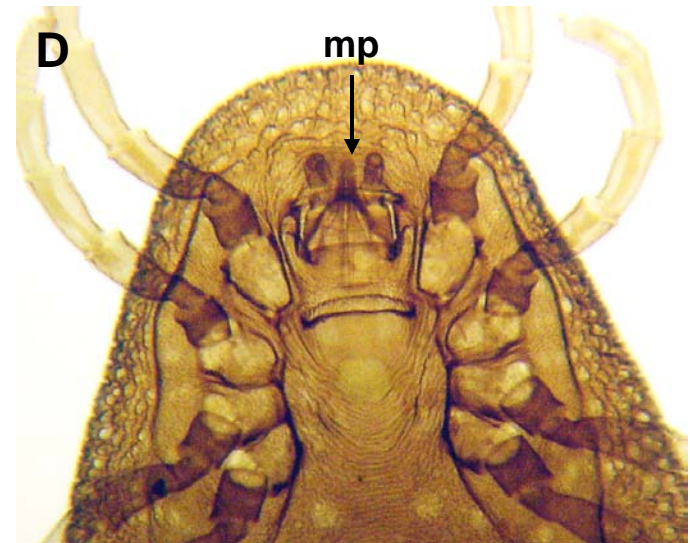
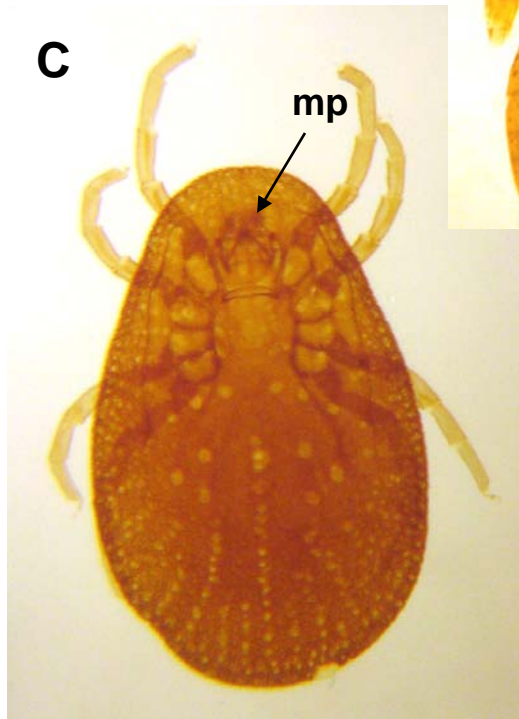
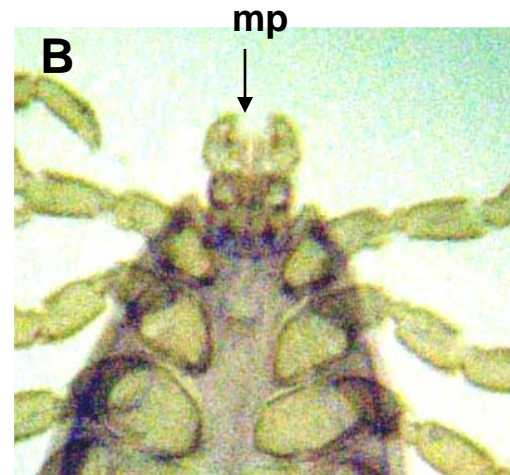


Hard, or “scutate”, ticks (Ixodidae) vs. soft, or “non-scutate”, ticks (Argasidae).

- Scutum (hard dorsal shield) present; mouthparts terminal.
- Note: sexual dimorphism readily apparent as scutum covers entire dorsal surface of male, but only anterior third (approximately) of unengorged female.
- Scutum absent, body often wrinkled; mouthparts not at extreme anterior end of body, but rather sub-terminal (ventral).
- Note: sexual dimorphism not pronounced because of absence of scutum.

“Hard” tick (*Dermacentor*) vs. “Soft” tick (*Argas*). Note hard scutum (A) and terminal mouthparts (B) of “hard” tick, versus lack of hard scutum (C) and sub-terminal (ventral) mouthparts (D) of “soft” tick.

Legend: mp, mouthparts



Sexual dimorphism in “ixodid” (hard, or “scutate”) ticks. Note that scutum (s) covers entire dorsal surface of this Dermacentor male (A), but only anterior portion of dorsal abdomen in female (B). Scutum appears even smaller in engorged female (C).

