

The Life-cycle of *Babesia bigemina* (Smith & Kilbourne) of Texas Cattle-fever in the Tick *Margaropus annulatus* (Say) with Notes on the Embryology of *Margaropus*.

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Author(s) : [DENNIS, E. W.](#)

Journal article : [Univ. Cal. Pub. Zool.](#) 1932 Vol.36 No.11 pp.263-298 pp.ref.40

Abstract : The life-history and anatomy of *Boophilus (Margaropus) annulatus*

reviewed, and its embryology is described. An account is given of the life-cycle of *Piroplasma bigeminum* in this tick, which demonstrates its suitability to act as a parasite of the bovine host. *P. bigeminum* is confined to the blood of the bovine host, which is the sole focus of its life-cycle. The feeding period of *B. annulatus* is all passed on one animal, so that the chances for ingestion of the parasites are great, even if the vertebrate host is only a casual visitor. The parasites are scarce in the peripheral blood. The gut of the tick is blind, so that the parasites ingested and not destroyed by the digestive ferments are retained in the gut and tend to accumulate, thus increasing the opportunities for the gametes to become associated. Owing to the close contact between the digestive tract and reproductive organs of the tick, any parasites leaving the gut will invade the latter and occur in the egg. Within the egg certain stages of the parasite migrate throughout the tissue of the developing tick, and, since much of the embryonic cell mass contributes to the formation of the salivary glands, it is almost inevitable that some of the parasites should be found in these structures and be transferred to a new vertebrate host during the feeding period of the larval tick.

The life-cycle of *P. bigeminum* has two distinct phases, *viz.* an asexual cycle in the vertebrate host where multiplication takes place in the red blood corpuscles by binary fission, and a simple sexual cycle in the tick.

The author considers that the correct generic name for this protozoon is *Babesia*.

Record Number : 19321000224

Publisher : Berkeley, Cal.

Language of text : English

Language of summary : English

Indexing terms for this abstract:

Organism descriptor(s) : Babesia, Babesia bigemina, Babesiidae, Ixodidae, Rhipicephalus, Rhipicephalus annulatus

Descriptor(s) : digestive tract, embryology, gametes, intestines, life cycle, life history, reproductive organs, salivary glands

Identifier(s) : Boophilus, Boophilus annulatus, gastrointestinal tract, United States

Geographical Location(s) : Texas, USA

Broader term(s) : Babesiidae, Piroplasmorida, Apicomplexa, Protozoa, eukaryote, Metastigmata, Acari, Arachnida, arthropods, invertebrates, animals, Ixodidae, Rhipicephalus

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Molecular comparisons of *Babesia odocoilei* using the internal transcribed spacers of ribosomal RNA, manufacturing error makes Dolnik.

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