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Description of new parasitic Mites from North-American mammals

(Acarina: Sarcoptiformes)

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We are giving here the preliminary descriptions of several new species of mites collected on North American mammals. The complete descriptions will appear later. We are thanking Dr E. BAKER, Washington D.C., who forwarded us some of these specimens. The types of the new species are deposited in the U.S. National Museum, Washington.

FAMILY **LISTROPHORIDAE** MEGNIN and TROU ESSART, 1884

I. SUBFAMILY **LISTROPHORINAE** MEGNIN and TROU ESSART, 1884

1. **Listrophorus dicrostonyx** sp. n.

This species is well distinguished, in the female by the following characters: dorsal and ventral surfaces of the opisthosoma completely covered by small triangular scales; the 15 hairs are much stronger and longer ($80\ \mu$) than the other perianal setae; the postscapular shields bear about 14 dark transverse bands. In the male the opisthosomal shields are short and not strongly narrowed forward unlike in *L. ondatrae* FAIN and al. Holotype female $435\ \mu$ long, $150\ \mu$ wide (in lateral view). Allotype male $354\ \mu$ long.

Host and locality: On *Dicrostonyx* sp. from Nueltin Lake, Keewatin, Canada, 26 June 1947 (Coll. F. HARPER).

2. **Listrophorus phenacomys** sp. n.

This species is closely related to *Listrophorus brevipes* DUBININA, 1968. It differs from this species in the female mainly by the normal development of the posterior legs, and in the male by the absence of the membranous hairs on the posterior lobes of the body. The 15 setae in the female are very short. Holotype female 447 μ long and 123 μ wide (lateral view). Allotype male 396 μ long and 120 μ wide (lateral view).

Host and locality: On *Phenacomys* sp. from Nueltin Lake, Keewatin, Canada.

3. **Listrophorus pitymys** sp. n.

Male with two posterior lobes devoid of membranous hairs as in the other species from American Muridae (*L. mexicanus* FAIN, *L. dicrostonyx* sp. n. and *L. phenacomys*, sp. n.). It differs from these species by the shape of the penis which is longer and recurved at 135°. The female is distinguished by the following characters: 15 short, not longer than other perianal hairs; opithosoma entirely covered with elongate triangular scales, those of the anterior part of dorsal region are about twice as long and as wide as those of the posterior part of dorsum. Holotype female 505 μ long, allotype male 411 μ long.

Host and locality: On *Pitymys pinetorum*, Richmond, R.I., U.S.A., 21.IX.1956 (holotype) and Scituate, R.I., 4.IX.1956 (allotype).

4. **Asiochirus blarina** sp. n.

This species is close to *Asiochirus suncus* (RADFORD) which has been described from a shrew from Ceylan. It differs from that species in the male by the rounded shape of the posterior border of the body and by the shape of the penis, very short and strongly recurved; in the female by the greater development of the scale area on the opithosoma. Holotype male 336 μ long and 150 μ wide (in lateral view). Allotype female 405 μ long, 150 μ wide.

Host and locality: *Blarina brevicauda*, from Kingstown, U.S.A.

II. SUBFAMILY **APLODONTOCHIRINAE** subfam. n.

This new subfamily is distinguished from the typical subfamily by the following characters: 1) the tegmen is flat, weakly sclerotized and does not cover the whole gnathosoma; 2) the coxae II are widely separated from each other; the sternal region is very wide and is completely covered by chitinous striated membranes extending from the epigynium to the gnathosoma; 3) these chitinous membranes become free forward and covering the posterior third of the gnathosomal base, these membranes however are flat and do not form a « tunnel » as in the Listrophorinae; 4) palps with conspicuous membranes; 5) legs I distinctly stronger than legs II and modified into an attaching organ, they are S shaped, with the tibia incurved outward and the tarsus and the ambulacra inward; 6) body strongly flattened.

Type genus: *Aplodontochirus* g. n.

These mites constitute an intermediate group between the Atopomelidae (body flattened, no gnathosomal attaching organs, attachment by means of legs I) and the Listrophoridae (rudimentary tegmen present, all legs normally segmented, the tarsi and the tibiae III and IV are free).

Genus **APLODONTOCHIRUS** g. n.

With the characters of the subfamily.

Type species: *Aplodontochirus borealis* sp. n.

Aplodontochirus borealis sp. n.

With the characters of the subfamily. The dorsum bears large sclerotized shields: 3 in the female and 4 in the male. All the legs with large pedonculate suckers; all the articles normally developed, as in the genus *Listrophorus*. Male with 2 large adanal suckers, posterior extremity divided into 2 partly membranous lobes. Holotype female 336 μ long (gnathosoma included) and 141 μ wide. Allotype male 310 μ long and 134 μ wide.

Host and locality: On *Aplodontia r. rufa*, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.