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九州におけるシュルツェマダニの分布記録

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Research Note

A distributional record of *Ixodes persulcatus* Schulze in Kyushu, southern Japan (Acari: Ixodidae)

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Ixodes persulcatus Schulze (Acari: Ixodidae) is widely distributed in the Siberian taiga zone (Filippova, 1985). In Japan, this tick species prevails in the higher mountainous areas of central and northern Honshu and in Hokkaido where the climate is relatively cold. While conducting the vector surveys of Lyme disease in various localities in Japan, we confirmed the distribution of *I. persulcatus* at a mountainous area in Kyushu, southern Japan. The ticks were collected by flagging vegetation and the record was as follows.

One male and 1 nymph, May 1, 1991, Handa Heights (33°07'N, 131°42'E, 1,000 m above sea level), Oita Prefecture, Kyushu, M. Nakao leg.

The morphological characteristics of *I. persulcatus* and *Ixodes nipponensis* Kitaoka et Saito are quite similar to each other in their adult stage; however, they are easily distinguishable in their larval and nymphal stages (Kitaoka and Saito, 1967). The nymphal specimen collected in Kyushu agreed well with our collections of nymphal *I. persulcatus* in Hokkaido.

In old Japanese literatures, *I. persulcatus* had been described as *Ixodes ricinus* (L.). Although the specimens of *I. ricinus* had also

been collected in Saga, Kumamoto, and Miyazaki Prefectures in Kyushu, they were thought to be *I. persulcatus* or *I. nipponensis* (Yamaguti *et al.*, 1971). Since these specimens are now missing, there are no reliable collection records of *I. persulcatus* in Kyushu. Our record, therefore, demonstrated that *I. persulcatus* is distributed in Kyushu.

After our finding, Takada *et al.* (1993) reconfirmed the distribution of *I. persulcatus* in Kyushu. However, more detailed field studies are required to confirm its distributional borders and survival conditions in southern Japan.

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摘 要

九州におけるシュルツェマダニの分布記録

日本におけるシュルツェマダニの主要な分布地域は本州中部山岳地帯以北の高山帯および北海道である。九州では本種の確実な分布記録はなかったが、著者らは、1991年5月1日、大分県飯田高原(久住山)において、シュルツェマダニの♂成虫1個体と若虫1個体を植生上から採集した。

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