

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW SPECIES OF *PARAFELICOLA*
(MALLOPHAGA: TRICHODECTIDAE) FROM
THE SMALL-SPOTTED GENET

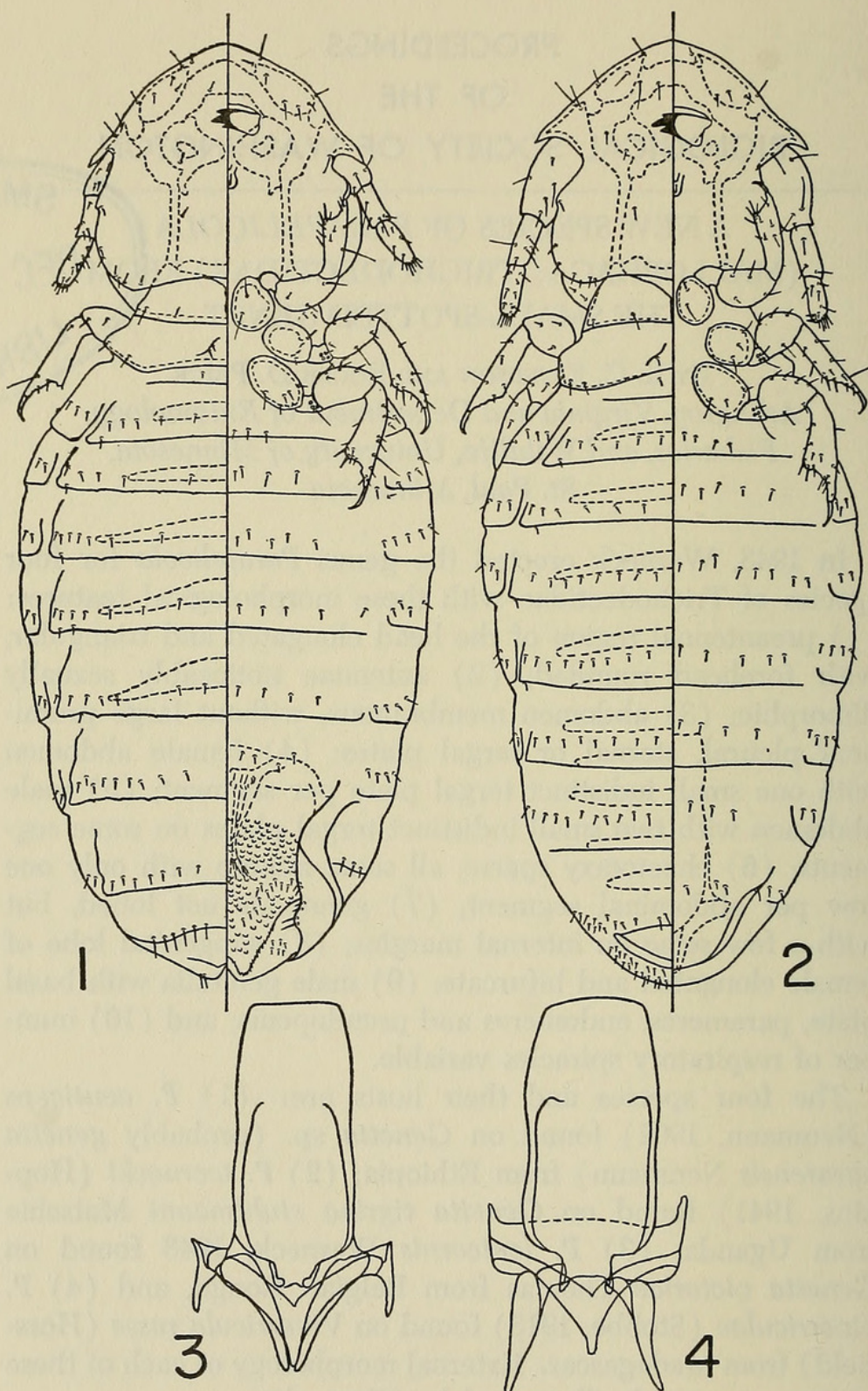
BY K. C. EMERSON AND ROGER D. PRICE

Arlington, Virginia and Department of Entomology,
Fisheries, and Wildlife, University of Minnesota,
St. Paul, Minnesota

In 1948, Werneck erected the genus *Parafelicola* for four species of Trichodectidae with these morphological features: (1) preantennal region of the head elongated and triangular, with forehead rounded; (2) antennae noticeably sexually dimorphic; (3) abdomen membranous, without large prominent pleural, sternal or tergal plates; (4) female abdomen with one small indistinct tergal plate per segment; (5) male abdomen with two small indistinct tergal plates on some segments; (6) chaetotaxy sparse, all setae minute with only one row per abdominal segment; (7) gonopods not lobed, but with a few setae on internal margins; (8) subgenital lobe of female elongated and bifurcate; (9) male genitalia with basal plate, parameres, endomeres and pseudopenis; and (10) number of respiratory spiracles variable.

The four species and their hosts are: (1) *P. acuticeps* (Neumann, 1902) found on *Genetta* sp. (probably *genetta hararensis* Neumann) from Ethiopia; (2) *P. wernecki* (Hopkins, 1941) found on *Genetta tigrina stuhlmanni* Matschie from Uganda; (3) *P. lenicornis* Werneck, 1948 found on *Genetta victoriae* Thomas from Belgian Congo; and (4) *P. viverriculae* (Stobbe, 1913) found on *Viverricula rasse* (Horsfield) from Madagascar. External morphology of each of these species was amply illustrated by Werneck.

Recently an excellent series of another species was sent to the authors for study. This species, which is new, is herewith described and illustrated.



FIGS. 1-4 *Parafelicola africanus*, new species. 1, dorsal-ventral view of female. 2, dorsal-ventral view of male. 3, male genitalia in normal position. 4, male genitalia in extended position.

Parafelicola africanus, new species

Holotype male: Total length, 1.17 mm. External morphology and chaetotaxy as shown in Fig. 2. Genitalia, less sac, when contained entirely within the abdomen as shown in Fig. 3. Genitalia, less sac, when extended outside the abdomen as shown in Fig. 4. Genital sac large and with numerous small serrations.

Allotype female: Total length, 1.16 mm. External morphology and chaetotaxy as shown in Fig. 1. Internal chamber of vulva prominent.

Discussion: *P. africanus* is without noticeable respiratory spiracles, a feature shared only with *P. acuticeps*. It can be separated from that species by: (1) the lack of two tergal plates on abdominal segments II–IV in the male; (2) more dense abdominal chaetotaxy; (3) the prominent internal vulva chamber of the female; (4) the female subgenital lobe which has a different shape and which is without serrations along the outer margins; (5) significantly smaller size in both sexes; and (6) a different male genitalia. The male genitalia differs greatly from that of *P. viverriculae*, but is of the same type as that of *P. acuticeps*, *P. wernecki*, and *P. lenicornis*. In each of these latter named species, the parameres are noticeably thicker than those of *P. africanus*.

Type host: *Genetta genetta senegalensis* (Fischer).

Type material: Holotype male, allotype female, and 23 paratypes collected off the type host at Gelbel Elba, Egypt on 11 March 1954 by Harry Hoogstraal and M. N. Kaiser. The holotype, allotype and paratypes will be deposited in the U. S. National Museum. Paratypes will be sent to collections of the British Museum (Natural History), Chicago Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, University of California (Berkeley) and University of Minnesota.

LITERATURE CITED

- WERNECK, F. L. 1948. Os Malofagos de mamiferos. Parte 1: Amblycera e Ischnocera (Phloptoridae e parte de Trichodectidae). Rio de Janeiro. 243 pp.



Emerson, K. C. and Price, Roger D. 1966. "A new species of *Parafelicola* (Mallophaga: Trichodectidae) from the small-spotted genet." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 79, 231–233.

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