

Clinical and epidemiological comparison of *Rickettsia parkeri* rickettsiosis, related to *Amblyomma triste* and *Amblyomma tigrinum*, in Argentina

Abstract

The aim of this work was to compare the epidemiological and clinical characteristics of *Rickettsia parkeri* rickettsiosis related to *Amblyomma triste* and *Amblyomma tigrinum* ecological regions in Argentina. We reviewed cases of *R. parkeri* rickettsiosis from 2007 to 2017 evaluated at Muñiz Hospital, directly or through referral. Univariate analysis was used to examine the association between different variables and the disease related by each vector species. The eighteen cases of *R. parkeri* rickettsiosis included had fever, inoculation eschar and all except one had rash. Regional differences in epidemiological variables were identified, depending on the vector. There was a significantly increased risk of exposure to *A. tigrinum* in peri-domestic areas (odd ratio 12, $p = 0.02$), whereas an increased risk of exposure to *A. triste* was evident in wildlife areas (odd ratio 12, $p = 0.02$). Seasonality of *R. parkeri* rickettsiosis differed based on its vector. Cases associated with *A. triste* occurred predominantly during spring and summer, whereas those associated with *A. tigrinum* occurred during fall, winter, and springtime. Exanthema was maculopapular (13/18), maculo-vesicular (3/18) or petechial (1/18). No clinical differences were identified depending on the vector.

Keywords: Amblyomma tigrinum; Amblyomma triste; Argentina; Human diseases; Rickettsia parkeri; Rickettsiosis.

Link full text: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32386908/>