

A NEW SPECIES OF *SURICATOECCUS*
(Mallophaga: Trichodectidae)
FROM THE CONGO¹

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ABSTRACT

Suricatoecus congoensis is described as a new species, the type host being the Congo kusimanse, *Crossarchus alexandri*.

Recently the authors received a collection of Mallophaga from the Congo kusimanse for identification. These lice represent a new species, and are the first to be recorded from the host genus *Crossarchus*. The species is herewith described and illustrated.

Suricatoecus congoensis, new species

Male. Total length, 1.49 mm. External morphology and chaetotaxy as shown in Fig. 2. Genitalia, less sac, as shown in Fig. 3. Genital sac armed with numerous small and medium-sized serrations.

Female. Total length, 1.54 mm. External morphology and chaetotaxy as shown in Fig. 1. Internal chamber of vulva inconspicuous.

Discussion. The genus *Suricatoecus* contains seven species, well illustrated by Werneck (1948), in which the antennae are without sexual dimorphism. Sexually dimorphic antennae are found in *S. helogaloidis* Werneck, 1948; *S. helogale* (Bedford, 1932); *S. mungos* (Stobbe, 1913); *S. parataliceps* Werneck, 1948; *S. laticeps* (Werneck, 1942); and *S. congoensis* n. sp. Of these species, only *S. helogaloidis*, *S. helogale*, and *S. congoensis* have elongated parameres. The parameres of *S. helogale* are longer, not as thick, and are curved more than those of *S. helogaloidis* and *S. congoensis*. Five abdominal segments of *S. congoensis* have two tergal plates. Only three abdominal segments of *S. helogaloidis* each have two tergal plates. The parameres are asymmetrical in *S. congoensis*, and symmetrical in *S. helogaloidis*.

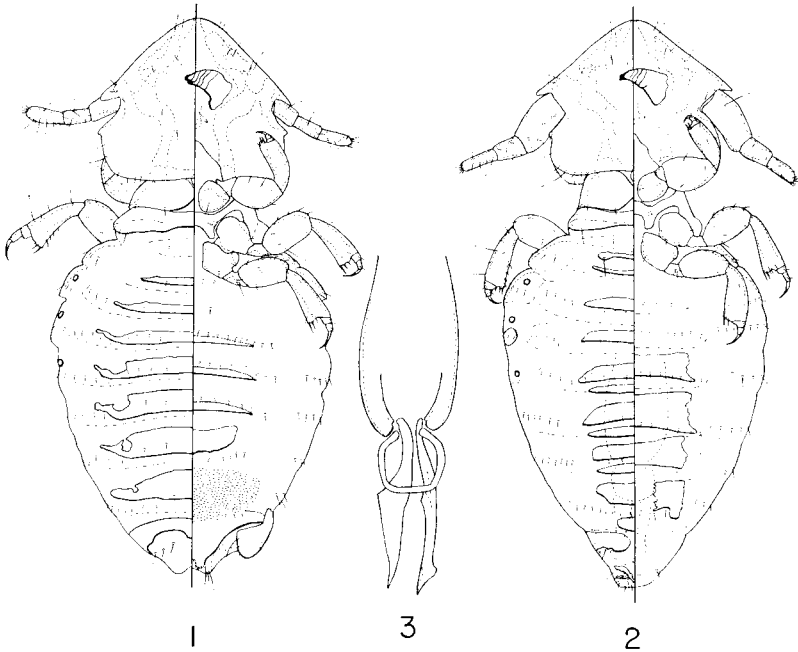
The females of *S. congoensis*, *S. helogale*, and *S. helogaloidis* are the only species of the genus without an internal lobe on the gonopods. The lateral margins of the abdominal tergal plates on the females of *S. helogale* and *S. helogaloides* are bluntly tapered; on *S. congoensis* they are elongated and irregular in shape.

Suricatoecus congoensis is closest to *S. helogaloidis* Werneck, 1948, found on *Helogale undulata atkinsoni* Thomas, a dwarf mongoose; but can be separated from it by the combination of characters just given.

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Suricatoecus congoensis, n. sp.: Fig. 1, female; Fig. 2, male; Fig. 3, male genitalia.

Type host: *Crossarchus alexandri* Thomas and Wroughton.

Type material: Holotype male, allotype female and 78 paratypes collected from the type host at Niamiringi, Republic of the Congo, on 18 February, 1963, by Dr. U. Rahm. The holotype, allotype and paratypes will be deposited in the U. S. National Museum. Paratypes will be deposited in collections of the British Museum (Natural History), Chicago Natural History Museum, University of Kansas, University of California (Berkeley), and University of Minnesota.

LITERATURE CITED

- Werneck, F. L. 1948. Os Malofagos de mamíferos. Parte 1: Amblycera e Ischnocera (Philopteridae e parte de Trichodectidae). Edição Rev. Brasileira Biol., Rio de Janeiro. 243 pp.