

Free Clay



A new species of the Anopluran genus *Scipio*. H. E. EWING, U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

Sucking lice of the genus *Scipio* Cummings, 1913 have a very unusual appearance. Each individual has a very long head, the most of which appears to be neck, large crablike legs and a very small discoid thorax. Up to the present 3 species have been described, all Ethiopian. They have come from hosts belonging to 2 rodent genera, *Thryonomys* and *Petromys*. The louse here described as new comes from a species of *Thryonomys*.

Scipio longiceps, new species

Description.—Male: Head very long, approximately twice as long as the thorax, sides almost straight, subparallel. Antennae very long, almost as long as the head, segments with lengths in the following ratio: 6, 7, 15, 8, 5.5; segment IV with a sensory pit at distal margin, above; segment V with a sensory pit on middle of posterior margin, and a tuft of small, subequal setae at the tip. Thorax very small, with rather evenly outcurved, lateral margins; bearing above but a single pair of setae situated between the rather conspicuous thoracic spiracles. Abdomen short, about three-fourths as broad as long. Typical abdominal segments each bearing a transverse row of unequal setae, a poorly sclerotized, irregularly shaped tergal plate, and a pair of poorly sclerotized, ill defined laterotergal plates. Legs large, long, and conspicuous. First pair extending to near the bases of antennae; femur I swollen but shorter than tibia I; tarsal claw long and sharp; accessory claw scarcely half as long as tarsal claw but much more strongly curved. Second and third legs subequal, each with a very thick tibia and a greatly enlarged tarsus and tarsal claw. Tibia II slightly longer than tarsus II, but tibia III shorter than tarsus III. Genital armature simple and typical of the genus; basal plate broad, poorly sclerotized, lateral margins diverging posteriorly; parameres short, stout, free, forceps-like; pseudopenis very sharp-pointed, extending

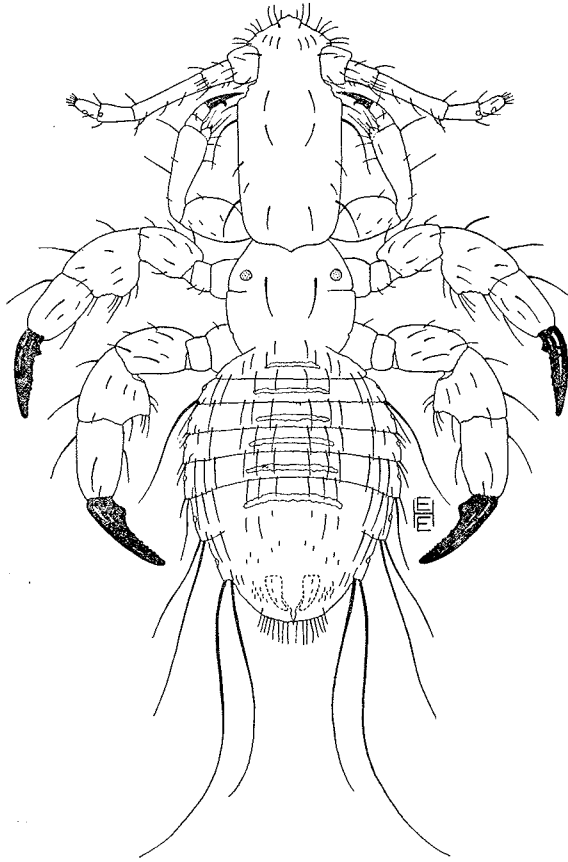


FIG. 29

Scipio longiceps, n. sp.
Dorsal view of male, $\times 90$.

beyond the tips of the parameres; anterior endomere transverse, articulating with bases of parameres; posterior endomere poorly sclerotized, indistinct.

Length of male, 1.49 mm.; *width*, 0.55 mm.

Type host.—*Thryonomys gregor pusillus*.

Type locality.—British East Africa: Majiya-chumvi.

Type specimen (holotype).—U. S. N. M. No. 49919.

Described from 2 male specimens (a female specimen at hand is in too poor condition for describing). Material as follows: Male (holotype) and female from type host (U. S. N. M. No. 184180) and type locality; also a male from type host and type locality but taken from skin, U. S. N. M. No. 184179. This species is nearly related to *Scipio aulacodi* (Neumann), from which it differs in having a longer head, longer legs, and differently shaped tarsal claws, as well as in other characters.