## Article

## First at-large record of *Amblyomma parvum* (Acari: Ixodidae) in the United States

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## Abstract

An adult male of *Amblyomma parvum* Aragão, 1908 was collected from a biologist performing field work in Key Largo, Monroe County, Florida, USA, on 30 November 2004. Intermittent surveys from 2004–2009, including examination of wildlife and tick drags, failed to detect additional specimens of *A. parvum* in Key Largo. This is the first collection of a free-living *A. parvum* in the United States, although it has been found there once before on a quarantined animal entering from Paraguay.

Key words: Amblyomma parvum, exotic tick, invasive species, Florida

## Introduction

At least 99 exotic tick species were either detected at ports of entry or inadvertently imported into the United States during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Keirans & Durden 2001). Pathways for the introduction of exotic parasitic arthropods may include sanctioned importation of domestic animals and exotic wildlife, illegal international movement of domestic animals and exotic wildlife, natural bird migration, and incidental to international human travel.

The Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS), in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (USDA, APHIS, VS), conducts surveys for exotic arthropods on free-ranging wildlife in the southeastern U.S., U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico (Corn *et al.* 2009, 2011). On 30 November 2004, during such survey activities, an unattached, unfed adult male of the Neotropical ixodid tick *Amblyomma parvum* Aragão, 1908 (NVSL Accession No. 368841) was collected from the arm of a field biologist in Key Largo, Monroe County, Florida, USA. The tick was discovered and removed at a site (UTM: 570190; 2795559) within the Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park, located off State Road 905 near the abandoned U.S. Department of Defense Key Largo Nike Missile Site (Integrated Fire Control area). However, the biologist had worked in several other locations in the Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park and in adjacent Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge