

ON A NEW LOUSE FROM A CEYLONESE SHREW.

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ANCISTROPLAX n.g.

ANOPLURA without eyes; with four segmented antennae not dimorphic in the sexes; 1 well developed sensorium on 4th antennal joint postero-basally; head considerably contracted posteriorly. Segments I-III closely united, more distinctly separated from the rest of the abdomen than the succeeding segments are *inter se*. 2nd sternite divided. 3rd cap-shaped.

Pleurites on segments IV-VI divided; the others membranous or lightly chitinised along the mid line, the thin area widening round the spiracles so that the latter are conspicuous. These sclerites are of the *Hoplopleura* type, and strongly developed. The two bristles medianly approximated.

♀. Fore and mid legs not disproportionate; the latter only a little longer. Tergites IV-VII and sternites IV-VII with three rows of stout flattened bristles.

♂. Fore legs distinctly smaller than mid legs. Tergites IV-VII with two rows of stout bristles, tergite VI modified (Fig. 1 c) with one irregular row (2 coalesced), sternites IV-VI two rows. Statumen penis well developed.

Genotype the species described below.

Ancistroplax n.g. appears to be closely related to *Schizophthirus* and *Euhaematopinus*. The three genera agree in having the 2nd sternite divided, and in the facies of the pleurites. As regards the antennae *Ancistroplax* is intermediate, as four joints are clearly indicated.

From *Schizophthirus* it differs in the antennae and chaetotaxy, and from *Euhaematopinus* in the chaetotaxy and simple legs, while its male is quite unique. The striking features of this sex in the genotype, however, may be specific.

Ancistroplax crocidurae n.sp.

♀. Total length 1.25. Breadth (segment V) about 0.37. Head 1 = 0.16. Breadth 0.12. Antennae 1 = 0.1. Thorax, breadth 0.16. Thoracic spiracles 0.02. Abdominal spiracles 0.018.

Gonopods with 3 decussating bristles and 3-4 more between these sclerites and side.

Shape of pleurites (Fig. 1 a, b).

The first is small and weakly chitinised.

ABDOMINAL CHAETOTAXY.

Segment	Tergite	Pleurite	Sternite
I	1, 1	0	0
II	1, 1, 2, 1, 1	2 (short, lateral) 1, 1	1, 1
III	2, 2	2 (long, median) 1, 1	3, 3
IV-VI	2, 2	2 (minute, median) 1, 1	2, 2
	2, 1, 2		2, 1, 2
	3, 3		3, 3
VII	2, 2	2 (long, median) 1, 1	2, 2
	2, 1, 2		2, 2
	2, 2		2, 1, 2 (minute) 1, 2
VIII	2, 2	2 (long, median) 1, 1	0
	2, 2		—

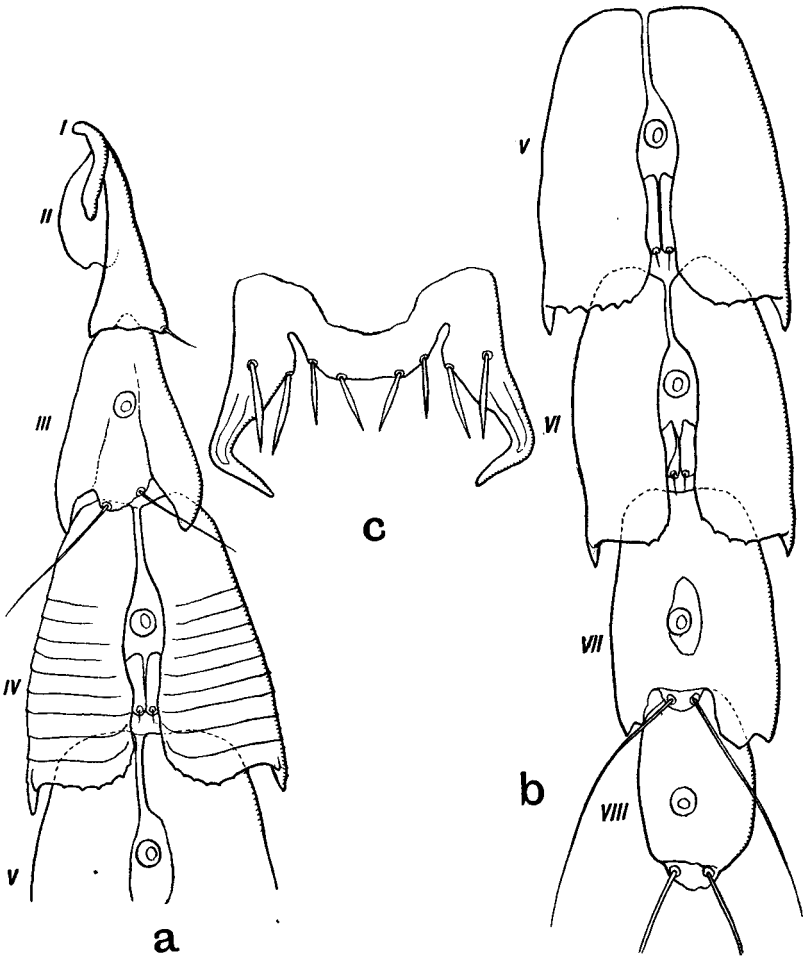


Fig. 1. *Ancistroplax crociduræ* n.g., n.sp.
 a, b Pleurites of ♀.
 c Tergite VI of ♂.

♂. Total length 1.06. Breadth (segment V) about 0.35 mm.
Head as in female.

ABDOMINAL CHAETOTAXY.

Segment	Tergite	Sternite
III	4, 4	3, 3
IV-V	2, 2	1, 1, 1
	3, 3, or 2, 1, 2	3, 3, or 3, 1, 3
VI	2, 2	} 1, 1
	2, 2 } or 2, 2, 2, 2	
VII	1, 1	} 3, 3
	1, 1	
VIII	2, 2 (in arc)	1, 1

The 7th pleurite bears medianly 2 bristles, 1 minute (dorsal), and 1 long (ventral). Pleural chaetotaxy otherwise as in female, except that the pair of bristles on the 3rd pleurite are rather short, the longer (ventral) one only just longer than the width of the flattened pleurite itself.

Holotype (♂), Allotype (♀) and Paratypes, a small series in British Museum. Host *Crocidura horsfieldi* (Tomes). Ceylon, 300 ft. W. W. A. Phillips Coll. 21. viii. 1928.

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