NOTIOPSYLLOPUS SEGERMANAE g.n., sp.n.,
A NEW HYPOPUS
(ACARINA : ACARIDAE)
PHORETIC ON AN AVIAN FLEA
NOTIOPSYLLA KERGUELENSIS
(TASCHENBERG, 1880)*

by A. FAIN**

The new heteromorphic deutonymph (= hypopus) that is
described here has been found attached on several fleas Notio-
psylla kergueleensis (Taschenberg, 1880). These fleas were recov-
ered from an albatross Phoebetria fusca in Marian Island. The
hypopi were collected by Mrs J. Segerman of the South African
Institute for Medical Research in Johannesburg.

These hypopi belong to a new genus and species of the family
Acaridae, subfamily Rhizoglyphinae.

This new genus is clearly distinguished from all the other
genera in this subfamily by the characters given below.

Notiopsyllopus gen. n.

Definition : This new genus resembles the other genera of the
Rhizoglyphinae, except for three characters : 1) The tarsi I and II
are devoid of any saucer-like hair. 2) The palposoma is divided
internally by a longitudinal median sclerotized structure. 3) The
anterior pair of suckers of the suctorial plate are vestigial.

Type species : Notiopsyllopus segermanae sp. n.

Notiopsyllopus segermanae sp. n.

This new species is named after Mrs. J. Segerman, who discov-
ered these mites.

* Déposé le 1er septembre 1976.
** Institut de Médecine Tropicale, Nationalestraat 155, B-2000 Antwerpen.
HYPOPUS (fig. 1-4): The holotype is 291 μ long and 183 μ wide. In 2 paratypes: 285 × 183 μ and 279 × 180 μ. Dorsal surface with a distinct sejugal furrow. Cuticle finely punctate. The area between propodosoma and hysterosoma bears fine and short striation. Dorsal hairs short. Ventral surface: the vi setae are situated in front of the palposoma, the ve setae are situated behind the vi setae at the level of the base of the palposoma and inside of the posterior pair of palposomal setae. Coxae punctate. Epimerae III and IV fused. The coxial shields III are clearly separated. The long pregenital longitudinal sclerite is forked anteriorly into two branches which are fused with the epimeral arches. The cx I, cx III and gp hairs are modified into conoids. Suctorial plate wider than long, with the two lateral conoids more anterior than the two paramedian conoids and the posterior suckers. Anterior suckers very small, vestigial. The posterior
suckers are well developed (see Fain, 1973). Palposoma short and wide, its base is divided internally by a longitudinal sclerotized structure; apically it is forked into two short and rounded lobes bearing each a long solenidion (alpha). In addition the palposoma bears two pairs of short simple hairs. Legs stout but rather short. Tarsi I-IV with 9-8-8-7 hairs respectively. Tarsi I-II with 5 foliate hairs, tarsi III-IV with 4 foliate hairs. Tarsus IV with a long dorsal hair.

Host and locality:

All our specimens (holotype and 10 paratypes) were found attached on 4 fleas which beared 1-2-3 and 5 hypopi respectively.

Type in the Musée royal de l’Afrique Centrale, Tervuren.

NOTES ON HYPOPI PHORETIC ON FLEAS

Phoretic hypopi of various groups of Astigmatic mites have been recorded from fleas parasitic on mammals or birds.

This association seems to be more frequent than expected so far.

The number of species of mites whose hypopi have been found in phoretic association with fleas is now 14. They belong to 7 genera and 3 families (Acaridae: 4 genera and 6 species; Anoeotidae: 2 genera and 4 species; Saproglyphidae: 1 genus and 4 species).

Most of these species are known from fleas of mammals mainly rodents (4 species) but also insectivores (3 species) and carnivores (3 species). One species was present on fleas of both rodents and insectivores. Three species were found on fleas from birds.

REFERENCES ON PHORETIC ASSOCIATIONS

« FLEAS-HYPOPI »

Ann. Soc. r. belge Ent., 113, 1977


