

A NEW GENUS OF MALLOPHAGA FROM AFRICAN
GUINEA FOWL IN THE UNITED STATES
NATIONAL MUSEUM

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In a collection of Mallophaga, or bird-lice, taken from bird skins collected by Dr. E. A. Mearns of the Childs Frick African Expedition, 1911-1912, is a form which shows characters different from those of any of the known genera and for which the following new genus is founded.

SOMAPHANTUS, new genus

Five specimens, including a single male, were taken from two skins of Guinea Fowl, *Numida ptilorhyncha* (U. S. N. M., Cat. Nos. 243182 and 243176; Lakiunda and Tana rivers, British East Africa, August, 1912), collected by Dr. E. A. Mearns. This form, structurally, is most like *Menopon*, but in general appearance is unlike any other Mallophagan; it may be easily separated from *Menopon* in having the sides of the head nearly straight and by the elongate form of the body.

Species small, inconspicuous, with weak chitinization; form elongate, narrow, with sides subparallel, and all parts well furnished with hairs. Head narrow, longer than wide, with sides nearly straight. Antennal fossæ long, narrow, parallel to the sides of the head and reaching back onto the temples. The antennæ are well developed for the Liotheidæ and in all specimens taken are carried exposed. Pharyngeal sclerite (fig. 1 *d*) present, conspicuous, with anterior processes much prolonged forward and but slightly divergent, as in *Menopon* and *Colpocephalum*. Thorax narrow, the prothorax rounded and the metathorax continuous with the narrow, elongated abdomen. Abdomen well clothed with many long hairs; last segment in female somewhat truncate, but in the male rounded and protruding. Genitalia inconspicuous, apparently consisting of two short, curving, flat blades.

SOMAPHANTUS LUSIUS, new species

Four females and one male from *Numida ptilorhyncha* Lönnerberg (Lakiunda and Tana rivers, British East Africa). An elongate, narrow, pale species with many long hairs (U. S. N. M., Type No. 18182).

Description of female.—Head three-fourths as long as broad with sides but slightly convex. Front weakly angled on the meson in some specimens as shown in the figure, or evenly rounded as in others, bearing about four hairs on each side, the lateral one being the longest; these hairs are not all marginal, some of them projecting from the under side. Sides of the head before the eyes but slightly swollen, bearing four hairs, the posterior three being long; eye with a prominent black fleck and a long hair; ocular fringe present, consisting of ten or twelve hairs. Antennæ (fig. 1 c) prominent with last segment cylindrical, as long as the other three together, of which the second is the longest. Temples compressed, weakly rounded and meeting the almost straight occiput in an obtuse angle; temple with five hairs, three of which are long, and occiput with four long hairs; a long hair on the dorsal surface near the eye and two more, arising close together, a short distance cephalad. The eye flecks and the right mandible are the only dark portions on the insect, these being black; the general color of the head, as well as the rest of the body, is a pale yellowish-brown, the occipital region being almost clear and the clypeus slightly darker; along the margin of the occiput is a narrow chitinous thickening.

Thorax a little longer than the head. Prothorax broader than long, not quite as wide as the head, rounded, though not as regular as shown in the figure; a series of ten hairs across the posterior margin and two more on each side; sides and posterior portion of same color as the head, anterior central portion clear. Metathorax wider and a little longer than prothorax and lighter in color, being quite transparent; sides divergent, bearing four hairs, while across the straight posterior margin is a submarginal series of about twenty hairs, roughly arranged in three rows. Legs pale, with long tarsi and stout hairs on femora and tibiæ.

Abdomen long and narrow, all segments clothed with many long hairs, consisting of the usual submarginal row of twenty to thirty and many others on the dorsal surface; sutures between all segments are distinct and straight. Width of abdomen gradually increasing to the fifth segment, then narrowing rapidly to the ninth, which is almost truncate; last three segments each with a very long hair on each

side. The color of the abdomen is pale yellowish-brown with no indication of markings in the female. There is considerable variation in size of individuals, as shown in the table below.

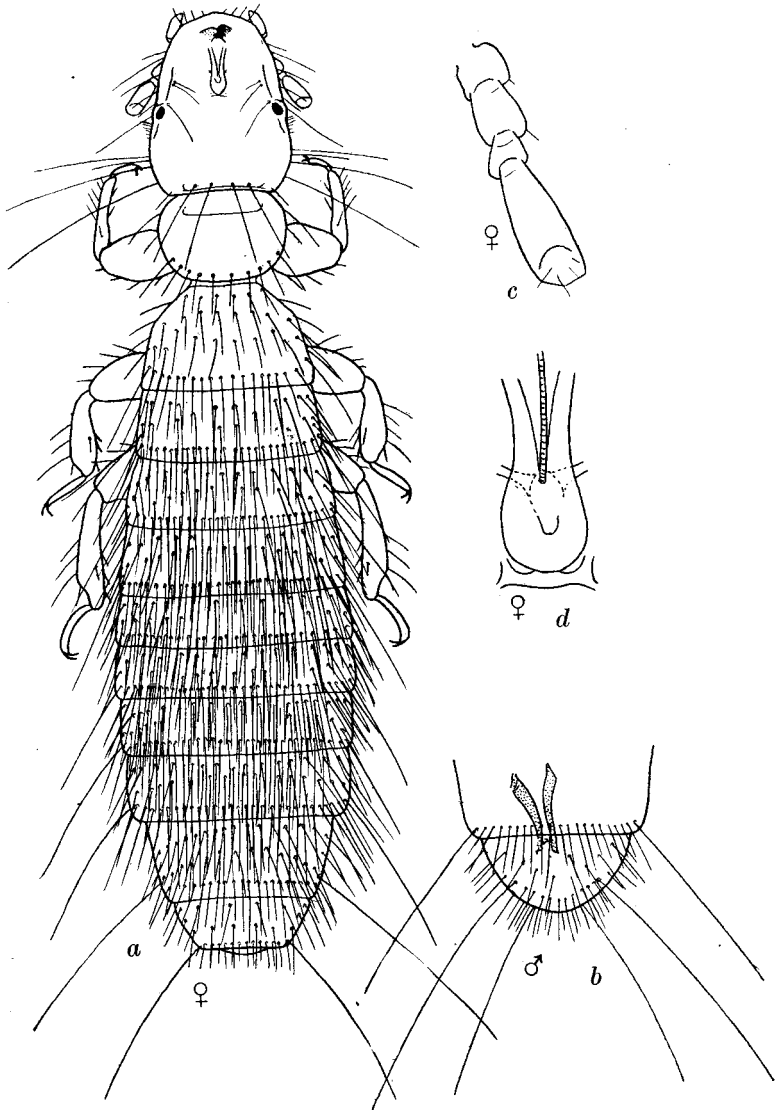


FIG. 1.—*Somaphantus lusus*, Paine.

a, female; *b*, last segments of male; *c*, antenna of female;
d, pharyngeal sclerite of female.

The male is larger than the female, with last segment of the abdomen protruding and rounded (fig. 1 *b*), bearing four very long hairs and numerous short ones. Along the posterior margin of the metathorax and of segments one to eight, inclusive, of the abdomen is a narrow, ill-defined transverse band of about the same shade as the legs; the anterior portion of abdominal segments is almost clear, except the last, which is uniformly colored. The genitalia are small, consisting of two short, curving blades, fairly well chitinized.

MEASUREMENTS

Female, length	1.296 mm.	(1.56) ¹ ,	width;	male, length	1.60 mm.	width.
Head	.240	(.256) ¹ ,	.208		.246	.216
Prothorax	.132	(.104) ¹ ,	.192		.120	.176
Metathorax	.144	(.144) ¹ ,	.232		.144	.256
Abdomen	.784	(1.050) ¹ ,	.336		1.072	.352

¹ Measurements of largest individual.

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