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Drivers of *Bartonella* infection in micromammals and their fleas in a Mediterranean peri-urban area

Aitor Cevidanes[a]*, Laura Altet[b], Andrea D Chirife[c], Tatiana Proboste[d], Javier Millán[e]*

[a] PhD Program in Conservation Medicine, Facultad de Ecología y Recursos Naturales, Universidad Andres Bello, República 252, Santiago, Chile

[b] Vetgenomics, Edificio Eureka, Research Facilities, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Bellaterra, 08193, Spain

[c] El Mirador del Rosario P5, Peñaflor, Chile

[d] School of Veterinary Science, University of Queensland, Gatton, Queensland, Australia.

[e] Facultad de Ecología y Recursos Naturales, Universidad Andres Bello, República 252, Santiago, Chile

*Corresponding authors: Aitor Cevidanes (aitorcevi@gmail.com) and Javier Millán (syngamustrachea@hotmail.com)

Highlights

- *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