

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW SPECIES OF *FELICOLA* (MALLOPHAGA:
TRICHODECTIDAE) FROM THE LIBERIAN
MONGOOSE (*LIBERIICTIS KUHNI*)

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Recently Mr. Duane Schlitter, Division of Mammals, National Museum of Natural History, was able to collect the first known complete specimens of the rare Liberian Mongoose, *Liberiictis kuhni* Hayman, the original description having been based only on skulls. Fortunately, he also obtained from this host a series of Mallophaga representing a new species. This new species is herewith described and illustrated.

Felicola liberiae new species

Figures 1-3

Holotype male: Total length, 1.42 mm (paratypes 1.40-1.43 mm). External morphology and chaetotaxy as shown in Figure 2. Genitalia as shown in Figure 3; genital sac small and not prominent.

Allotype female: Total length, 1.42 mm (paratypes 1.41-1.45 mm). External morphology and chaetotaxy as shown in Figure 1.

Discussion: *Felicola liberiae* is closest to *F. bedfordi* Hopkins in that the male genitalia, female genitalia, and external morphology are grossly similar for the two species. The male of *F. bedfordi* has the parameres of the genitalia much thinner than for *F. liberiae*, and the latter has a pair of setae on protuberances on abdominal tergite II, while *F. bedfordi* has six setae, arranged 2-1-1-2, in the same location. The female genital region of *F. bedfordi* has eight setae on the posterior vulval margin and four widely spaced setae on each gonopod; in *F. liberiae*, there are 12 setae on the posterior vulval margin and four closely grouped setae on each gonopod. Both sexes of *F. liberiae* have more abdominal tergal and sternal setae on segments III-IX and have three pairs of well-developed

abdominal spiracles, whereas *F. bedfordi* is apparently unique in having only a single pair of abdominal spiracles. *F. liberiae* averages 0.2 mm larger than *F. bedfordi*.

Type-host: *Liberiictis kuhni* Hayman.

Type-material: Holotype male, allotype female, and 24 paratypes collected off the type-host at Tar's Town, Grand Gedeh County, Liberia on 29 July 1971 by Duane Schlitter. The holotype and allotype will be deposited in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution.

Most mammalogists presently recognize 23 species of African Mongooses. Werneck (1948) reviewed the species of Mallophaga found on these hosts, and since then Emerson and Stojanovich (1966) and Emerson and Price (1967) each have added one new species. Mallophaga have not been recorded from: *Bdeogale jacksoni* (Thomas), *Herpestes naso* de Winton, *Crossarchus ansorgei* Thomas, *Crossarchus obscurus* F. Cuvier, *Mungos gambianus* (Ogilby), *Helogale hirtula* Thomas, and *Dologale dybowskii* (Pousargues). These mammals are rarely collected, so it may be years before their parasites are known.

The species of Mallophaga recorded to date from African Mongooses, subfamily Herpestinae, are:

Liberiictis kuhni Hayman

Felicola liberiae n. sp.

Suricata suricatta (Schreber)

Suricatoecus cooleyi (Bedford, 1929)

Paracynictis selousi (de Winton)

Felicola setosus Bedford, 1932

Bdeogale crassicauda Peters

Felicola bedfordi Hopkins, 1942

Bdeogale nigripes Pucheran

Felicola bedfordi Hopkins, 1942

Cynictis penicillata (G. Cuvier)

Felicola cynictis (Bedford, 1928)

Herpestes ichneumon (Linnaeus)

Felicola inaequalis (Piaget, 1880)

Herpestes auropunctatus (Hodgson)

Felicola rohani Werneck, 1956

Herpestes pulverulentus Wagner

Felicola calogaleus (Bedford, 1928)

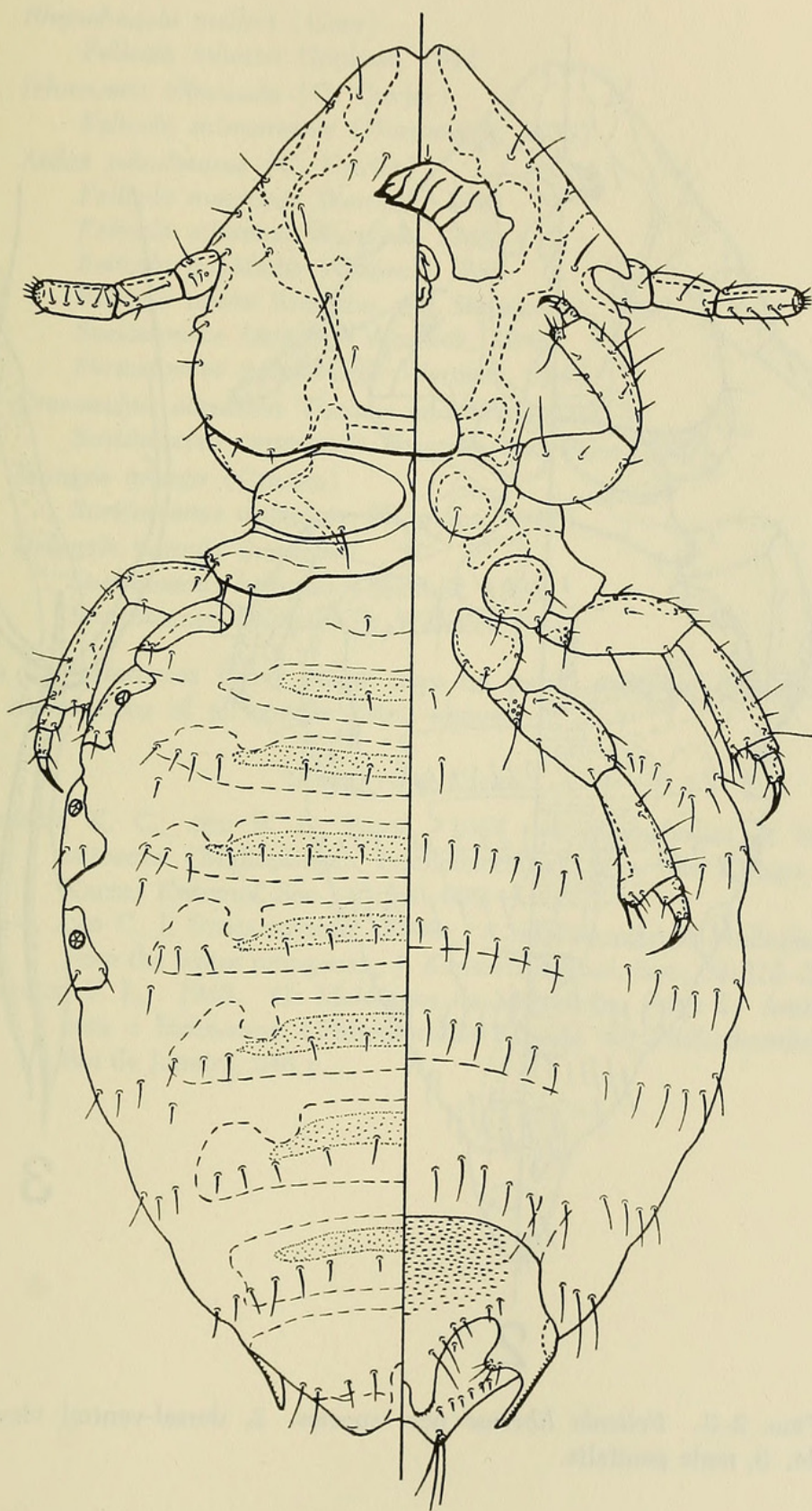
Herpestes sanguineus (Rüppell)

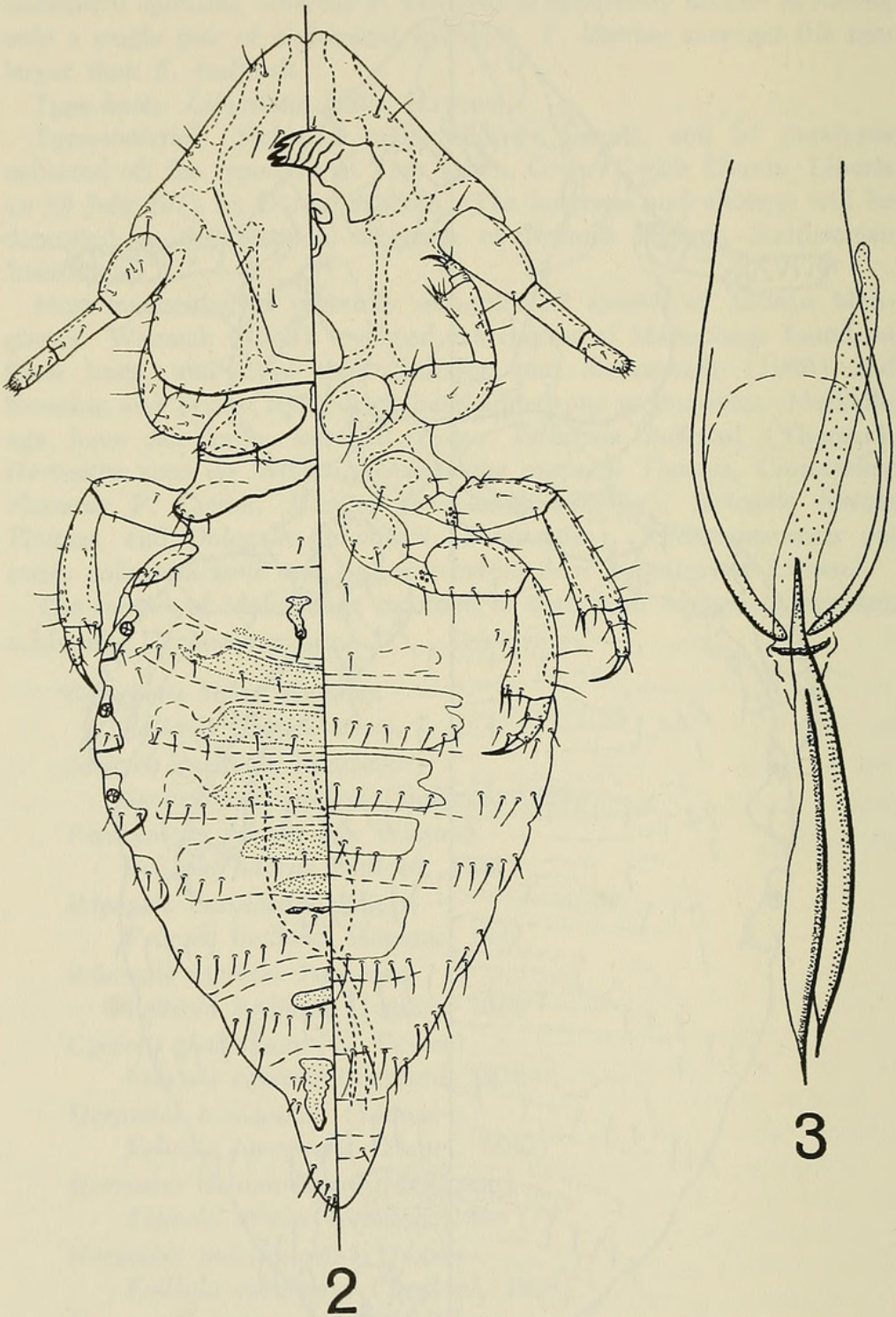
Felicola calogaleus (Bedford, 1928)

Suricatoecus mungos (Stobbe, 1913)

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FIG. 1. *Felicola liberiae* new species, dorsal-ventral view of female.





FIGS. 2-3. *Felicola liberiae* new species. 2, dorsal-ventral view of male. 3, male genitalia.

Rhynchogale melleri (Gray)

Felicola robertsi Hopkins, 1944

Ichneumia albicauda (G. Cuvier)

Felicola subrostratus (Burmeister, 1838)

Atilax paludinosus (G. Cuvier)

Felicola macrurus Werneck, 1948

Felicola minimus Werneck, 1948

Felicola pygidialis Werneck, 1948

Felicola rahmi Emerson and Stojanovich, 1966

Suricatoecus laticeps (Werneck, 1942)

Suricatoecus paralaticeps Werneck, 1948

Crossarchus alexandri Thomas and Wroughton

Suricatoecus congoensis Emerson and Price, 1967

Mungos mungo (Gmelin)

Suricatoecus decipiens (Hopkins, 1941)

Helogale parvula Sundevall

Suricatoecus helogale (Bedford, 1932)

Suricatoecus helogaloidis Werneck, 1948

In the references listed below may be found excellent illustrations and descriptions of all species listed above.

LITERATURE CITED

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- WERNECK, F. L. 1948. Os Malofagos de Mamiferos, Parte I: Amblycera e Ischnocera (Phloptoridae e parte de Trichodectidae). Rio de Janeiro, 243 p.



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