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Case of Collecting Tick *Amblyoma lepidum* Dönitz, 1909, in Azerbaijan

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TRANSLATION 1 (TL)

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL ZOOLOGY
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TRANSLATION FROM RUSSIAN

M. V. Pospelova-Shtrom and N. S. Abusalimov. Case of collecting tick Amblyomma lepidum Dönitz, 1909, in Azerbaijan. (From entomological section. Institute of malaria, medicine, parasitology and helminthology, Ministry of Health S.S.R. and Zoological Institute, Academy of Science, Azerbaijan S.S.R.).

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On 18 May 1954, (a specimen of) Burhinus oedicnemus (L.) was killed in the Lenkoransky region of Azerbaijan S.S.R.; on its head a male Amblyomma lepidum Dönitz, 1909, was found. Morphological characters of this tick, size and shape of body, characteristic light and dark ornamentation of dorsal shield, punctation, shape and two colors of festoons, size and shape of cervical and lateral grooves, hypostome, peritreme, projection on coxae, and spherical orbited eyes correspond to those in the description of A. lepidum, given in Robinson monograph. Only on four anterior festoons a small light spot is found (in description by Robinson festoons are all one color, dark). This may be an individual variation.

Area of propagation of A. lepidum (Eastern equatorial Africa from Sudan to Zanzibar) corresponds to the area of the region where Burhinus oedicnemus (L.) winters (Africa, Asia Minor, South Arabia, Iran), so that finding of tick in Azerbaijan S.S.R. in spring is explained probably as an introduction by a migrating bird. Examples of such distant introduction of ixodidae ticks by birds are very rare. Immature A. lepidum (partly males) remain on the host, thus facilitating introduction of ticks to far distances. Robinson described several collections of A. lepidum outside its area, in northern and southern Africa, on imported cattle. To associate male A.

lepidum with birds is unusual; hosts of its adult stage are big-horned cattle, buffalo, goats, camels etc. Robinson mentioned 86 species of ticks in the genus Amblyomma, parasitizing chiefly mammals, others on reptiles and amphibia; one specimen - (A. variegatum) indicated on snail (Limicolaria adansoni Pfr.) and none parasitizing birds is indicated. The tick is in the Zoological Institute, Academy of Science of Azerbaijan S.S.R.