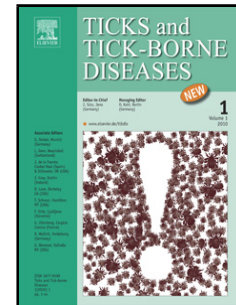


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Authors: Vincenzo Veneziano, Diego Piantedosi, Nicola Ferrari, Benedetto Neola, Mario Santoro, Laura Pacifico, Giovanni Sgroi, Nicola D'Alessio, Tullio Panico, Christian M. Leutenegger, Phyllis Tyrrell, Jesse Buch, Edward B. Breitschwerdt, Ramaswamy Chandrashekar



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Short Communication

Distribution and risk factors associated with *Babesia* spp. infection in hunting dogs from Southern Italy

Vincenzo Veneziano^a, Diego Piantedosi^{a,*}, Nicola Ferrari^b, Benedetto Neola^a, Mario Santoro^c, Laura Pacifico^a, Giovanni Sgroi^a, Nicola D'Alessio^c, Tullio Panico^d, Christian M. Leutenegger^e, Phyllis Tyrrell^e, Jesse Buch^e, Edward B. Breitschwerdt^f, Ramaswamy Chandrashekar^e

^a*Department of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Productions, Università degli Studi di Napoli "Federico II", Via F. Delpino 1, 80137 Naples, Italy*

^b*Department of Veterinary Medicine, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Celoria 10, 20133 Milan, Italy*

^c*Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Mezzogiorno, Via Salute 2, 80055 Portici, Italy*

^d*Centro Interdipartimentale di Ricerca "Ambiente", Università degli Studi di Napoli "Federico II", Via Mezzocannone 16, 80134 Naples, Italy*

^e*IDEXX Laboratories, Inc., Westbrook, Maine 04092, USA*

^f*College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27607, USA*

* **Corresponding author:** Tel.: +39 081 2536004
E-mail address: dapiante@unina.it (D. Piantedosi)

Highlights:

- A survey on *Babesia* infection in hunting dogs from Southern Italy was performed.
- The seroprevalence for *B. canis*/*B. vogeli* was 14.0% and 0.2% for *B. gibsoni*.
- *B. canis* and *B. vogeli* PCR prevalences were 0.15% and 1.1%, respectively.
- Male gender, adult age, long hair coat and living area represented risk factors.
- This canine population is mainly exposed to *B. vogeli*, but PCR positivity is low.

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