Neottialges (Pelecanectes) platalea sp. nov. and other hypoderid mites (Acarina, Astigmata, Hypoderidae) from the spoonbill, *Platalea leucorodia* L.

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Introduction

The phoretic hypopii or heteromorphic deutonymphs of hypoderid mites are found beneath the skin of birds. The new species of mite we describe here was found under the skin of the abdomen of a spoonbill, *Platalea leucorodia* L., which died in the London Zoo after 5 years in captivity. This mite is represented by the phoretic heteromorphic deutonymphs only. The adult mites corresponding to these nymphs are free-living and so far unknown, and are presumably to be found in the nest material of the host. The new hypopii were mixed with hypopii of two other species of Hypoderidae already described. All three species belong to the genus *Neottialges* Fain, subgenus *Pelecanectes* (Fain 1967, Fain and Laurence 1974). The new species belongs to a small group characterized by the presence of an entire genital median sclerite. This group so far contains four species. We give here a key to this group of species.

Key to the hypopii of the genus *Neottialges* subgenus *Pelecanectes* with an entire genital sclerite

1 Setae *d*1, *d*2, *d*3, *d*4 and *l*1 thin and short. 2 At least one of the setae *d*1 or *l*1 long or very long.

2 Tarsi IV with one very short and two long spines

3 Setae *d*2 and *d*3 very short (15 μm) 4 Setae *d*2 and *d*3 much longer

4 Setae *d*1 and *d*4 very long and subequal. Tarsus IV longer (96 μm) than tarsus III (87 μm) 5 Setae *d*4 much shorter (35–45 μm) and thinner than *d*1 (130–140 μm). Tarsus IV much shorter (41 μm) than tarsus III (60 μm).

Hypoderid mites from the spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia* L.)

Three species of hypoderid mites have been found subcutaneously.

Genus *NEOTTIALGES* Fain, 1966

Subgenus *PELECANECTES* Fain, 1966

*Neottialges* (Pelecanectes) *platalea* sp. nov.

Only the hypopii stage is known.

Hypopus (figs. 1–5): The holotype is 615 μm long and 315 μm wide. Cuticle slightly sclerotized.

Dorsum: a weak sejugal furrow is present. The setae *s*1 are very short and thin. Setae *d*1, *d*2, *d*3, *d*4, *l*1 are 130, 90, 60, 35 and 120 μm long, respectively. Setae *d*2 to *l*4 are very short (fig. 1).
A new species has been found in two spoonbills, one in 1977 and the other in 1979. In the first, *Neottialges (Pelecanectes) platalea* sp. nov. has been described, while the second species, *Neottialges (Pelecanectes) platalea* sp. nov. has been found in a spoonbill, *Platalea leucorodia* L., which died in the London Zoo after 5 years in captivity, 2.IX.1977. The holotype (hypopus) and two paratypes in the British Museum (Natural History), 20 paratypes (hypopi) in the collection of the authors.

**Neottialges (Pelecanectes) platalea** Fain, 1966

This species has been described from the rosy spoonbill, *Ajaja ajaja* (L.), originating from North America but dying in the Antwerp Zoo. The same species has been found in two spoonbills, one in 1977 and the other in 1979. In the first, *Neottialges (Pelecanectes) platalea* sp. nov. has been described, while the second species, *Neottialges (Pelecanectes) platalea* sp. nov. has been found in a spoonbill, *Platalea leucorodia* L., which died in the London Zoo after 5 years in captivity, 2.IX.1977. The holotype (hypopus) and two paratypes in the British Museum (Natural History), 20 paratypes (hypopi) in the collection of the authors.

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been found in two *Platelia leucorodia* dying in the London Zoo, one in 1973 and the other in 1977. In both birds, these hypopi were mixed with the hypopi of *N. (P.) plegadicola* Fain (see below). In the second bird, the new species described above, *N. (P.) platalea* sp. nov., was also present. All these hypopi were found together in the cellular tissues under the skin of the abdomen. *N. ajaja* in the hypopial stage is a larger species with an interrupted genital median sclerite, genital discs subparallel, setae d4 long (Fain 1967).

**Neottialges (Pelecanectes) plegadicola** Fain, 1966

The typical host of this species is the glossy ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus* (L.), in Belgium. This species has also been found in the two spoonbills dying in the London Zoo. The genital discs of this species are strongly divergent posteriorly (Fain 1967).

**Summary**

A new species of hypoderid mite, *Neottialges (Pelecanectes) platalea*, found beneath the skin of the spoonbill, *Platelia leucorodia* L., is described. A key is provided to the hypopi of *Neottialges* subgenus *Pelecanectes* with a complete genital median sclerite. The new species was found in the hypopial stage associated with hypopi of *N. (P.) ajaja* Fain and *N. (P.) plegadicola* Fain in the same host.

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References

Introduction
The phoretic hypoderid mite was found beneath the skin of the Great Frigatebird under the skin of the brown Pelican, Pelecanus occidentalis carolinensis Gmelin. This mite belongs to a small sclerite. This group of species.

Key

1 Setae d1, d2, d3, d4
At least the setae and setae much shorter than tarsus II.

2 Tarsi IV with one
Tarsi IV with three

3 Setae d2 and d3
Setae d2 and d3 much shorter than tarsus II.

4 Setae d3 and d4

Hypoderus (fig...