

1 INTRODUCTION

In 1957, the Russian acarologist N.A. Filippova established the subgenus *Ixodiopsis* for those species of *Ixodes* Latreille (1795) ticks previously assigned to the large and heterogeneous subgenus *Pholeoixodes* Schulze (1942) but distinguished by the presence of prominent posterior or anterior and posterior processes on palpal segment I in both preimaginal stages. On this basis, several Old World authors (Sénevet & Ripert 1967; Morel & Perez 1973a, b; Kolonin 1981) have transferred increasing numbers of species from *Pholeoixodes* to *Ixodiopsis*, including *Ixodes conepati* Cooley & Kohls, *I. cookei* Packard, *I. kingi* Bishopp, *I. marmotae* Cooley & Kohls, *I. nuttalli* Lahille, *I. rugosus* Bishopp, and *I. sculptus* Neumann. However, American workers (Clifford et al. 1973, Robbins & Keirans 1987) have argued that Filippova's definition is too inclusive because many species of *Pholeoixodes* that are obviously unrelated as adults possess palpal processes as nymphs and larvae. *Ixodiopsis* may be further defined by female characters: length/width ratio of palps usually >3:1; basis capituli elongate; auriculae absent; and coxa I with external and internal spurs about equal in length (Appendix A). The consistent sharing of characters from separate life history stages constitutes a strong argument for recognition of *Ixodiopsis*.

Ixodiopsis is exclusively Holarctic in distribution and is often