

# **Anaplasma phagocytophilum Human Agent Variant Detected in Asian Longhorned Ticks**



Longhorned Ticks. Photo by James Occi, (PhD cand.) LDA Scientific & Professional Advisory Board

In a newly published US study, *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*–human agent variant has been detected for the first time in the highly invasive Asian longhorned tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*). Active tick surveillance was conducted throughout Pennsylvania during the time period of May 1st through September 6th, 2019. Researchers tested 265 ticks for rickettsial pathogens through PCR testing and 1.5% of these ticks were positive for *A. phagocytophilum*. Two were confirmed positive as *A. phagocytophilum*–human agent variant through sequence analysis of the 16S rRNA gene.

**Access to the full text article can be found here**

**Additional LDA articles on Asian longhorned tick pathogens can be found here**