

*Dermacentor variabilis*—American dog tick



**Bionomics:** Widely distributed east of the Rocky Mountains. Also occurs in limited areas on the Pacific Coast. One of the most well-known hard ticks. Common in old fields, wooded areas and thick underbrush and could easily attach to soldier as human host and transmit disease.

**Medical Importance:** Transmits: Rocky Mountain spotted fever and Tularemia. May also induce tick paralysis. The highest risk of being bitten occurs during spring and summer. American dog ticks are sometimes called wood ticks. Immatures rarely bite humans.



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