

## Tick-borne Relapsing Fever in *Ornithodoros parkeri* collected near Fresno, CA



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### **Biology Colloquium**

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Public health officials are warning Americans to be attentive while outdoors as the number of tick-borne disease cases rise around the country. Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne disease in the United States, but many precautionary measures to prevent tick exposure exist. In the foothills and mountains of Fresno, however, another related tick-borne disease is endemic and is transmitted by a more stealthy tick. Tick-borne relapsing fever (TBRF) cases are seen in California yearly, yet large-scale studies of the tick vectors (*Ornithodoros* spp.) are uncommon. Our work describes the successful collection of *Ornithodoros parkeri* from local recreational locations using novel methods and the detection of *Borrelia parkeri*, the causative agent of TBRF, at a local campground. The close proximity of these ticks to human activity warrants better public health outreach and surveillance efforts.

If you need a disability-related accommodation or wheelchair access, please contact Lindasue Garner in the Biology Department at 278-2001 or e-mail [lgarner@csufresno.edu](mailto:lgarner@csufresno.edu) (at least one week prior to event).