



31.

✓

Hoplopleura mulleri n. sp.

longer than broad, postantennal angles quite prominent, transverse
 seam apparent; preantennal area quite acute. Thorax: about as long
 as broad; sternal plate usually as in figure 4, but at times the anterior
 margin is produced as a narrow, thin, slightly curved process. Abdomen:
 Fairly slender, about twice as long as wide. Paratergal plates as in
 figure 6. Most of the abdominal width, or about three-quarters
 little more than a third of the abdominal width, or about three-quarters
 of the area between the paratergal plates. The enlarged setae on the
 anterior sternal plate of segment arranged in two groups, each of
 which contain 3-4 setae; two setae lie between these groups. The
 anterior sternal plate of segment 10 is small, six lateral setae and 2-3

New Sucking Lice (Anoplura) from South Africa

By

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The new lice here described are the first *Hoplopleura* species to be described from the rodent genera *Gerbillus* and *Desmodillus*. These genera are closely related members of the sub-family *Gerbillinae*.

The two new species are closely related species belonging to a group which contains four other species all described from members of the *Gerbillinae* of Africa. The members of the group are distinguished by the following features: Sternal plates broad; paratergal plates distinctly "toothed" and not simple, and equipped with prominent setae.

Acknowledgements:

My thanks are due to Mr. R. Rose-Innes, Government Plague Research Laboratory, Johannesburg, for entrusting the new material to me; the collector, Mr. C.J. Muller, of the same laboratory; and Dr. F. Zumpt, of this Institute, for help and encouragement.

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 Holotype: 1 female, ex *Gerbillus* sp. Smith, Clarendon.

Hoplopleura mulleri n. sp.

Female: Head: as in figure 1.; not very slender, 1.6 times longer than broad, postantennal angles quite prominent, transverse seam apparent; preantennal area quite acute. Thorax: about as long as broad; sternal plate usually as in figure 4, but, at times, the anterior margin may be produced as in figure 5. Hind coxae large with the posterior margin developed into a hook-like process. Abdomen: Fairly slender, about twice as long as wide. Paratergal plates as in figure 6. Most of the tergites very short but fairly wide, occupying a little more than a third of the abdominal width, or about three-quarters of the area between the paratergal plates. The enlarged setae on the anterior sternal plate of segment 3 arranged in two groups each of which contain 3—4 setae; two setulae lie between these groups. The last row of sternal setae consist of normal sized lateral setae and 2—3 setulae, which have been included in the total count for the row, in the middle.

Length: 1.33 mm.

Male: Similar to the female except that the abdomen is less slender being 1.7 times longer than broad, and that the tergal and sternal plates are longer. The male genitalia is shown in figure 2.

Chaetotaxy of the Abdomen: (♂)

Segments	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sternites	8 — 10	8 — 9 11 — 12	8 — 9 7	8 8	8 8	7 4—5	2
Tergites	8 — 9	15 — 18	18	14—15	12	12	

Length: 1.13 mm.

Type material:

Holotype: 1 female, ex *Gerbillus paeba* Smith, Clanwilliam, Cape. leg. C. J. Muller, 24. IV. 1953.

Chaetotaxy of the Abdomen: (♀)

Figures for the Holotype are given in brackets.

Segments	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sternites	(11), 10—11	(8), 8—9 (16), 16—17 (7), 7—9	(8), 8—9 (7), 7—9 (7), 7—8	(8), 8 (8), 8—9 (7), 7—8	(5), 5—7 (6), 6—7 (7), 6—8	(3), 3—5 (6), 6	
Tergites	(5), 5—8	(8), 8—10 (8), 7—8	(4), 4—6 (7), 7—8 (7), 7—8	(6), 6—7 (6), 6—8 (6), 6—7	(4), 4—7 (6), 6—8 (7), 7	(4), 4—6 (6), 6—7 (5), 5—6	(6), 6—7

Paratypes: 1 male and 2 females, with the same data as the Holotype.

1 female, ex- *Gerbillus paeba*, Rehoboth Village, S.W. Africa. Leg. R. Rose-Innes, 23. iii. 1950.

1 female, ex *Gerbillus paeba*, Ugab River, S.W. Africa. Leg. R. Rose-Innes, 3. VIII. 1951.

***Hoplopleura desmodilli* n. sp.**

Female: Very similar to the previous species. The thoracic sternal plate somewhat variable figs. 3 and 5. The abdomen has only fourteen rows of sternal setae as against fifteen in *mulleri*. The anterior sternal row of segment three has two lateral groups of 3—4 strong setae and 2 median weak ones. The last sternal row has 2—3 weak setae at the middle. Paratergal plates similar to *mulleri*.

Length: 1. 38 mm.

Male: Very similar to *mulleri*; genitalia as in figure 2.

Chaetotaxy of Abdomen. (♂)

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sternites	11	8	9	8	7	8	2
	—	15	13	9	9	4	—
Tergites	9	15	15	17	15	14	—

Length: 1.10 mm.

Type Material:

1 female, ex *Desmodillus auricularis* (Smith), Ugab River, S. W. Africa. Leg. R. Rose-Innes, 31. VII. 1951.

Paratypes:

Chaetotaxy of Abdomen: (♀)

Figures for the Holotype are given in brackets.

Segments	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sternites	(12), 11—12 — —	(10), 10 (22), 18—25 (10), 9—11	(18), 18—20 (8), 8—9 —	(11), 10—13 (5), 5—7 (7), 7—8	(8), 8 (7), 7—9 (6), 6—8	(5), 5—8 (8), 7—9 —	— — —
Tergites	(9), 9—10 —	(9), 9—10 (8), 7—8	(8), 8—9 (8), 7—8 (7), 7—8	(7), 8—9 (8), 8—10 (7), 7—8	(7), 7—9 (8), 7—8 (7), 7—8	(7), 6—7 (7), 7—10 (6), 6—8	7—11 — —

1 male 2 females with same data as the Holotype.

3 females, ex **D. auricularis**, Lake Ngami, Bechuanaland. Leg. D. H. S. Davis, 13. XII. 1944.

Holotypes are in the collection of the South African Institute for Medical Research, Johannesburg.

The species of the **neumanni** group of the genus **Hoplopleura** may be separated as follows:

- 1 (10) Paratergal plate 7 with one posterior corner strongly produced (fig. 6) 2.
- 2 (7) 3—4 Stout setae in each lateral group of the anterior plate of the third sternite 3.
- 3 (4) Setae of paratergal plates 3—6 borne on very distinct protrusions of the paratergites. Tergites and sternites densely setulose. *Tatera liodon smithii* **criptica** Ferris.
- 4 (3) Setae of paratergal plates 3—6 not borne on distinct protrusions. Tergites and sternites not densely setulose. 5.
- 5 (6) Females with 15 ventral rows of setae on abdomen; the third ventral abdominal row contains about 16—17 setae, and the fifth ventral row about 8—9. Male: the third ventral row contains about 11—12 setae, and the fifth about 7.
Gerbillus paeba **mulleri** n. sp.
- 6 (5) Females with 14 ventral rows of setae on the abdomen; the third ventral abdominal row contains about 18—25 setae, and the fifth about 18—20. Males: the third ventral row contains about 15 setae, and the fifth about 13. **Desmodillus auricularis** **desmodilli** n. sp.
- 7 (2) 2 Stout setae in each lateral group of the anterior plate of the third sternite 8.
- 8 (9) Abdominal segments 4—6 each with 3 narrow tergal and sternal plates. *Tatera nigrocauda* **neumanni** Fahr.

criptica L

nigrocauda L

- 9 (8) Abdominal segments 4—6 each with 2 tergal and sternal plates, the anterior of each of these about three times as long as the posterior. **Tatera brantsii**..... **biseriata Ferris**.
- 10 (1) Paratergal plate 7 without a strongly produced posterior corner. 3 Stout setae in each group of sternite three. **Tatera bohmi varia** **veprecula Ferris**.

EXPLANATION OF FIGURES:

- Fig. 1. **Hoplopleura mulleri** n. sp, head
 Fig. 2. **Hoplopleura mulleri** n. sp., male genitalia
 Fig. 3. **Hoplopleura desmodilli** n. sp., Sternal plate
 Fig. 4. **Hoplopleura mulleri** n. sp., Sternal plate
 Fig. 5. **Hoplopleura desmodilli** n. sp., Sternal plate
 Fig. 6. **Hoplopleura mulleri** n. sp., paratergal plates.

