

Polyplax oxyrrhyncha Cummings, 1915 and
P. brachyrrhyncha Cummings, 1915 (Anoplura:
Polyplacidae) two species new to the fauna of
Greece, collected on ***Acomys minous*** Bate, 1906
(Rodentia: Muridae)

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Summary

Polyplax oxyrrhyncha Cummings, 1915 and ***P. brachyrrhyncha*** Cummings, 1915 (Anoplura: Polyplacidae) two species of lice were found in Crete. Both species were obtained from ***Acomys minous*** Bate, 1906 (Rodentia: Muridae). The species are new to the fauna of Greece and also are recorded for the first time from Europe. ***A. minous*** is a new host for these species.

Key words: Anoplura, ***Polyplax***, fauna, Crete, Greece

Anahtar sözcükler: Anoplura, ***Polyplax***, fauna, Girit, Yunanistan

Introduction

Thirteen specimens of ***Acomys minous***, were collected in Crete in September 1997. Two species of lice: ***Polyplax oxyrrhyncha*** Cummings, 1915 and ***P. brachyrrhyncha*** Cummings, 1915 (Anoplura: Polyplacidae) parasitizing ***A. minous*** Bate, 1906 (Rodentia: Muridae) were found. Hitherto data on lice found on rodents apply to about 24 species recorded from Europe (Smetana, 1960; Beaucournu, 1968; Cais, 1974).

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In Greece only *Polyplax antennata* Smetana, 1960, *P. spinulosa* (Burmeister, 1839) and *Hoplopleura captiosa* Johnson, 1960 were stated (Haitlinger, 1993). *Polyplax brachyrrhyncha* and *P. oxyrrhyncha* collected on *A. minous* are new to the fauna of Greece and are recorded for the first time from Europe.

Material and Methods

Specimens of *A. minous* were captured in traps. Seven specimens were collected in Piscopiano near Hersonissos, five in Koutoulofari near Hersonissos and one specimen in Argoutes near Sfakia in September 1997. Altogether nine specimens of *P. brachyrrhyncha* and one specimen of *P. oxyrrhyncha* were obtained. The material was preserved in 70% alcohol, cleared in 10% KOH and then mounted in Berlese's medium.

Results

Polyplacidae

Polyplax brachyrrhyncha Cummings, 1915

Distribution: Egypt, Benin, Ethiopia, Libya, Kenya, Togo, Uganda, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan (Cummings, 1915; Ferris, 1951; Johnson, 1960; Theodor & Costa, 1967; Kim & Emerson, 1971; Beaucournu et al., 1972; Durden et al., 1990; Durden, 1991; Durden & Musser, 1994).

Material examined: Crete: Koutoulofari, 2♂♂, 17.IX.1997; Piscopiano, 1♂, 9.IX.1997, 1♂, 2 nymphs, 14.IX.1997; Argoutes, 3 nymphs, 12.IX.1997.

The main host of *P. brachyrrhyncha* is *A. cahirinus* (= *A. dimidiatus* Crestzschmar) but the representatives of the species have been obtained also from *Acomys russatus* (Wagner), *A. percivali* Dollmann, *A. cineraceus* Fitzinger & Heuglin (= *A. hystrella*) and *A. wilsoni*. According to Durden & Musser (1994) *P. brachyrrhyncha* found in Kenya cannot be collected on *A. cahirinus* but rather on *A. kempfi* Dollmann or *A. ignitus* Dollmann. Probably one of them is also the host for this louse. New record for the fauna of Greece.

Polyplax oxyrrhyncha Cummings, 1915

Distribution: Egypt, Uganda, Kenya, Benin, Sudan, Ethiopia, Togo, Israel and Saudi Arabia (Cummings, 1915; Theodor & Costa, 1967; Beaucournu et al., 1972; Durden et al., 1990; Durden & Musser, 1994).

Material examined: Crete: Koutoulofari, 1♂, 14.IX.1997.

Data on hosts are most limited in comparison with *P. brachyrrhyncha*. *P. oxyrrhyncha* was obtained from *A. cahirinus*, *A. russatus*, *A. cineraceus*, *A.*

percivali and *A. wilsoni*. New record for the fauna of Greece.

Both species are widely distributed in Africa; they are known also from some localities in Asia. *A. minous* is a new host for these species.

Özet

Acomys minous Bate, 1906 (Rodentia: Muridae) üzerinden Yunanistan faunası için iki yeni kayıt, *Polyplax oxyrrhyncha* Cummings, 1915 ve *P. brachyrrhyncha* Cummings, 1915 (Anoplura: Polyplacidae)

Bu çalışmayla Girit'te *Acomys minous* Bate 1906 (Rodentia: Muridae) üzerinden elde edilen *Polyplax oxyrrhyncha* Cummings, 1915 ve *P. brachyrrhyncha* Cummings, 1915 (Anoplura: Polyplacidae) türlerinin Yunanistan faunası için yeni kayıt olduğu ve Avrupa'dan ilk kez bildirildiği ortaya konmuş olup, *A. minous* bu türler için yeni konukçudur.

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