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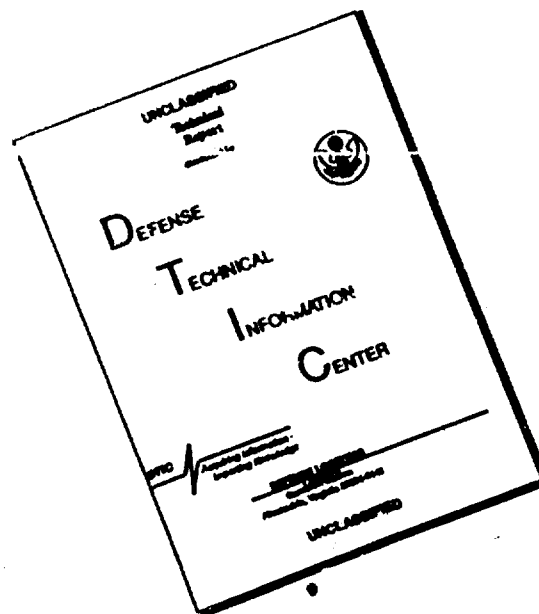
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Veterinary, No. 5, 1956; Page 23.

On the dissemination of the Dermacentor tick.

Veterinarian V. Trofimov (Veliki Luki regional veterinary-bacteriological laboratory).

According to literature the tick 'Dermacentor' is not observed north of the 56th parallel in the USSR and the territory of the Veliki Luki region, located north of this parallel, was earlier considered free from these ticks.

However, in 1954 and 1955 Piroplasma* in horses was established in two central areas of this region and simultaneously the Dermacentor tick was found there. In 1954 three areas of Piroplasma infection appeared and 15 horses were reported ill. In 1955 two more points of infection appeared with 29 horses ailing with Piroplasma. During microscopy of smears of blood of these animals we discovered the agent of the Piroplasma infection--Piroplasma caballi. It was also established that the Dermacentor tick 'Dermacentor pictus' was the vector.

The circumstances which stimulated us to study the Piroplasma and its vector in the Veliki Luki region was, at first, the infection of several horses in the farms of this area, and later, an infectious anemia of numerous horses. During examination of the epizootological data we established the epizootical and infectional seasonality which is characteristic for Piroplasma of horses (May-beginning of June).

Acquisition of horses for the farms of this region after the Great Patriotic War was mainly through purchases from the Baltic Republics.

*Piroplasma--Nuttallia, Babesia equi and B. caballi; also Nuttallia equi.

In this report reference is made to the Piroplasma caballi. (Translator)

The last shipment of horses from Lithuanian SSR was in the fall of 1951. Evidently the vectors of the Piroplasma were among those horses.

During a veterinary examination of the farms, it was established that an epizootic of horses was present in May-June of 1952-1953, but the local veterinary specialists did not diagnose it as Piroplasma.

Later examinations for the Dermacentor pictus revealed it in areas which were not affected by the Piroplasma.

In connection with this information it is necessary to consider that the Dermacentor pictus tick is located on the territory of the Veliki Luki region, well north of the 56th parallel. Veterinary workers must keep this in mind during differential diagnosis of horse diseases.

There exists a necessity for a more detailed study of the dissemination of this tick.