A NEW SPECIES OF *SOMAPHANTUS* (MENOPONIDAE: MALLOPHAGA) FROM THAILAND

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The genus *Somaphantus* Paine, 1914 is a little known genus previously represented by two species: *S. lusius* Paine, 1914 found on a guinea fowl, *Numida meleagris macroceras* Erlanger; and *S. spencei* Emerson, 1958 found on the Indo-Chinese Green Peafowl, *Pavo muticus imperator* Delacour. *S. spencei* is known to live inside the quills of the primaries. The elongated body form with short abdominal sternal and tergal plates for both *S. lusius* and the species herewith described as new are characters which cause us to believe that quills of primaries represent the normal habitat for all species of the genus. These characters are also typical of species of *Longimenopon* and certain species of *Actornithophilus* which live in this habitat in the petrels and shorebirds, respectively. Very few specimens of *Somaphantus* and *Longimenopon* have been collected, probably because few collectors suspect lice are to be found in this habitat.

Somaphantus kingi, new species

MALE HOLOTYPE: External morphology and chaetotaxy as shown in Fig. 1. Total length 1.76 mm as presently mounted. Head almost as long as wide; lateral margins with slight indentation dorsally and excavation ventrally. Terminal segment of antenna narrow and elongate, without evidence of division. Gular region without prominent plate.

Pronotum broadly rounded posteriorly; metathorax longer than abdominal segments. Legs short, third femora ventrally with a brush of small setae. Tibiae II and III each with one inner posterior stout seta.

Abdomen elongate, tubular-shaped and weakly sclerotized. Tergites II to VIII with two rows of setae, first and last tergites without anterior row. Sternites II to VIII with two rows of setae, sternite I with only single seta. Sternites III and IV additionally with brushes of small setae in the posterolateral angles, those of III more prominent than those of IV.

Genitalia as shown in Fig. 2 are distinctive.

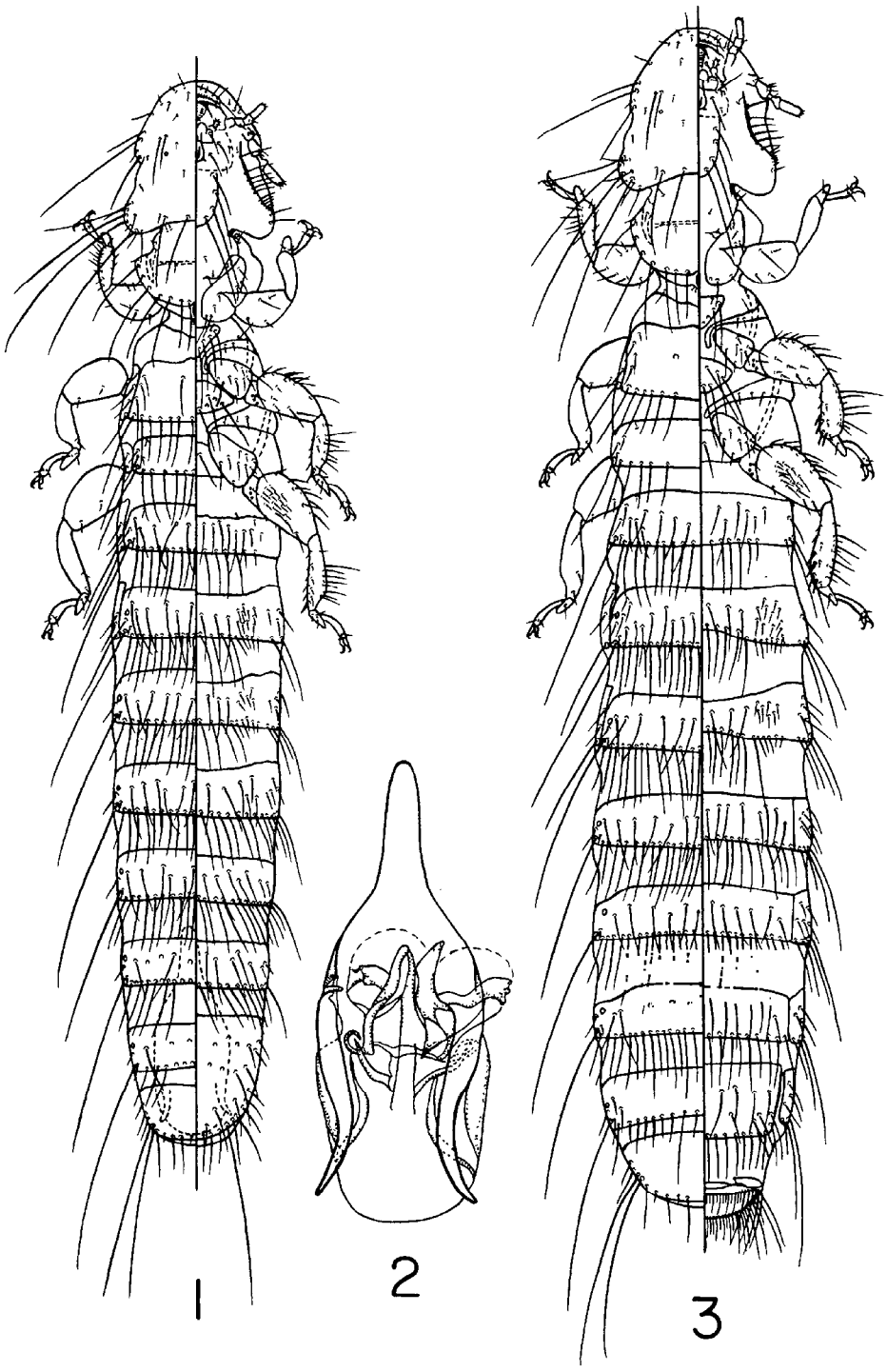
FEMALE ALLOTYPE: External morphology and chaetotaxy as shown in Fig. 3. Total length 1.94 mm as presently mounted. Head and thorax as in the male, except tibiae II and III each with four inner posterior stout setae instead of one.

Abdomen longer and wider than in the male. Except for ventral terminalia and absence of anterior row of setae on tergite VIII, chaetotaxy and shape of segments essentially as in the male. Prominent anal fringe.

TYPE HOST: *Arborophila charltonii* (Eyton).

TYPE MATERIAL: Holotype and allotype collected 15 March 1966 at Khao Soi Dao Tai, Chanthaburi, Thailand by Ben King; deposited in the U. S. National Museum.

DISCUSSION: The male genitalia of each species in the genus are distinctive. The species can also be separated by the following key.



Somaphantus kingi, new species. Fig. 1. Dorsal-ventral view of male. Fig. 2. Male genitalia. Fig. 3. Dorsal-ventral view of female.

1. Majority of abdominal tergites with two rows of medium-length setae. 2

Majority of abdominal tergites with more than two rows of medium-length setae. ..... *S. lusius.*

2. A median anterior pair of setae on the metanotum, and without anterior setae on abdominal tergite I. ..... *S. kingi.*

Three rows of setae on the metanotum, and two rows of setae on abdominal tergite I. ..... *S. spencei.*

Literature Cited

Emerson, K. C. 1958. Two new species of Mallophaga from gallinaceous birds. Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., I: 102-106.

Paine, J. H. 1914. A new genus of Mallophaga from African Guinea Fowl in the United States National Museum. Smith. Misc. Coll. 61: 1-4.