

INVASIVE TICKS: INTRODUCTION OF *AMBLYOMMA KRANEVELDI* (ANASTOS) AND OTHER EXOTIC TICKS (ACARI: IXODIDAE) INTO FLORIDA ON IMPORTED REPTILES

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ABSTRACT - Seven species of exotic ticks, *Amblyomma flavomaculatum* (Lucas), *A. kraneveldi* (Anastos), *A. latum* (Koch), *A. nuttalli* Dönitz, *A. scutatatum* Neumann, *A. trimaculatum* (Lucas) and *A. varanense* (Supino), were identified on reptiles imported into Florida in 2005. The report of the introduction of the Indonesian tick *A. kraneveldi* on an imported reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*) is the first recording of this exotic tick species in the United States. Information on the host range and geographical distribution of *A. kraneveldi* is described. The invasive tick species that have been introduced into the United States on imported reptiles since 1946 are reviewed.

Key words - Acari, Ixodidae, *Amblyomma kraneveldi* (Anastos), invasive ticks, reticulated python, *Python reticulatus*, USA.

Abstract # 9

Internat. J. Acarol. 32(3): 315-321.