

THE IDENTITY OF *PEDICULUS SPICULIFER* GERVAIS (ANOPLURA).

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Pediculus spiculifer Gervais, 1844, has remained an unplaced name in the Anoplura, for no collections have been made from its type host or near its type locality since the original description. Through the kindness of Dr. Theresa Clay, of the British Museum of Natural History, I have had the opportunity to study a small collection of Moroccan Anoplura sent her by Dr. J. Brumeau, Institut Pasteur du Maroc, Casablanca. Included were five females and three males of a species of *Hoplopleura* from *Lemniscomys barbarus* taken in Tit Mellil, a suburb of Casablanca. *Lemniscomys barbarus* is the type host of *Pediculus spiculifer*, and the Moroccan locality is not far from its type locality of "Algeria." Dr. G. F. Ferris had discussed the possibility that *spiculifer* might be a species of either *Polyplax* or *Hoplopleura* (1935, 1951) and earlier (1921) had conjectured that some Sudanese specimens from *Lemniscomys barbarus zebra* he determined as close to *Hoplopleura enormis* Kellogg and Ferris might represent *spiculifer*. Consideration of the proximity to the type locality and their occurrence on the type host and a re-evaluation of the original description of *spiculifer* allow the Moroccan specimens to be identified as *spiculifer* Gervais.

I am grateful to Dr. Clay for lending the specimens of *spiculifer* Gervais and donating a pair to the U. S. National Museum collections and to Dr. Ferris for valuable advice concerning the status of these *Lemniscomys* lice.

Hoplopleura spiculifer (Gervais, 1844) **new comb.**

Pediculus spiculifer Gervais, 1844, in Baron Waleknaer's Histoire Naturelle des Insectes. Aptères. III: 302. - - - Ferris, 1921, Stanford Univ. Publ. Biol. Sci., II(2): 95. - - - Ferris, 1935, *Ibid.*, II(8): 617. - - - Ferris, 1951, Mem. Pacific Coast Ent. Soc., 1: 283.

A translation of salient points in the original description is as follows: "Abdominal segments serratiform with a short spiniform seta on either side of each segment; . . . basal segment of antennae swollen, the second more slender, cylindrical, equal to the third and fourth together which are moniliform; the fifth of the same size as the third. Found on a *Mus barbarus* [now known as *Lemniscomys barbarus*] from Algeria sent living by M. de Blainville through M.

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le D. Guyon."

Gervais' description of *spiculifer* antennae fits *Hoplopleura* much better than *Polyplax* and, further, lobed paratergal plates as found in the *H. enormis* group of *Hoplopleura* give the abdominal segments a "serriform" appearance. The statement that either side of each abdominal segment bears a short spiniform seta is puzzling unless Gervais was referring to the lateral-most processes of the paratergal plates which might be mistaken for spiniform setae, if viewed uncritically.

Diagnosis.—A member of the *enormis* group; close to *enormis* Kellogg and Ferris, 1915, in that the paratergal plate of the sixth abdominal segment bears three apical processes, the seventh one (in male *enormis* and *spiculifer* this process obsolescent), and the eighth none. Head shape, chaetotaxy of the abdomen, and shape of the thoracic sternal plate are essentially the same as in *enormis* (figs. 1, 2). Female is separable from *enormis* in that the dorsal-most process of paratergal plates 3-7 is only as long as the plate which bears it (fig. 4, *spiculifer*) not almost twice as long (*enormis*). In the male the dorsal-most process is much shorter than the corresponding paratergal plate, and is of the same length or shorter than the subdorsal process except on paratergal plate 3 (fig. 3), rather than being the longer as in *enormis*. The abdominal spiracles of both sexes are much larger than in Ferris's (1921, Stanford Univ. Publ. Biol. Sci., I(2): fig. 59B) drawing of *enormis*. The male genitalia of *enormis* were not described. Male genitalia of *spiculifer* (fig. 5) with basal plate (B.P.) longer than parameres and pseudopenis; parameres (PAR.) slender, evenly and broadly convex; pseudopenis (P.S.P.) extending posteriorly well beyond apices of parameres, diverging broadly, its widest point about at posterior third of parameres.

Specimens examined—Two ♀♀ *ex Lemniscomys barbarus*, French Morocco, Casablanca, Tit Mellil, 20 January 1956. Three ♂♂ 3 ♀♀ *ibid.* but 31 March 1956. One ♂ and one ♀ retained in U. S. National Museum collections; remaining specimens returned to British Museum of Natural History.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE III

Hoplopleura spiculifer (Gervais, 1844) Fig. 1. Thoracic sternal plate, female. Fig. 2. Dorsal and ventral views, female. Fig. 3. Paratergal plates 2-8, male. Fig. 4. Paratergal plates 2-8, female. Fig. 5. Aedeagus, ventral view.

