

First Record of A Louse (*Neohaematopinus sciurinus*) From The American Grey Squirrel in The Cape

by

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The American grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis* Gmelin) was introduced into Great Britain on several occasions between 1890 and 1910 (Middleton, 1930) and to the Cape from Great Britain by Rhodes soon after 1900. So far as is known there have been no other introductions into South Africa. The grey squirrel is now to be found throughout the Cape Peninsula and in the Paarl, Stellenbosch, Somerset West and Elgin areas (Davis, 1950). Three species of lice have been recorded from the grey squirrel in its indigenous home in North America, namely *Enderleinellus longiceps* Kellogg and Ferris, *Hoplopleura sciuricola* Ferris and *Neohaematopinus sciurinus* (Mjöberg) (Hoptins, 1949). All three have been found parasitising the introduced squirrels in Great Britain (Thompson, 1935). The last species, *N. sciurinus*, represented by a female and two nymphs, is now reported for the first time from the Cape. Inspector C. J. Muller, of this Laboratory, was engaged in a search for the grey squirrel flea *Orchopeas wickhami* (Baker) which may have accompanied the grey squirrel when it was brought to South Africa. So far none has been found. However, Mr. Muller noticed lice on some of the specimens he examined. Three study skins of grey squirrels collected on 22 November, 1950, at Stellenbosch were sent to the Laboratory. The lice were obtained from these skins by vigorous brushing.

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References.

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