

Small bites, big problems

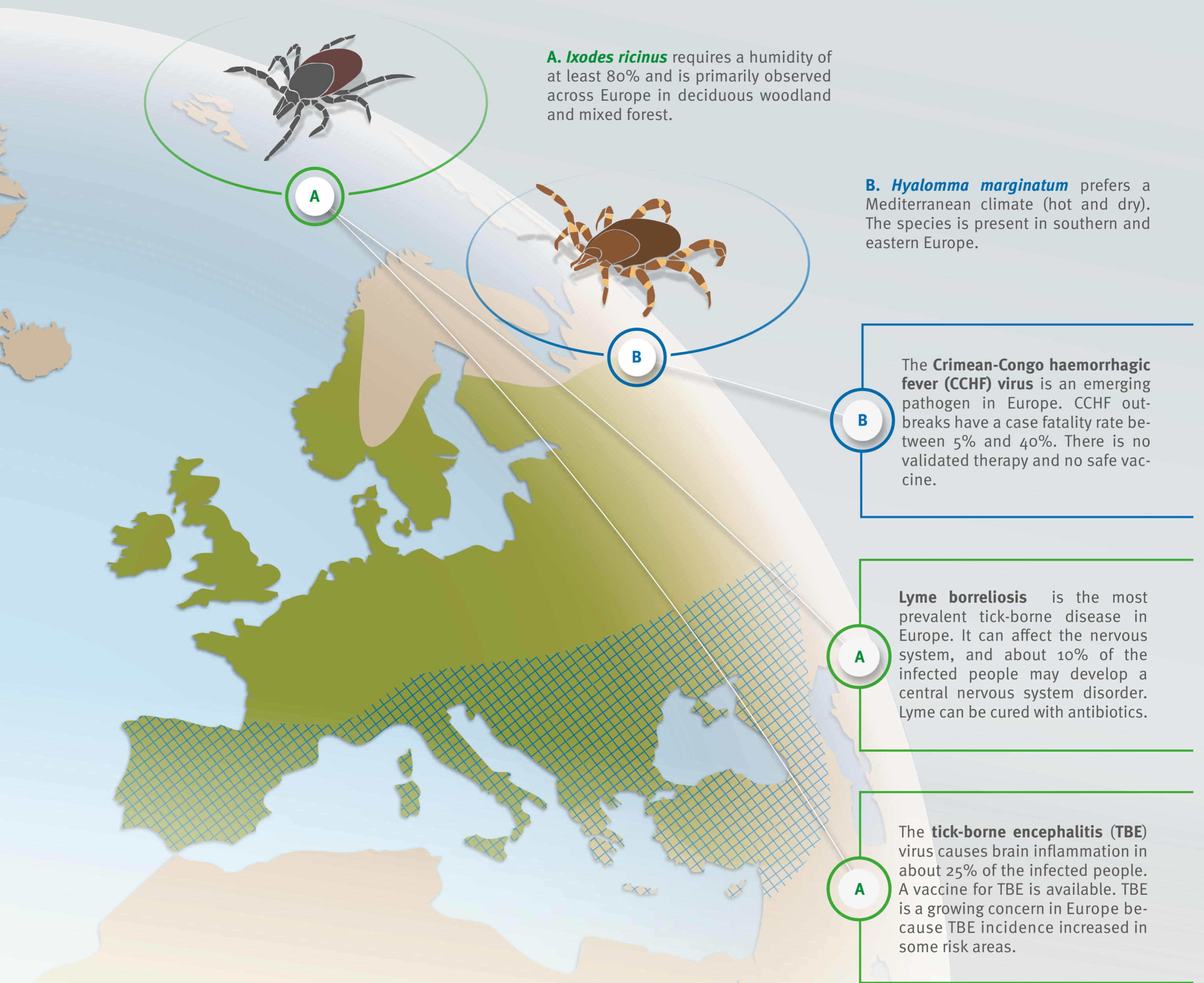
Tick-borne diseases in Europe

Ticks do not directly cause disease but if ticks are infected, they can transmit pathogens through their bites and thus cause disease in humans.

Ticks are small ectoparasites (external parasites, 0.5–15 mm). They depend on a host (birds, mammals) to be able to grow and reproduce. Ticks also feed on humans.

The spread of ticks in Europe

Tick-borne diseases are endemic in Europe



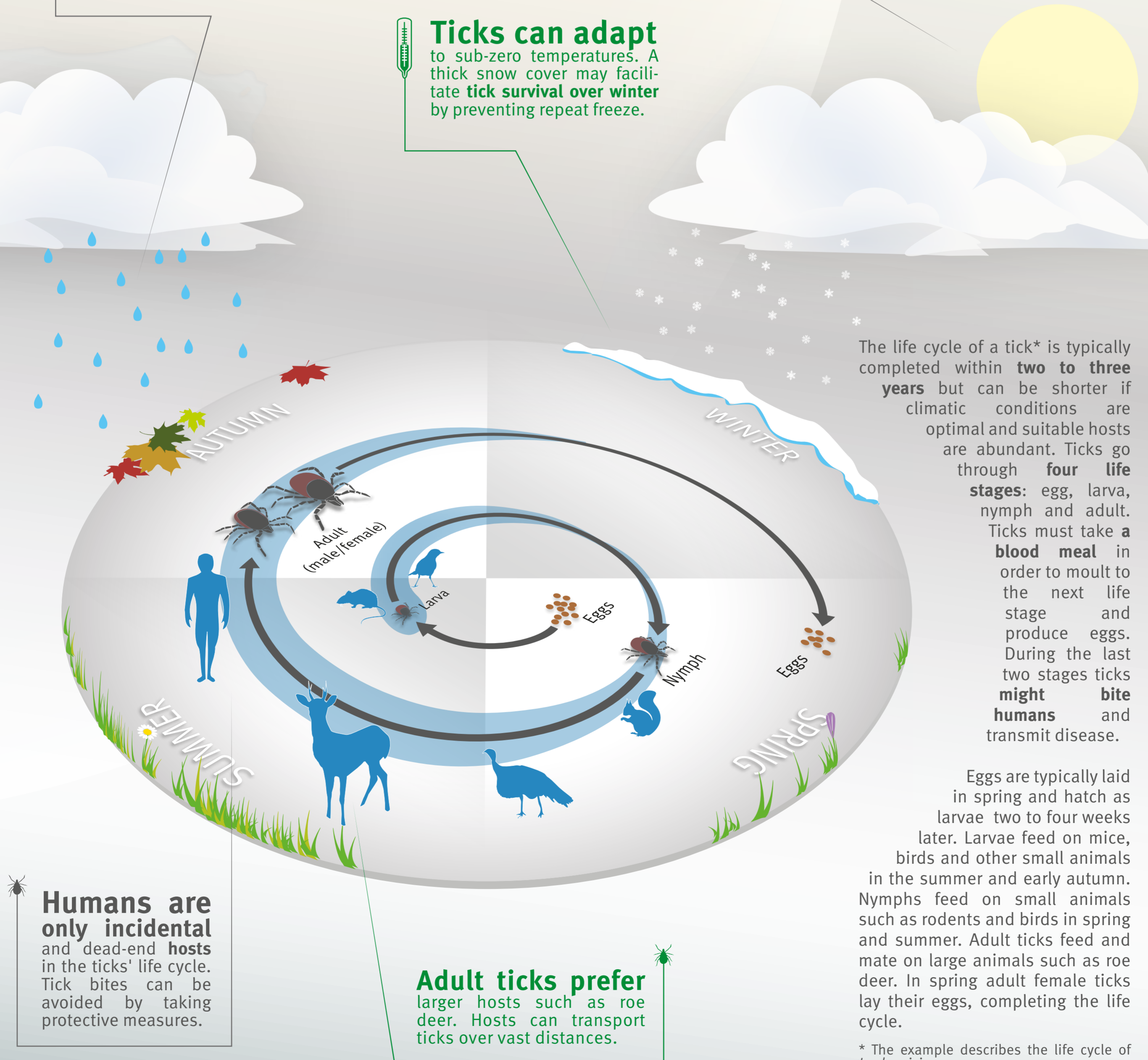
The life cycle of a tick*

Disease transmission can occur in late spring, summer, and even in autumn

Ground-based vegetation depends on the degree of **moisture** and is critical for the tick population

Rising temperatures can accelerate the tick's life cycle.

Ticks can adapt to sub-zero temperatures. A thick snow cover may facilitate **tick survival over winter** by preventing repeat freeze.



* The example describes the life cycle of *Ixodes ricinus*