

**COLUMBICOLA FORTIS, CAVIFERA ABDITA, AND
QUATEIA IRIANENSIS (MALLOPHAGA) FROM
THE MAGNIFICENT GROUND PIGEON
(OTIDIPHAPS NOBILIS) FROM
NEW GUINEA¹**

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Abstract: The identity of *Columbicola fortis* is clarified from specimens taken from the type-host, *Otidiphaps nobilis*; illustrations are provided for that louse species. Evidence is presented that *Otidiphaps nobilis* should be considered the correct host for *Cavifera abdita* and *Quateia irianensis*.

Through the courtesy of the Bishop Museum staff we have been able to examine Mallophaga collected off the Magnificent Ground Pigeon, *Otidiphaps nobilis* (Gould), from New Guinea. Study of these lice has clarified the identity of 1 species and established the host for 2 others. Skins of the birds collected are now in the Bishop Museum and their collection data are BBM-NG 103351, 10.VI.1973, A. B. Mirza, NNW Slopes of Mt Bosavi, 1400 m, Southern Highlands District, Papua, New Guinea; BBM-NG 103849, 21.II.1974, A. B. Mirza, 5 km N of Wanuma, 1200 m, Madang District, Papua, New Guinea; and BBM-NG 104206, 14.III.1974, A. B. Mirza, 14 km NNW of Wanuma, 1500 m, Madang District, Papua, New Guinea.

Columbicola fortis (Taschenberg, 1882) FIG. 1-3

When Tendeiro (1965) revised the genus *Columbicola* Ewing, he treated *C. fortis* as species inquirenda because the original description was inadequate, the type deposited in the collection of the University of Halle had been destroyed in World War II, and he had no specimens from the type-host, *Otidiphaps nobilis*.

Detailed illustration of the ♂ (FIG. 3), ♀ (FIG. 1), and ♂ genitalia (FIG. 2) are provided here from specimens from *O. nobilis*. Total length of ♂ is 2.15 mm, of ♀, 2.40 mm. The species belongs to the *C. gracilicapitis* group, as defined by Tendeiro (1965). The male genitalia are closest to those of *C. elbeli phoenicopterae* Tendeiro, 1965, from *Treron phoenicoptera chlorigaster* (Blyth) from India and *T. p. viridifrons* Blyth from Burma. External chaetotaxy and morphology are closest to *C. emersoni curtus* Tendeiro, 1965, from *Ptilinopus purpuratus* (Gmelin) from the Society Islands.

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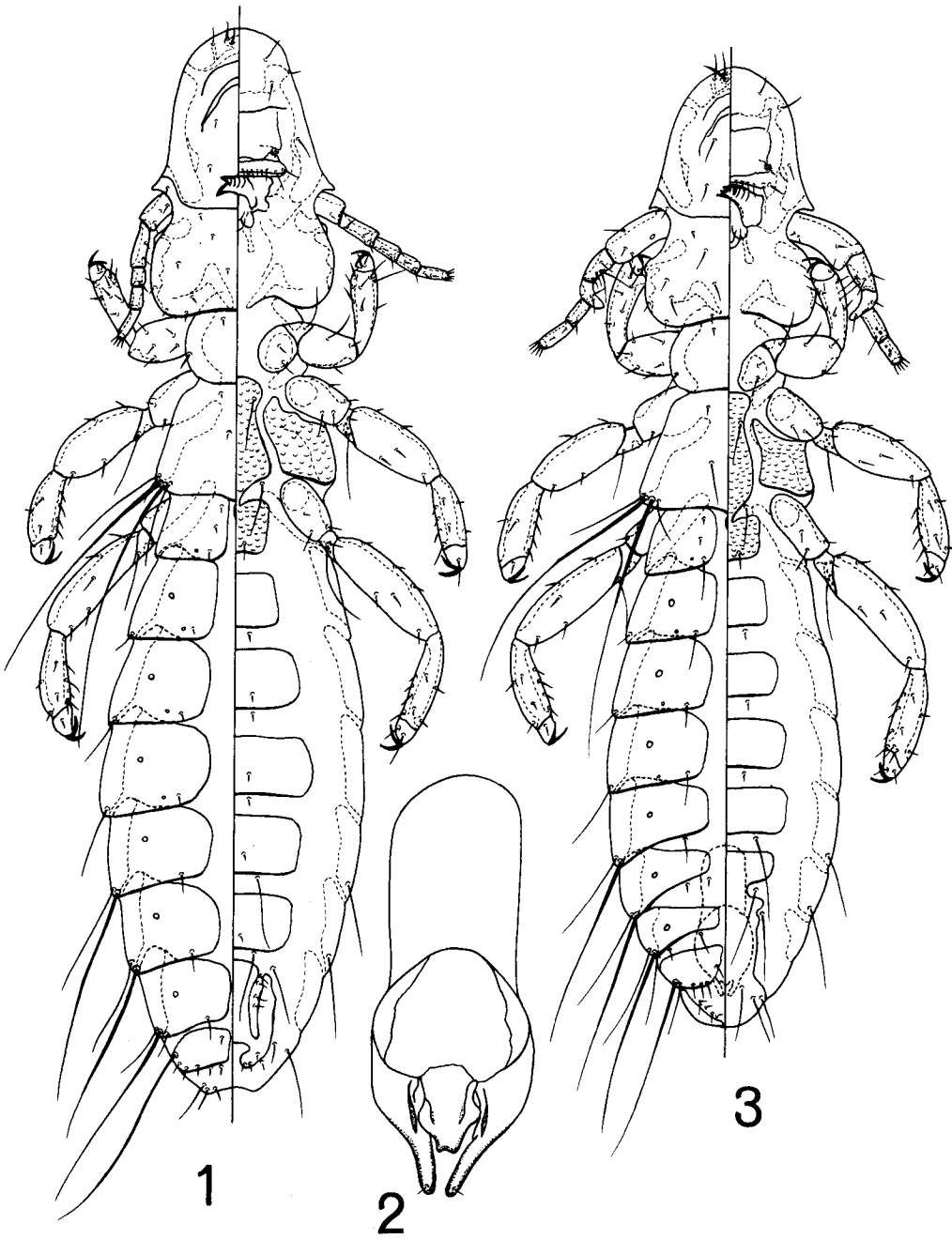


FIG. 1-3. *Columbicola fortis* (Taschenberg): 1, ♀; 2, ♂ genitalia; 3, ♂.

Cavifera abdita Clay & Price, 1970

The genus *Cavifera* was erected by Clay & Price (1970) for 2 new species collected in New Guinea: *C. senta* found on the White-breasted Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus rivoli* (Prevost) (as *P. bellus* (Sclater)), and *C. abdita* from an unknown host (BBM-NG 439) taken on 29.XI.1961 by L. W. Quate at Archbold Lake, Netherlands New Guinea (now Irian Jaya, formerly West Irian). Excellent illustrations of both sexes and the ♂ genitalia of *C. abdita* are provided by Clay & Price (1970). Since then, *C. abdita* has been collected off 3 host specimens of *Otidiphaps nobilis* in New Guinea and this is offered as evidence that *O. nobilis* should now be considered as the host for *C. abdita*.

Qateia irianensis Price & Emerson, 1975

The genus *Qateia* was erected by Price & Emerson (1975) for *Q. irianensis*, a new species collected off the same unknown host that had yielded *C. abdita*. These authors have provided excellent illustrations of both sexes and the ♂ genitalia of this louse species. *Qateia irianensis* has now been collected off *Otidiphaps nobilis* in association with *Cavifera abdita*, thereby establishing *O. nobilis* as the correct host for *Q. irianensis*.

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