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Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases Lab.

• Project code: TÜBİTAK COST2515

Project number: 224O312

• **Project name:** Phylogeographic investigation on different *Hyalomma* species in natural foci of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever virus: Revealing the virus-vector relationship at the level of population genetics in natural foci where *Hyalomma marginatum*, *Hyalomma excavatum*, *Hyalomma a*siaticum and *Hyalomma aegyptium* are dominant or sympatric.

Project duration: 3-years

• Related COST action: PRAGMATICK

• Funded by: TÜBİTAK

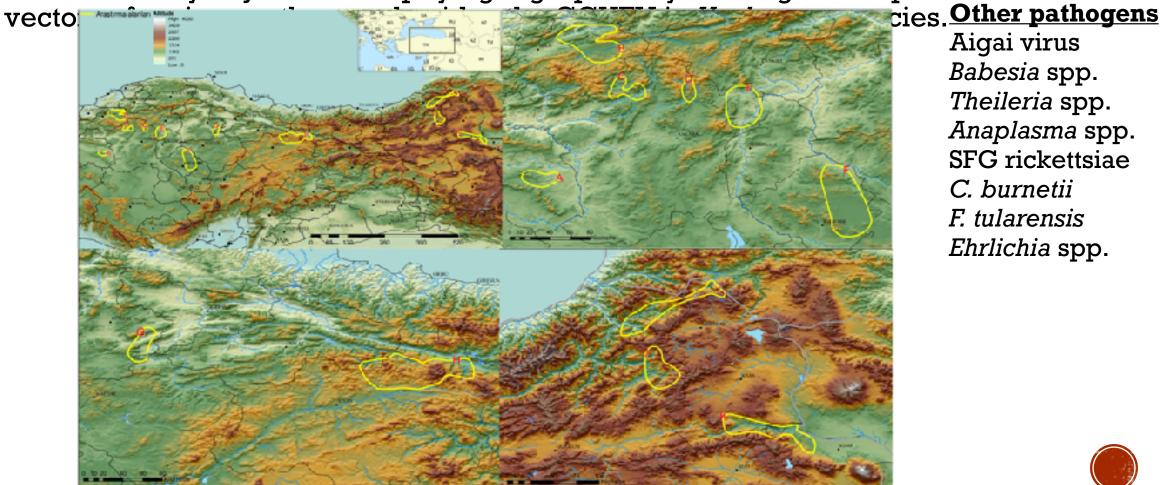






• Aim: to investigate the presence of the virus in sympatric and dominant Hyalomma populations (H. marginatum, H. excavatum, H. asiaticum and H. aegyptium) in natural CCHF foci located in endemic and hyperendemic zones of Anatolia from a comparative population genetic and phylogeographic perspectives.

• The secondary objective is to phylogeographically investigate the potential



Aigai virus Babesia spp. Theileria spp. Anaplasma spp. SFG rickettsiae C. burnetii F. tularensis Ehrlichia spp.

Objectives are:

- To comparatively reveal the role of exophilic *Hyalomma* species in different natural foci of CCHFV in Anatolia,
- To characterize the S-segment-based population genetic structure of CCHFV to be detected in different *Hyalomma* species in hyperendemic and endemic regions,
- To investigate the potential roles of *H. asiaticum* and *H. excavatum* species,
- To characterize the population structure of CCHFV positive *Hyalomma* specimens based on the *cox1* gene,
- To investigate the presence of the Asian genotype of CCHFV, which is not known to exist in Türkiye but is circulating in the neighboring country Iran,
- To characterize the genetic diversity of various CCHFV variants observed in *Hyalomma* species by revealing their whole genome sequences,
- To determine the potential enzootic cycles and phylogenetic structure of CCHFV in *Hyalomma* ticks other than *H. marginatum*,
- To reveal the presence of various bacterial and protozoan pathogens as well as CCHFV and mixed infections in target *Hyalomma* populations,
- To elucidate the potential phylogeographic correlation of all pathogen and tick population genetic structure,
- To generate eco-epidemiological and genetic data that can potentially be utilized in the development of early warning systems and the mitigation of CCHF at both national and global levels.



THANK YOU

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