*, have a wide-host range and are well-known vectors of disease; the former for Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Q fever, and tularemia, and the latter for spotted fever in Mexico, Panama, Columbia, and Brazil (U.S.D.A., op. cit.).

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