

A NEW SPECIES OF MALLOPHAGA FROM THE WATER MONGOOSE¹

K. C. EMERSON and C. J. STOJANOVICH²

A small collection of Mallophaga from mammals, taken in the Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville) by Dr. U. Rahm, included specimens representing a new species. That species is herewith described and illustrated.

Felicola rahmi new species

Holotype male. External morphology and chaetotaxy as shown in Fig. 2. Genitalia as shown in Fig. 3. Total length, 1.31 mm.

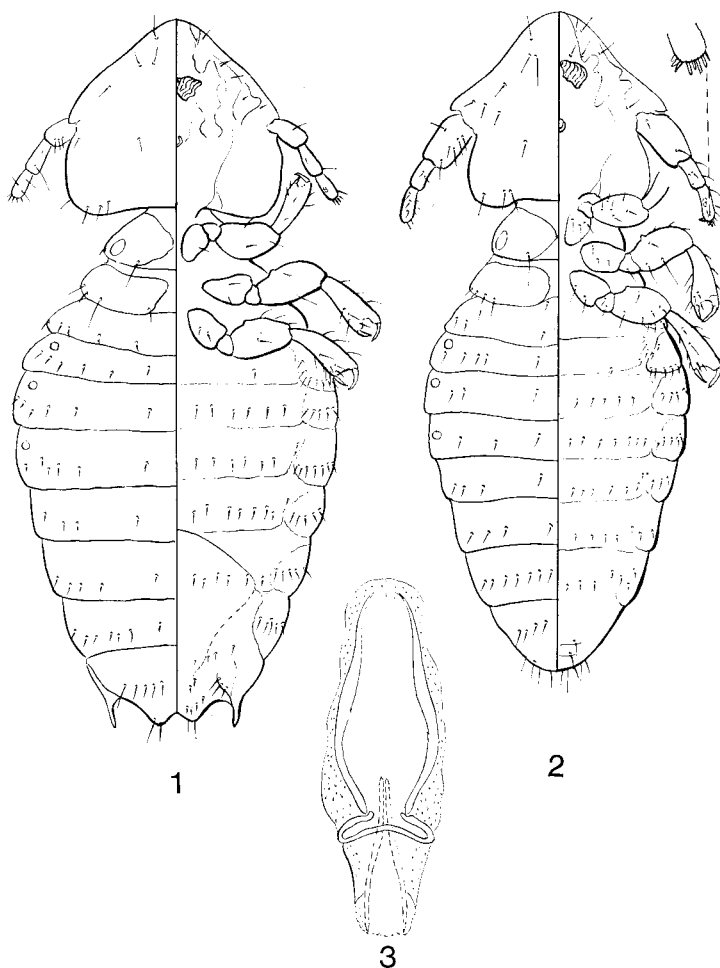
Allotype female. External morphology and chaetotaxy as shown in Fig. 1. Total length, 1.45 mm.

Discussion: Four species of *Felicola* and two species of *Suricatoecus* are already known from the Water Mongoose, hence an additional species of *Felicola* was unexpected. However, a large series of the new species was collected in association with *Suricatoecus laticeps* (Werneck, 1942), a species known only from this host. No other mammal is known to harbor as many species of Mallophaga, so it may be possible that some of the Mallophaga are restricted geographically, or that the host, as presently classified actually represents a complex of species.

Felicola acutirostris (Stobbe, 1913); *F. macrurus* Werneck, 1948; *F. minimus* Werneck, 1948; and *F. pygidialis* Werneck, 1948, found on the Water Mongoose, each have male genitalia differing considerably from that of *F. rahmi*. Also the terminal abdominal segments of the males of the above-mentioned species are of a type quite different from those found on *F. rahmi*. *F. rahmi* is closest to *F. calogaleus* (Bedford, 1928), found on *Myonax cauii* (Smith), in general morphology, chaetotaxy and type of male genitalia. The two can be separated by the male genitalia. In *F. calogaleus*, the genital sac is prominent and contains numerous spinelike hooks, as illustrated by Werneck, in figures 364

¹ Accepted for publication March 9, 1965.

² U.S. National Museum and Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Georgia, respectively.



FIGURES 1-3. *Felicola rahmi* new species. Fig. 1. Dorsal-ventral view of female. Fig. 2. Dorsal-ventral view of male. Fig. 3. Male genitalia.

and 365 of his 1948 paper. In *F. rahmi* the genital sac is inconspicuous and without spinelike hooks, as shown in Fig. 3.

Type host: *Atilax paludinosus* (Cuvier)

Type material: Holotype male, allotype female, and 66 paratypes collected on 13 October 1962 at Tshibati, Congo (Leopoldville) by Dr. U. Rahm. Holotype, allotype and paratypes have been deposited

in the Mallophaga collection of the U.S. National Museum, and paratypes have been distributed to other major Mallophaga collections.

LITERATURE CITED

- Werneck, F. L. 1948. Os Malofagos de Mamiferos, Parte I: Amblycera e Ischnocera (Philopteridae e parte de Trichodectidae.) Rio de Janeiro, 243 p.