

ECTOPARASITES FROM FAIR ISLE.—2.

BY EUGENE O'MAHONY, M.SC.

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Since the publication of the first of these notes (*antea*, 85:140) a number of other specimens of fleas, Mallophaga and Hippoboscidae have been received from Mr. Williamson, to whom I tender my best thanks. It is of considerable interest to see *Ctenophthalmus agyrtes nobilis* Roths. from such an isolated station to the north.

The material received contains some new records both as regards the locality and the host and there are some useful data regarding the Hippoboscids and Mallophaga.

SIPHONAPTERA

*Ceratophyllus gallinae* Schr.—A number of males and females taken from juvenile Shetland starlings (*Sturnus v. zelandicus* Hart.) from which host it has been taken previously. A single female from an adult Richardson's skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus* (L.)), this is apparently a new host record, the flea was collected with a number of Mallophaga from this bird. *C. gallinae* is one of the commonest fleas, and is found on numerous bird host-species all over the British Isles.

*Dasypsyllus gallinulae* (Dale).—One female of this common bird flea was taken in circumstances that suggest it came from a wheatear (*Oenanthe oe. oenanthe* L.), but it cannot definitely be stated to have done so. Mr. Williamson saw a wheatear fly from a rabbit burrow and on searching for a possible nest he obtained this specimen; *Dasypsyllus gallinulae* has been recorded from the wheatear four or five times, but it is a very widely distributed flea on many kinds of birds and I have records of it being found straying and not associated with any host. So far as I have ascertained this is the first time it has been found on Fair Isle.

*Ctenophthalmus agyrtes nobilis* Roths.—Two males and one female of this common mouse flea were taken from *Apodemus f. fridariensis* Kinn., it has been taken from this host on the island before and is widely distributed in the British Isles on *Apodemus*, *Rattus* and has been found on *Clethrionomys* and I have specimens from *Talpa*. These specimens have not been examined very critically, as yet, but I did not note any apparent difference between them and specimens from the mainland.

MALLOPHAGA

*Saemundssonina cephalus* (Denny).—A number of specimens taken from day old Richardson's skua chicks, Mr. Williamson says 'interesting that these creatures should transfer to the young so early, during brooding. They all appear to be adult specimens, and they always seem to lodge in the depression between the chick's eye and bill.'

*Austromenopon ? fuscofasciatum* (Piaget), *Saemundssonina cephalus* (Denny) and *Quadriceps normifer* (Grube) were taken from an adult Richardson's skua (in addition to the above mentioned *Ceratophyllus gallinae* Schr.) and specimens of *Saemundssonina ? lari* (O. Fab.) were collected from an immature greater black-backed gull (*Larus marinus* L.).

*Perineus nigrolimbatus* (Giebel).—A single specimen of what appears to be this species was taken from a fulmar petrel (*Fulmarus g. glacialis* (L.)) washed ashore on May 30th, 1949.

*Myrsidea rustica* (Hitz.).—Specimens from a swallow (*Hirundo r. rustica* L.) which was caught in a Heligoland trap.

DIPTERA HIPPOBOSCIDAE

*Ornithomyia fringillina* Curt. (= *lagopodis* Shp.).—Numerous specimens from juvenile wheatears and a meadow pipit (*Anthus pratensis* (L.)). In both cases the flies were taken *in cop.* on the birds and a puparium was taken from the feathers of one bird. A second puparium, of a light brown colour and slightly darker at one end, was found in the box in which the flies were sent to me, the first was hard and dark. The finding of the puparium in the birds' feathers suggests that this is the normal place in which they are deposited, possibly falling from the bird into the nest. The information is of interest as so little is known of the habits of these flies. This fly was also obtained from juvenile starlings and an interesting capture was a specimen recovered from a young Richardson's skua. This is the second time the fly has been taken on this host, so far as I know. Col. Meinertzhagen took it the first time, also on Fair Isle.

I wish to thank Mr. G. H. E. Hopkins for naming the Mallophaga from Richardson's skua and the greater black-backed gull.

201 Clontarf Road, Dublin.  
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