**Borrelia burgdorferi s.l. infection in Ixodes ricinus ticks (Ixodidae) at three Belgian nature reserves: increasing trend?**

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**Introduction**

- *Ixodes ricinus* is the most significant disease vector in Europe, transmitting *Borrelia burgdorferi s.l.* as most prevalent infection in humans [1]
- Although lyme borreliosis incidence has not increased in Belgium between 2003 and 2012 [2], it increased in several European countries these last decades [3]
- A longitudinal study to investigate trends in *I. ricinus* questing activity and its *Borrelia burgdorferi s.l.* infection was performed at two forest nature reserves since 2008 and at one dune nature reserve since 2013

**Materials & Methods**

- **Tick questing activity** of adults and nymphs
- **Individual infection rate** of nymphs

**Results & conclusions**

- **‘Westhoek’**
  - Tick questing activity of adults and nymphs
  - Average # I. ricinus / sampling day
  - Individual infection rate (%)

- **‘Wik’**
  - Tick questing activity of adults and nymphs
  - Average # I. ricinus / minute
  - Individual infection rate (%)

- **‘Ziepbeekvallei’**
  - Tick questing activity of adults and nymphs
  - Average # I. ricinus / minute
  - Individual infection rate (%)

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