HOPLOPLEURA EDENTULA FAHRENHOLZ — A NEW LOUSE SPECIES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Recently, Beaucournu (Acta Parasit. Polonica 14; 127—131, 1966) has established the validity of *Hoplopleura edentula* Fahrenholz, 1916 as a distinct species. This louse was described originally as a variety of *Hoplopleura acanthopus* (Burm., 1839) from *Mus rutilus* Pall. (= *Clethrionomys rutilus*) from Roumania. Because this

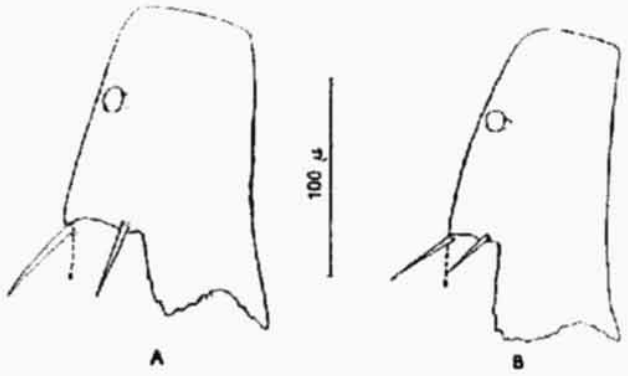

Fig. 1. A — *Hoplopleura acanthopus*, male, paratergal plate IV, dorsally. B — *Hoplopleura edentula*, male, paratergal plate IV, dorsally.

host species does not occur in this country, the bank vole *Clethrionomys glareolus* (Schreb.) was very probably the true host of the parasite. Both species resemble each other and can be distinguished as follows. In *H. acanthopus* the paratergal plate IV has dorsally a distinct incision (Fig. 1A) and the diameter of the inserted setae is equal to or greater than 5 μ, the parameres of the genital organ of male measure 102—125 μ, while in *H. edentula* the paratergal plate IV has but a small incision (Fig. 1B), the diameter of its setae is less than 3 μ and the parameres of male genital organ measure 69—92 μ (Beaucournu J. C., Ann. Par. hum. comp. 43: 201—271, 1968). The species has been known until now from Roumania, Poland and France. Its host is *C. glareolus*.

When examining the material of *Hoplopleura* from the bank vole preserved in the collections of the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, I found the records of *H. acanthopus* from *C. glareolus* in Czechoslovak literature (Černý V., Acta Mus. Nat. Pragae, B 15: 161—165, 1959, Smetana A., Čs. parasitologie 8: 365—384, 1961, Smetana A., Acta Rer. Natur. Mus. Nat. Slov. 11: 30—83, 1965) to be in fact concerning the species *H. edentula*. The morphological characters correspond fully with those given by Beaucournu. In our specimens the length of parameres of male genital organ varied between 73—91 μ, the diameter of paratergal setae IV was 2.5—3 μ. It must be emphasized that it is preferable to measure these setae on the ventral side of the plate because the dorsal paratergal setae are sometimes a little weaker and thus the difference in the diameter is not so distinct.

Some localities of findings: Bohemia: Orlík; Mísečky (Krkonoše mountains) — Slovakia: St. Smokovec, Furkotská dolina (High Tatra); Holica (Low Tatra). (Leg. expeditions of Paras. Inst. Acad. Sci.)

It should be noted that in one case a typical *H. acanthopus* infestation of the bank vole was observed.

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