

A SECOND FINDING OF *LINOGNATHOIDES LAEVIUSCULUS* (GRUBE) (ANOPLURA) IN RUMANIA

During his stay in Rumania, the junior author (P. Volf) succeeded in collecting 1 male, 3 females and 4 nymphs of *Linognathoides laeviusculus* (Grube, 1851) (Polyplacidae) from two specimens of *Spermophilus citellus* (L.). The locality and date of the finding were Istria near Lake Sinoe, Dobrogea, September 4, 1985. (According to recent views, e.g. that of Pavlinov and Rossolimo (1987: Systematics of mammals of the USSR, Publ. House of the Moscow University, Moscow, 284 pp., (in Russian)), the generic name *Citellus* Oken, 1816 is considered as a *nomen nudum* and replaced by *Spermophilus* Cuvier, 1825).

The louse species under consideration belongs to rather rare parasites. It was reported from Rumania for the first time by Voicu (1965: Com. de Zool., Soc. st. biol., RSR, București: 113—115) under the name *Neohaematopinus laeviusculus*. The author collected 1 male and 2 females from *S. citellus*. In the material of Wegner (1970: Com. de Zool., Soc. st. biol., RSR, București: 305—314), no lice were obtained from 41 *S. citellus* (mentioned erroneously as *S. suslicus*) caught in Dobrogea.

The genus *Linognathoides* was resurrected by Kim and Adler (1982: J. Med. Entomol. 19: 615—627) and the closely related genera *Linognathoides* Cummings, 1914, *Neohaematopinus* Mjöberg, 1910 and *Johnsonphirus* Benoit, 1961 were redefined. The genus *Linognathoides* includes 9 species and is distributed in Holarctic and Ethiopian regions. The following

hosts are given for *L. laeviusculus*: *Spermophilus undulatus*, *S. parryi*, *S. pygmaeus*, *S. dauricus*, *S. columbianus*, *S. variegatus*, *S. beechyi* and *S. beldingi*. No *Linognathoides* species is reported from *S. citellus*.

Apart from *L. laeviusculus*, another louse species is known from the same genus from Europe — *L. schizodactylus* Gerwel, 1954. Its host is *Spermophilus suslicus*. Kim and Adler (1982) mention this taxon without any reference also from north-eastern Rumania. Both species are closely related and Sergienko (1974: Voshi. Fauna Ukraini 22(3), Naukova dumka, Kiiv, 110 pp., in Ukrainian) considers them as synonymous. In Bulgarian Dobrogea, Tuleshkov (1957: Dokl. Bolg. Akad. Nauk 10: 427—430) collected 123 lice: 79 females, 23 males and 21 nymphs on 18 *S. citellus*. He found some morphological differences in comparison with the original description of *L. laeviusculus* and for this reason he created a new taxon, *L. laeviusculus bulgaricus* subsp. n. However, his description is very short and incomplete. From the mentioned characters, the position of a small tooth on the claw of tarsus I in female agrees with our material. With regard to the fact that the descriptions and illustrations of *L. laeviusculus* and *L. schizodactylus* in the papers by various authors differ in some morphological details, a larger number of comparative material from suslics is needed to solve the problem of correct taxonomic position of these Balkan lice.

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