FELISTROPHORUS, A NEW GENUS OF MITES ON CATS IN PUERTO RICO (ACARINA: LISTROPHORIDAE)

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ABSTRACT—A new genus, Felistrophorus, is described for Lynxacarus radovskyi Tenorio. This mite, previously reported only from the Hawaiian Islands, is common on domestic cats (Felis catus) in Puerto Rico.

The cat fur mite recently described by Tenorio (1974) is here reported from Puerto Rico by a curious custom that all the Hawaiian species of Listrophoridae eventually get reported from Puerto Rico (Tamsitt and Fox, 1970). And it is interesting that I found the species common on cats in Puerto Rico at about the same time that it was found in Hawaii, October, 1972. It is for future research to show how widely the cat fur mite ranges and how it affects our beloved pets.

Felistrophorus Fox, NEW GENUS

Fig. 1–3

In both sexes prescapular and postscapular plates well developed but not completely separated from each other, joined at the midline by a sclerotized bridge. Postscapular plate with many tubercles arranged in transverse rows and posteriorly with a large pore. Tibiae I and II each with a long seta arising from a dorsal curved process. Male with lateral opisthosomal plates; Legs III and IV only slightly wider than Legs I and II; penis large, rod-like, anteriorly with a sclerite in the form of an inverted "U"; opisthosoma bilobed posteriorly, the lobes well defined. Female without opisthosomal plates; venter with a prominent sclerotized arch between Legs II and III.

Type-species: Lynxacarus radovskyi Tenorio.

Discussion

The peculiar bridge joining the prescapular and postscapular plates (Fig. 1–3) distinguishes Felistrophorus from Lynxacarus, and so do other features. In L. morlani Radford, the type-species of Lynxacarus, the prescapular and postscapular plates are completely separated according to illustrations in Dubinina (1971) and Fain and Hyland (1974). The male of L. morlani lacks lateral opisthosomal plates, has greatly expanded posterior legs, and its penal sclerite is in the form of an inverted "Y"; but the male of Felistrophorus radovskyi has lateral opisthosomal plates, normal or slightly enlarged posterior legs, and its penal sclerite is in the form of an inverted "U".

242
Fig. 1–3. *Felistrophorus* radovskyi (Tenorio) male. 1, dorso-lateral view. 2, detail of sclerotized bridge between prescapular and postscapular plates. 3, prescapular and postscapular plates.

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References


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