

A NEW SPECIES OF RHYNONIRMUS FROM THAILAND
(MALLOPHAGA: PHILOPTERIDAE)

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Recently Mr. Ben King sent us a large series of Mallophaga representing a new and unusual species. The form is herewith described, illustrated, and its relationship with other forms discussed.

***Rhynonirmus kingi*, n. sp.**

(Figs. 1-3)

Male.—Length 2.46 mm. Forehead rounded and circumfasciate, without transverse dorsal clypeal suture. Marginal carina of forehead complete, dorsally and ventrally. First antennal segment greatly enlarged, without appendage. Trabeculae small. Ocular seta medium-length. Two elongated marginal temporal setae on each side with anterior seta same length as ocular seta and posterior seta almost twice as long.

Prothorax with parallel lateral margins and broadly rounded convex posterior margin; with 1 posterolateral elongated seta on each side. Pterothorax trapezoid-shaped, with posterior margin indented medially; 8 posterior dorsal pterothoracic setae on each side as shown in fig. 3. Thoracic sternal plate triangular, narrowed anteriorly, with 2 setae on each side. Legs typical of elongated forms of Ischnocera.

Tergal plates on abdominal segments II-V divided, VI indented medially, others entire. A dorsal median plate posterior to tergal plates on abdominal segments III-VI. Abdominal sternal plates entire, those on segments II-VI each with paired sensilli. Shape and chaetotaxy of abdominal segments as shown in fig. 3.

Genitalia as shown in fig. 2.

Female.—Length 2.67 mm. Head and thorax essentially as for male, except for filiform antennae and dorsal posterior margin of pterothorax which has only 6 setae on each side as in fig. 1.

Tergal plates on abdominal segments II-VII divided, others entire. Each sternal plate on abdominal segments II-VI with paired sensilli, as for the male. Shape and chaetotaxy of abdominal segments as shown in fig. 1.

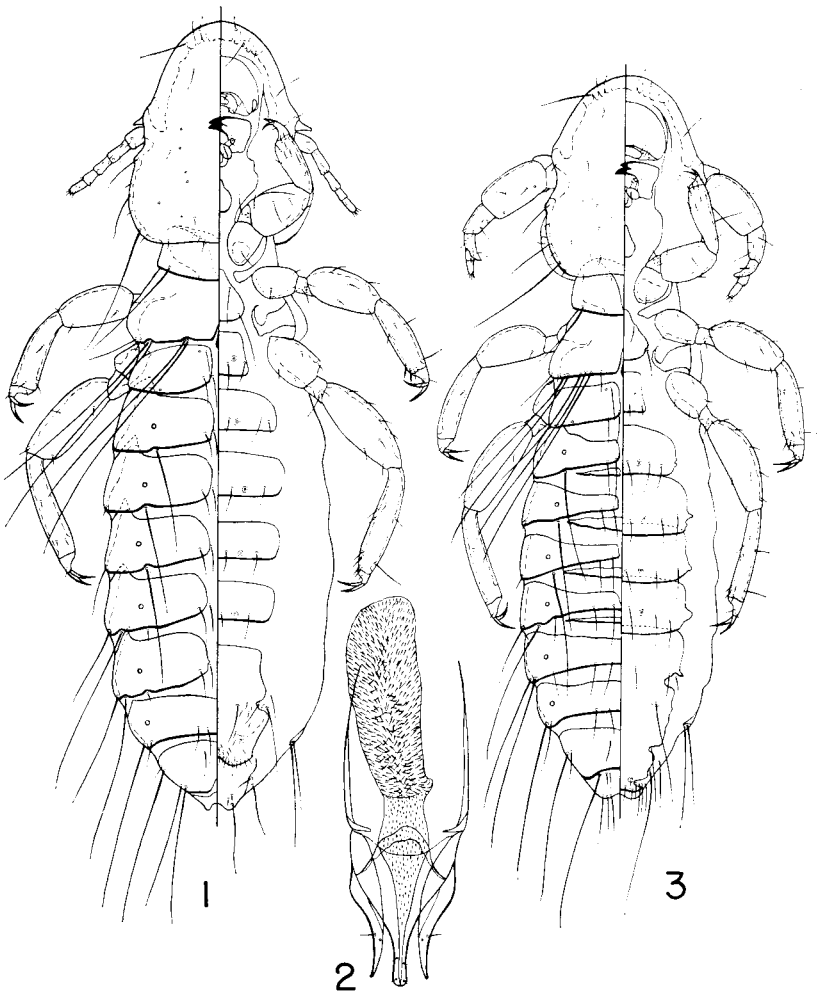
Type host.—*Carpococcyx renauldi* Oustalet.

Type material.—Holotype male, allotype female, and 182 paratypes collected off the type host at Khao Soi Dao Tai, Chanthaburi, Thailand on March 24, 1966 (MAPS number 2362). The holotype and allotype will be deposited in the U. S. National Museum.

Discussion.—Heretofore, species of *Rhynonirmus* have been found only on hosts of the Charadriiformes. This species, from a ground cuckoo, again raises the question of whether the genera *Otidoecus*, *Rhynonirmus* and *Cuclotogaster* of the *Otidoecus*-complex should be

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Figs. 1-3. *Rhynonirmus kingi*, n. sp.: 1, dorsal-ventral view of female; 2, male genitalia; 3, dorsal-ventral view of male.

retained as separate genera. From the evidence offered by this species, the present separation of genera must be retained until collections from other hosts have been studied.

The male genitalia of *R. kingi* are typical of those found in other species of *Rhynonirmus* as is also true for the terminal abdominal segments of the female, the antennae of both sexes, and the general chaetotaxy. For these reasons, it is considered more appropriate at

this time to include the species in *Rhynonirmus* than to erect a new monotypic genus in the *Otidoecus*-complex.

R. kingi is closest to *R. helvolus* (Burmeister) 1838 in general appearance. Anterior margin of head is pointed medially in *helvolus* and rounded in *kingi*. The paired sensilli on abdominal sternites II-VI and the absence of a transverse dorsal clypeal suture in both sexes are features of *kingi* not found in other species of *Rhynonirmus*. In addition *R. kingi* is at least 0.50 mm longer than any known species.

REFERENCE

- Clay, T. 1961. Three new species of Mallophaga (Insecta). Bull. Brit. Mus. (N. H.), Ent. 11(2):43-58.