

ENTOMOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE OF BLUETONGUE IN ALGERIA

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Culicoides imicola is the major Old World vector of the arboviruses that caused African horse sickness and bluetongue (BT). BT was observed for the first time in Algeria in 2000. BT virus serotype 2 (BTV-2) was then reported, whereas BTV-1 was incriminated in 2006. Various *Culicoides* species were captured during the trapping campaigns of 2003 and 2006 carried out by Delécolle and Baldet, and those of 2007 and 2009 carried out by the present team. The 2007/2009 campaigns covered two periods (March-April and June-July) and samples were collected in 28 departments of Algeria. More *C. imicola* were caught in the second period (June-July). Although a weak activity and

sometimes absence of *C. imicola* were observed in some departments, BTV-1 was reported in these areas. It seems likely that other species of *Culicoides* are incriminated in the transmission of BTV in the country. The 2007/2009 campaigns revealed 10 new *Culicoides* species, which, added to the 37 species identified by Delécolle and Baldet in the 2003/2006 campaigns, bring the total of known species in Algeria to 47.

KEYWORDS: *CULICOIDES* – DISEASE SURVEILLANCE – NEW SPECIES – ALGERIA.

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