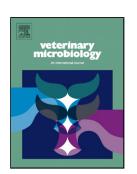
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Drivers of *Bartonella* infection in micromammals and their fleas in a Mediterranean periurban area

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<u>Highlights</u>

- *Bartonella* (12 haplotypes) were identified in 49% of periurban micromammals and in 58% of flea pools
- *Bartonella* prevalence varied depending on flea infestation level, host relative abundance, season and sex
- Prevalence in flea pools was only explained by *Bartonella* occurrence in the pool host.
- In general, prevalence did not differ between natural and residential areas.
- 66% of fetuses from all the analyzed litters were infected, indicating that vertical transmission could be important

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