

Smith 1909

REPORT OF NEW JERSEY STATE MUSEUM

## Order PARASITICA.

Under this head come the sucking lice, which are parasitic on warm-blooded animals other than birds. They never become winged, have practically no transformations, the body is more or less flattened and either the feet are scansorial, fitted for climbing and holding, or the mouth hooks are so formed as to enable the insect to anchor itself firmly in place. The insects remain on their host constantly and the eggs are nearly always attached to the hair of the host animal.

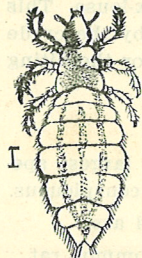


Fig. 29.—Head-louse, *Pediculus capitis*; greatly enlarged.

Three species attack man and sometimes cause serious annoyance. In extreme cases an inflammatory condition of the skin may be set up to which the terms "phthiriasis" and "pediculosis" have been applied.

Almost all the domestic and many of the wild animals are subject to infestation and the list here given will undoubtedly prove incomplete when systematic collections are made.

## Family PEDICULIDÆ.

### PHTHIRIUS Leach.

*P. inguinalis* Leach. The "crab-louse": found in the arm-pits and pubic regions of man and sometimes on the coarse hair of the breast. The grasping structures of the feet are so well developed that it is easier to pull out a hair than to remove the parasite from it. Liberal and repeated applications of mercurial ointment are required to destroy these species.

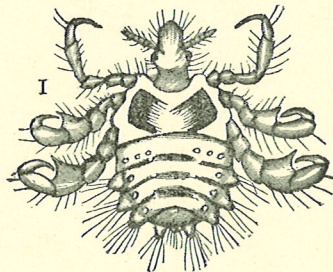


Fig. 30.—Crab-louse, *Phthirus inguinalis*; greatly enlarged.

### PEDICULUS Linn.

*P. capitis* DeG. The common "head-louse;" more generally found on children. A fine-tooth comb and repeated application of pomade or vaseline will readily control this pest. Tincture, or extract of Larkspur, has also been used with good effect.

*P. vestimenti* Leach. "Body-louse," "clothes-louse" or "gray-back." Lays its eggs in the seams of clothing in which also it hides when not actively feeding. Cleanliness is the best preventive; when an attack is to be dealt with, use mercurial ointment in the seams of the clothing or dip them in gasoline two or three times at intervals of one week. Steaming or thorough boiling will answer the same purpose.



HÆMATOPINUS Leach.

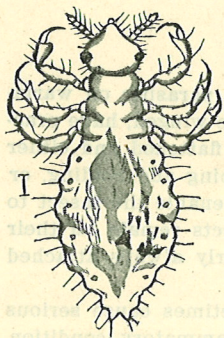


Fig. 31.—Body-louse, *Pediculus vestimenti*; greatly enlarged.

- H. piliferus Burm. The sucking-louse of the dog.
- H. pedalis Osborn. Occurs on the feet of sheep below the wool and easy to destroy with any good sheep dip.
- H. eurysternus Nitzsch. Short-nosed ox-louse. This and the following may be reached by the crude petroleum brushing recommended for the biting lice.
- H. vituli Linn. Long-nosed ox-louse.
- H. urius Nitzsch. The hog-louse: our largest species; sometimes very common and conspicuous.
- H. asini Linn. Found on the horse and ass.
- H. spinulosus Nitzsch. Found on the common rat.
- H. acanthopus Burm. Infests field mice.
- H. ventricosus Denny. Found on hares and rabbits.
- H. suturalis Osborn. Infests chipmunks and ground squirrels.



PHTHIRIUS Leach.  
*P. leachi* Leach. The "head-louse" found in the nostrils and public regions of man and sometimes on the coarse hair of the breast. The gross for structures of the feet are so well retained that it is easier to pull out a hair than to remove the parasite from it. Liberal and repeated application of mercurial ointment are resorted to destroy these species.

PEDICULUS Linn.

*P. capitis* Dougl. The common "head-louse" more especially found on children. A fine-tooth comb and repeated application of pomade or rosin will readily control this pest. Tincture or extract of Iodoform has also been used with good effect.  
*P. vestimenti* Leach. "Body-louse," "clothes-louse," or "crab-beck." Lays its eggs in the seams of clothing in which also it hides when not actively feeding. Cleanliness is the best preventive; when an attack is to be dealt with, use mercurial ointment in the seams of the clothing or dip them in kerosene two or three times at intervals of one week. Steaming or thorough boiling will answer the same purpose.