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The Latest Advances in the Knowledge of Ticks and the Diseases They Transmit

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Message from the Guest Editors

Ticks have been silent companions in the vertebrate evolution, from the feathered dinosaurs from which the oldest identified tick is supposed to have fed, to current species. The capacity of these seemingly simple organisms for survival under changing and adverse conditions lies in their ability to adapt. Their capability of parasitizing reptiles, birds, and mammals from the most varied climates, habitats, and continents plays a key role in their survival. Few animal groups can maintain their life cycle by feeding on penguins in Antarctica, dromedaries in the Saharan desert, or marine iguanas in the Galapagos Islands. In this context, the global change that is a critical challenge for many species is just another possibility for ticks to overcome by establishing contact with unusual hosts, or modifying their area of distribution. An example of this is what has been observed with *Hyalomma* in Europe.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The worldwide impact of infectious disease is incalculable. The consequences for human health in terms of morbidity and mortality are obvious and vast but, when infections of animals and plants are also taken into account, it is hard to imagine any other disease that has such a significant impact on our lives—on healthcare systems, on agriculture and on world economics. *Pathogens* is proud to continue to serve the international community by publishing high quality studies that further our understanding of infection and have meaningful consequences for disease intervention.

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