

## **TICK-BITE PREVENTATIVE BEHAVIOR OF PEOPLE ON RECREATIONAL AREAS IN WARSAW**

**<sup>1</sup>ALEKSANDRA GLINIEWICZ, <sup>1</sup>E. MIKULAK, <sup>1</sup>A. KRÓLASIK,  
AND <sup>2</sup>J. MYŚLEWICZ**

<sup>1</sup>National Institute of Public Health–National Institute Of Hygiene, Laboratory of Medical Entomology  
and Pest Control, Chocimska 24 Str. 00-791 Warsaw, Poland

<sup>2</sup>Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture and Biology, Nowoursynowska 159 Str.  
02-776 Warsaw, Poland

**Abstract** The occurrence of *Ixodes* and *Dermacentor* ticks is not limited to natural biotopes. These arthropods inhabit recreational parks and small forests situated in the city and in the suburban zone of Warsaw as well. In studies carried out in Warsaw recently the level of infected by *Borrelia burgdorferi* s.l. ticks was recorded between 10,7–20,0%. The aim of our study is to determine how people visiting recreational areas in Warsaw protect themselves against tick bites. A questionnaire about the use of anti-tick prophylaxis was elaborated. Respondents were people who visited 5 recreational areas: parks in the city and small forests in the suburbs, 11 – 80 years old. About 400 completed questionnaires were analyzed. The evaluation of given answers showed that approximately 50% respondents did not use chemical repellents. About 60% did not wear appropriate clothes: long sleeves, long trousers in light colors, etc. when visiting recreational areas known for the presence of ticks. About 56% persons examined their body carefully after the walk in the forest or park. However, about 92% respondents confirmed their knowledge about tick-borne diseases; 90% of dog owners declared that they protect their pets with chemical agents against ticks.