

A FURTHER RECORD OF *HAEMATOMYZUS ELEPHANTIS* PIAGET
(RYNCHOPHTHIRINA) FROM A WILD AFRICAN ELEPHANT

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On May 29th, 1953, Mr. T. W. Chorley and I shot an old adult male elephant (*Loxodonta africana* Blumenbach) at Alel, south of Yirol (6° 15' N., 31° E.) in the Southern Sudan. I searched the elephant and found two specimens of *Haematomyzus elephantis* Piaget: a male in a skin crevice just in front of the hind leg and a female in a skin crevice on the trunk. I have searched seven other elephants during the past three years without success.

It is inconceivable that these elephants had been at any time in contact with those from Api Elephant Farm, Belgian Congo, which might have obtained their lice from imported Indian elephants. There is also very little chance of contamination from Uganda elephants, from which there are two records.

Miss T. Clay informs me that there are many African records of this insect and it is apparent that it is not only widespread in Africa, but is also indigenous. Records from wild hosts are very few (Hopkins, 1949:501, states 'at least two') since people who shoot elephants seldom have the desire to crawl about looking for these minute lice. This is very unfortunate as elephants are rapidly dying out in many parts of Africa.

The two specimens are in the possession of Dr. W. Büttiker of Nelspruit, Transvaal, to whom I am grateful for identifying the insects and help in obtaining literature. I am indebted to the Director, Veterinary Services, for permission to publish this note.

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