

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF
SIPHONAPTERA FROM S. AMERICA

— BY THE —

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Ceratopsylla wolffsohni, spec. nov.

HEAD.—The anterior part of the head is shorter, and the second frontal flap slenderer, than in *C. insignis*. The head in other respects is similar to the head of that species.

THORAX.—The pronotal como consists of from twenty-seven to twenty-nine teeth. The mesonotum has two slender bristle-like teeth on each side before the apex. On the metanotum there are laterally at the edge two short strongly chitinised teeth. Above these the segment is sinuate, so that the bristles of the subapical series become apical, resembling a comb as in *insignis*. The epimerum of the metathorax has two or three proximal hairs, a longer hair behind the stigma, another still longer placed farther down, and two more at the hinder edge.

ABDOMEN.—The first abdominal tergite resembles the metanotum in structure. The dorsal apical bristles, however, are still more tooth-like. On the other tergites the long bristles remain normal in position and length. The fourth, fifth and sixth tergites have only two small hairs in front of the row of bristles. The seventh tergite bears on each side one long apical bristle, which is situated on a cone, and has on each side of it a very small hair.

The sternites of the fourth, fifth and sixth segments have in the *male* one hair and in the *female* four hairs on each side; the sternite of the seventh segment, however, bears a few more hairs in addition to these in both sexes.

LEGS.—The legs of this insect resemble those of *C. insignis*.

MODIFIED SEGMENTS.—The eighth tergite of the *male* is strongly rounded-dilated anad, and bears a patch of bristles at the apex. At the upper edge of the dilated portion of the tergite there is a row of short hairs, while the oblique ventral edge is minutely serrate. The eighth sternite is small and gradually widened anad, bearing at the apical edge a row of bristles placed closely together. Above this sternite there are two pieces of chitin, densely clothed with long fine hairs, being brush-like in appearance. These brushes represent apparently the ninth sternite. The clasper is produced into a somewhat elliptical process, which bears at the end two long bristles. The movable finger is not longer than this process, but much broader, being triangular, with the ventral edge shortest and the hinder edge longest. The finger has no long hairs, and is, in optical section, dorsal of the process of the clasper.

The eighth tergite of the *female* is similar to that of *C. insignis*, but some of the hairs are absent.

Length 2.1 mm.

We have received a very large series of this flea from William Foster, taken near Sapucay, Paraguay (*type*), from various hosts—*Myotis nigricans*, *M. albescens*, etc., etc. Mr. J. A. Wolffsohn, in whose honour this species is named, also forwarded us two *female* specimens taken from *Vespertilio nigricans* at Valparaiso, Chili

