

THE PREVALENCE OF *BORRELIA BURGDORFERI* S. L. IN MOSQUITOES (*CULICIDAE*) IN FOREST AREAS OF SZCZECIN

DANUTA KOSIK-BOGACKA, KATARZYNA GÓRNIK I WANDA KUŻNA-GRYGIEL

Chair and Department of Biology and Medical Parasitology, Pomeranian Medical University,
70-111 Szczecin, 72 Powstańców Wielkopolskich

The aim of the study was to determine the infection level of mosquitoes with spirochetes *Borrelia burgdorferi* s.l. in forest areas of the city of Szczecin. The mosquitoes were collected from June to September 2003. The spirochetes, *Borrelia burgdorferi* s. l. present in mosquitoes were detected with indirect immunofluorescence assay (IFA) using rabbit anti-*Borrelia burgdorferi* antibodies and goat anti-rabbit IgG marked with fluorescein isocyanate (FITC). A total of 1557 females and 58 males were collected. They represented genera *Aedes* (63%) and *Culex* (37%). The infection level of the mosquitoes from the area studied amounted to 1.7%. The results of the present study confirm a potential of those arthropods to spread Lyme borreliosis.