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TITLE : DERMATITIS IN DOGS INDUCED BY A LARVAL MITE (ACARI) OF THE GENUS STRAELENSIA (PROSTIGMATA: LEEUWENHOEKIIDAE) IN FRANCE.....

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ABSTRACT :

A distinctive clinicopathological entity was observed, between 1991 and 1997, in 5 dogs: 1 year-old male Dachshund; 1,5 year-old female Cross breed; 2 year-old female Jack Russell Terrier; 3 year-old male Brittany Spaniel and 7 year-old female Boxer. All these dogs came from 5 different areas of the South and Centre Regions of France. Clinically, they presented multiple small (1 to 2 mm in diameter) firm dermal nodules scattered over the head and dorsum. The nodules extended all over the body in the Jack Russell Terrier. They were not associated with pruritus or other clinical signs. They occurred either in Spring or in Autumn, evolved generally over a few months and appeared to regress spontaneously. Histologically, each nodule was composed of a markedly dilated follicular ostium containing an arthropod. The parasite was surrounded by an incomplete amorphous mineralised structure which open at the epidermal surface. The follicular epithelium was irregularly thickened and surrounded by an abundant mucinous stromal reaction with neovascularisation. Parasitological evaluation of the arthropod retrieved from cutaneous samples of the Brittany Spaniel led to the identification of a larval mite of the genus Straelensia Vercammen-Grandjean & Kolebinova, 1968. A more complete identification of this larva will be given in a near future. The dog is probably an accidental host of this acarian species. To our knowledge, such clinicopathological entity has not previously been described in the dog.