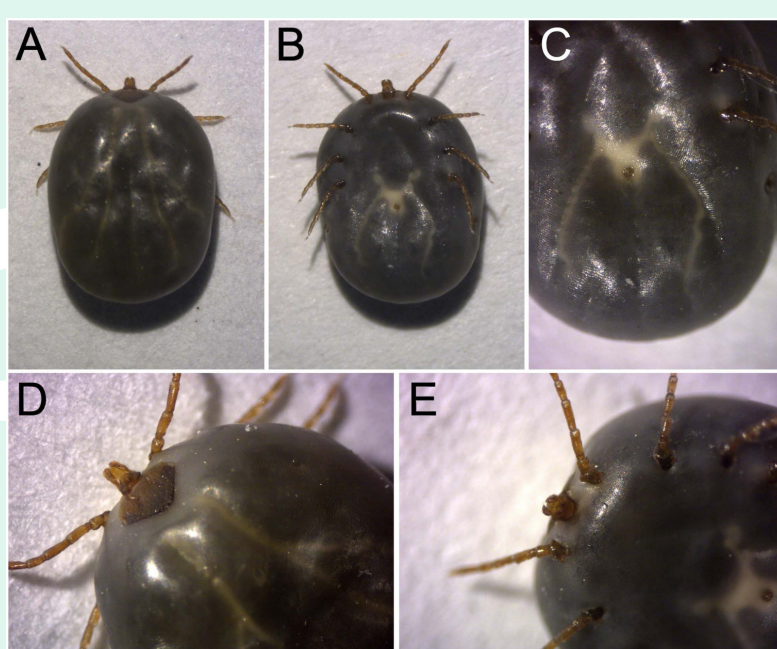


FIRST APPEARANCE OF A FOREIGN TICK (*AMBLYOMMA COELEBS*) IN THE U.S.



AMBLYOMMA COELEBS

- A foreign tick, *Amblyomma coelebs*, was found in the U.S. for the first time in 2018.
- The tick was found attached to the back of a 66-year-old male from North Haven, Connecticut, who had recently returned to the U.S. from Costa Rica and Panama.

WHERE DOES THIS TICK NORMALLY LIVE?

- This tick is typically found in Central and South America, and the southern region of Mexico.
- Adult ticks typically feed on tapirs, but also feed on humans, cattle, foxes, and other mammals in their native range.

WHAT ARE THE DISEASE RISKS OF THIS TICK?

- It can spread bacteria, like spotted fever group rickettsiae, to humans and other animals.

NEXT STEPS

- More research and testing can help us learn about the biology, behavior, and public health risk of this and other exotic ticks.
- Checking imported animals and plants at the U.S. ports of entry is necessary to prevent the accidental introduction and spread of exotic ticks and diseases they may carry.
- It is important for travelers to be aware of ticks when they travel outside of the U.S. Tick checks and use of insect repellents are great strategies to avoid picking up these hitchhikers when returning home.

