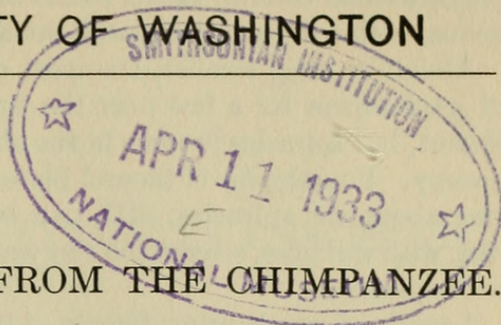


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A NEW SUCKING LOUSE FROM THE CHIMPANZEE.

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This short note includes a description of a new subgenus of the genus *Pediculus* Linnaeus and a new species of that genus which is made the type of the proposed new subgenus. The genus *Pediculus* occurs, as far as known up to the present, on the different races of man, certain of the apes, and the spider monkeys. The species here described is the tenth of the genus to come from a host other than man.

Paenipediculus, new subgenus.

This subgenus has the characters of *Pediculus* except for the following: First pair of legs distinctly longer than the others. Cephalothorax decidedly squarish in shape and poorly sclerotized. Abdomen slender; first three pairs of pleural plates absent; fourth pair protruding, but poorly sclerotized except immediately surrounding the spiracle.

Type species.—*Pediculus* (*Paenipediculus*) *simiae*, new species.

This subgenus is decidedly different from the subgenus *Parapediculus* Ewing (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. 68, Art 19, 1926, p. 7) in all of the characters here given except for the protruding nature of the fourth pleural plates.

Pediculus (*Paenipediculus*) *simiae*, new species.

Head rather slender for the genus. Eyes distinct, conspicuous, each with a strongly curved cornea and a jet black pigment spot. Antenna about equal to the head in length; first segment the broadest, as broad as long; second segment the longest, slightly longer than third; third slightly longer than fourth; fourth slightly longer than fifth, which is the narrowest segment of all.

Cephalothorax fully as broad as long, decidedly squarish in shape; anterior margin strongly incurved. Cephalothoracic spiracles in their usual position, but small, inconspicuous. Legs rather slender; first pair decidedly longer than the others. Femur of first pair strongly arched near

the base; tibia slightly longer than the femur and with the usual spur-bearing tibial thumb; tarsus somewhat weaker than in other species of the genus, with a decidedly reduced tarsal pad.

Abdomen long, slender, the most distinctive part of the species; devoid of setae except for a few near the tip. Pleural plates one, two, and three absent, but spiracles present in the abdominal segments these plates should occupy. Fourth pair of pleural plates protruding, with a heavy sclerotized ring about the spiracles; fifth pair of pleural plates protruding, tubercle-like, with spiracles, sclerotized ring scarcely evident; sixth pair low, rounded, with spiracles.

Length of egg-bearing female, 2.95 mm.; width (just in front of first pair of pleural plates), 0.70 mm.

Type host.—Chimpanzee, *Pan.* sp.

Type locality.—Taken from host in London Zoological Gardens.

Type (Holotype).—U. S. N. M. No. 44327.

Description based on one egg-bearing female. Two other specimens, both immature, at hand. They show the general characteristics of the adult to a marked degree, but have smaller bodies in proportion to the legs. All material was taken from a young chimpanzee in the London Zoological Gardens, and sent to the writer by Dr. V. B. Wigglesworth of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Fahrenholz (1910) has described a *Pediculus* species (*P. schäffi*) from a chimpanzee, but his species is, according to his description, as long as *Pediculus capitis* and somewhat broader in the abdomen. He also states that the head, as well as the antennae and legs, is longer than in *P. capitis*. *Pediculus schäffi* is in fact decidedly of the typical form of the genus. The present species is of a type entirely different from that of any species previously described. In its slender body and in the absence of some of the pleural plates it resembles *Pedicinus* species; yet its large size, the nature of the antennae, the shape of the head and the tarsal armature of the legs show clearly that it is a *Pediculus*. Since the specimens came from an animal in a zoological garden, there is little assurance that the chimpanzee is their natural host. The species is of a type, however, not found on monkeys or lemurs.



Ewing, H. E. 1932. "A new sucking louse from the chimpanzee." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 45, 117–118.

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