

Jaco Bruekers, Heeswijk-Dinther, Guus Uijtterschout, Eindhoven, & Arthur Brouwer, Tegelen

Ektoparasiten (Zecken) an *Testudo graeca iberica* auf der Insel Kos, Griechenland

Ectoparasites (ticks) on Testudo graeca iberica on the island of Kos, Greece

Abstract

During a herpetological survey on the island of Kos, the authors observed *Testudo graeca iberica*. Data about quantity and position of any ticks found on the tortoises were collected. These ticks belonged to the species *Hyalomma aegyptium* and were mainly found around the hind limbs and tail. Sub-adult tortoises were significantly less infested by ticks than adults. A significant proportion of juvenile tortoises (measuring 3 to 13cm) had no ticks at all. Infection with ticks appeared to occur on tortoises which were bigger than 13 cm. Similar observations and results were made by one of the authors during surveys on *Testudo graeca iberica* in Turkey. Possible reasons why only adult tortoises become infested by these parasites are discussed. A photo of *Hyalomma aegyptium* and its eggs is also presented.

Key words

Testudines: Testudinidae, *Testudo graeca iberica*, ticks, Arachnida: Ixodida, *Hyalomma aegyptium*, Kos, Greece

Author

Jaco Bruekers

E-Mail: fam.bruekers@home.nl

Guus Uijtterschout,

E-Mail: g.ujtterschout@onsneteindhoven.nl

Arthur Brouwer

E-Mail: aenpbrouwer@12versatel.nl