

NOTES ON *EUCOLPOCEPHALUM FEMORALE* (Mallophaga: Menoponidae)¹

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ABSTRACT

Eucolpocephalum femorale (Piaget) is recorded for the first time in North America. Specimens were examined from four threskiornithid hosts.

The monotypic genus *Eucolpocephalum* appears to be closely related to *Plegadiphilus* in general form and can be separated from the latter by the absence of fingerlike projections on the ventroposterior margin of the pleurites.

Eucolpocephalum femorale (Piaget) (Figs. 1, 2, 3)

- Menopon femorale* Piaget, 1880. Les Pediculines, p. 484, pl. 39, Fig. 8, Host: *Platalea leucorodia* Linn.; Seguy, 1944, Faune de France, 43:58, Figs. 45 and 46.
Eucolpocephalum robustum Bedford, 1930. Rep. Vet. Res. South Africa, 16:161, Fig. 6, Host: *Platalea alba* Scopoli.
Eucolpocephalum femorale (Piaget) Clay, 1949. Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., Ser. 12, 2:827.

The single species, *E. femorale*, is easily recognized by the dark transverse bands on the tergites, large size (female, 2.8 mm; male, 2.5 mm), shape of the terminal sternites of the female, and the characteristic form of the male genitalia.

This is the first published record of the genus *Eucolpocephalum* from the North American continent. *E. femorale* was originally described from *Platalea leucorodia* Linn. Bedford (1930) described *E. robustum*, which Hopkins and Clay (1952) listed as a synonym of *femorale*, from *Platalea alba* Scopoli. I have examined specimens from *Platalea leucorodia*, *Platalea alba*, *Ajaia ajaja*, and *Phimosus berlepschi* and have found little difference among them. Minor differences in the chaetotaxy, particularly of the sternal plates, do not appear to warrant

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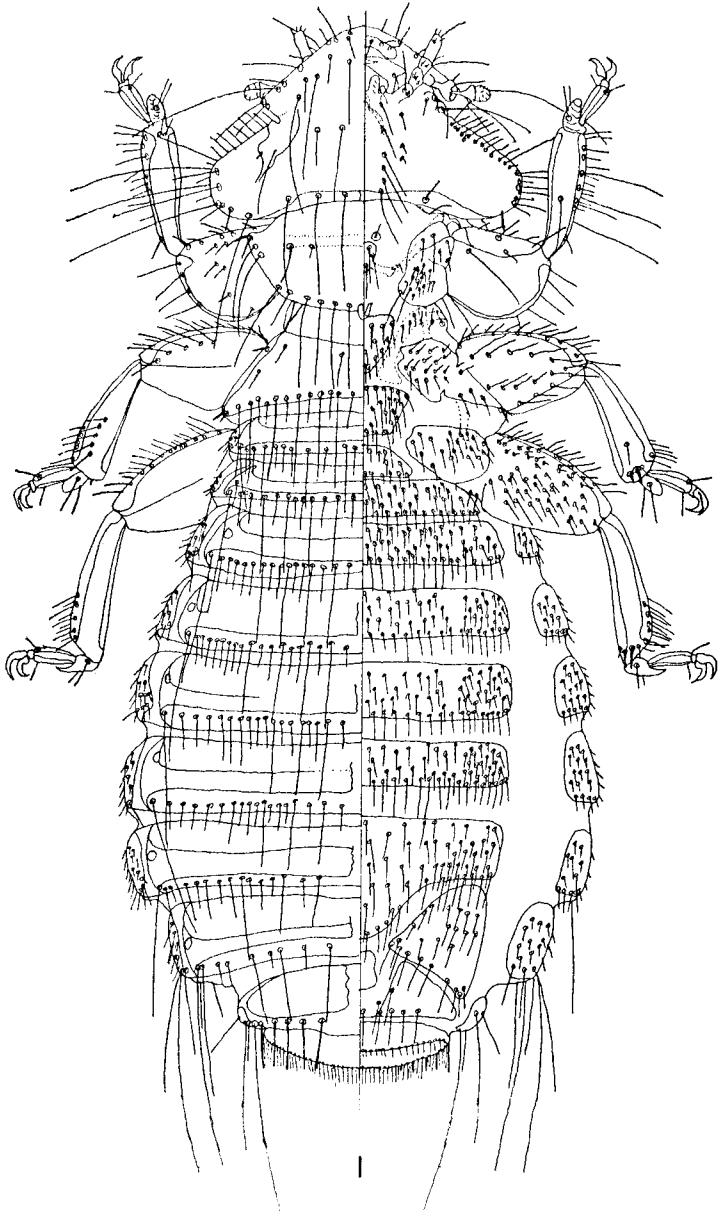


FIG. 1. *Eucolpocephalum femorale* (Piaget), dorsal-ventral view of female, from *Ajaia ajaia* (Linn.).

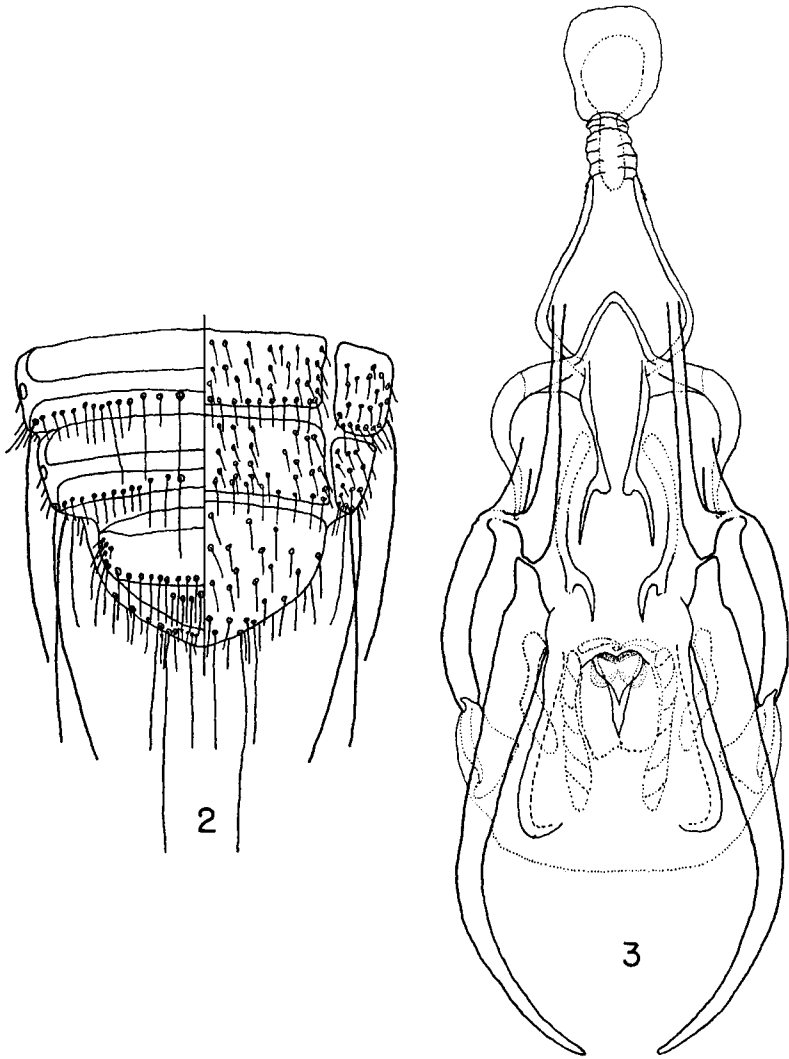


FIG. 2. *Eucolpocephalum femorale* (Piaget), dorsal-ventral view of terminal abdominal segments of male, from *Ajaiá ajaja* (Linn.). FIG. 3. *Eucolpocephalum femorale* (Piaget), ventral view of male genitalia.

recognition of more than one species. Slight size differences can be found but measurements taken from mounted specimens could account for much of the variation in size.

The illustration of the male genitalia (Fig. 3) is considered generalized. Preserving and mounting will account for much of the distortion

of membranous areas which ultimately effects the perspective of the heavily sclerotized components. Therefore, minute variations in the male genitalia of *Eucolpocephalum* from the hosts listed herein should not be considered to be of specific significance.

Material examined: Two males and six females from *Ajaia ajaja* (Linn.), Laguna de la Costa, Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico, 31 Jan. 1962, M. A. Price; Nr. Lethem, Rupununi, Brit. Guiana, 18 Feb. 1961, T. Clay No. 145; La Gloria, Magdalena, Colombia, 24 May 1943, M. A. Carriker, Jr., No. 3998. One male and four females from *Platalea alba* Scopoli, Butinba, Buayors, Uganda, 20 Feb. 1941, W. J. Eggeling, Hopkins collection. One male and two females from *Platalea leucorodia* Linn., Port Etienne, Mauritania, 5 Aug. 1951, M. H. Routh, British Museum No. 376. One male and one female from *Phimosus berlepschi* Hellmayr, El Dificil, Magdalena, Colombia, 4 Jan. 1947, M. A. Carriker, Jr.

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