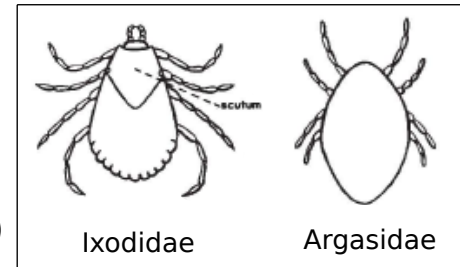


# Australian Tick (Ixodida) Identification Guide

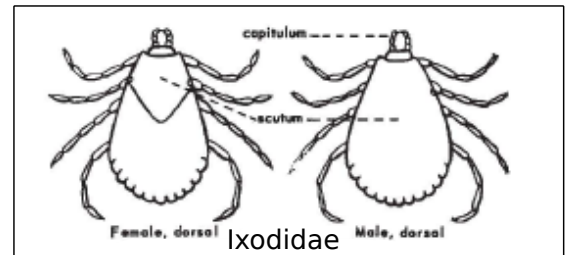
## 1 Family

- Hard covering on dorsal aspect (scutum present),  
mouthparts terminal.....Ixodidae (hard)  
No hard covering on dorsal aspect (scutum absent),  
mouthparts ventral.....Argasidae (soft)



## 2 Instar

1. (a) 6 legs present.....larvae  
(b) 8 legs present.....2
2. (a) Genital pore absent.....nymph  
(b) Genital pore present.....adult



Ixodidae (hard ticks) only\*

3. (a) Scutum completely covering dorsal aspect;  
porose areas lacking.....male  
(b) Scutum covering only anterior portion of dorsal aspect;  
porose areas present.....female

## 3 Genus

\* In the Argasidae family, other than the shape of the genital pore the sexes are generally similar. Adult male and females are not distinguished in keys.

Roberts (1970) Australian Ticks. CSIRO Publishing.  
pg. 11 (Ixodidae); pg. 130 (Argasidae)

Barker and Walker (2014) Ticks of Australia. Zootaxa.  
pg. 31 (Ixodidae); pg. 30 (Argasidae)

Pictorial key to Australian tick Genera (Egan 2019, unpublished).

## 4 Species

Options for species identification will depend on the instar and genus identified.

**!** Remember there is no exhaustive key to all species of Australian ticks

The best places to start are:

Roberts (1970) Australian Ticks. CSIRO Publishing.

Roberts (1969) The larvae of Australian Ixodidae (Acarina: Ixodidea).

*Australian Journal of Entomology*, 8(1), 37-78.

Barker and Walker (2014) Ticks of Australia. The species that infest domestic animals and humans. *Zootaxa*, 3816(1)



If unable to identify tick from Australian keys, patient history may be helpful to identify probability of an overseas tick.  
If in doubt contact an expert. Take images of major features, at a minimum a dorsal and ventral view are required.