

Supplementary Table S1 Site characteristics. Characteristics and parasite load as determined by *Ixodes ricinus* burden based on data from Hofmeester et al. 2017.

Site	Habitat	Undergrowth vegetation ^a	Coordinates ^b	Mean <i>I. ricinus</i> larval / nymphal burden
Buunderkamp	Scots pine forest	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	52°00'56''N 5°44'50''E	45.6 / 0.88
Herperduin	Mixed forest	<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	51°45'33''N 5°36'53''E	2.5 / 0.11
Maashorst	Mixed forest	<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	51°42'44''N 5°35'24''E	9.6 / 0.14
Stameren	Mixed forest	<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	52°03'38''N 5°21'01''E	11.4 / 0.46

^a The given plant species was the most dominant species in the herbaceous layer in the 1 hectare plot.

^b Coordinates given are the coordinates as measured with a handheld GPS (Garmin eTrex 20) in the middle of the 1 hectare plot.