



12-31-1956

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Recommended Citation

Igonoffo, Carlo M. (1956) "Notes on louse-host associations of the Great Salt Lake Desert with keys to the lice," *Great Basin Naturalist*: Vol. 16 : No. 1 , Article 3.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/gbn/vol16/iss1/3>

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NOTES ON LOUSE-HOST ASSOCIATIONS OF THE GREAT SALT LAKE DESERT WITH KEYS TO THE LICE

Carlo M. Igonoffo¹

INTRODUCTION

This study is concerned with the sucking lice of mammals, exclusive of bats, found in the southern arm of the Great Salt Lake Desert in northwestern Utah. The region includes the western parts of Box Elder, Tooele and Juab Counties. Contained in the keys are nineteen species of lice representing eight genera, which include those collected in this area as well as those known to occur on the same hosts in adjacent areas. These lice occur on twenty-two of the thirty-four species of mammals found in the study area. There are twenty-four genera of mammals of which the rodents account for approximately two-thirds of the total species. The numerical associations of lice and mammals are listed in Table I.

TABLE I
Numerical associations of the lice and mammals.

Host Order	Number of Mammal Species	Number of Louse Species
Lagomorpha	3	1
Rodentia	22	16
Carnivora	7	1
Artiodactyla	2	1

Table I indicates that the majority of the lice in this area have been found on the rodents. Of seven species of carnivores only one is known to carry lice.

The lice associated with the rodents are restricted to the families Cricetidae, Sciuridae, Muridae, and Heteromyidae. In these families the greatest number of louse associations per species of host represented occurred in the family Muridae (1 host, 3 lice). The Sciuridae, Cricetidae, and Heteromyidae follow in the order listed. These numerical associations are presented in Table II.

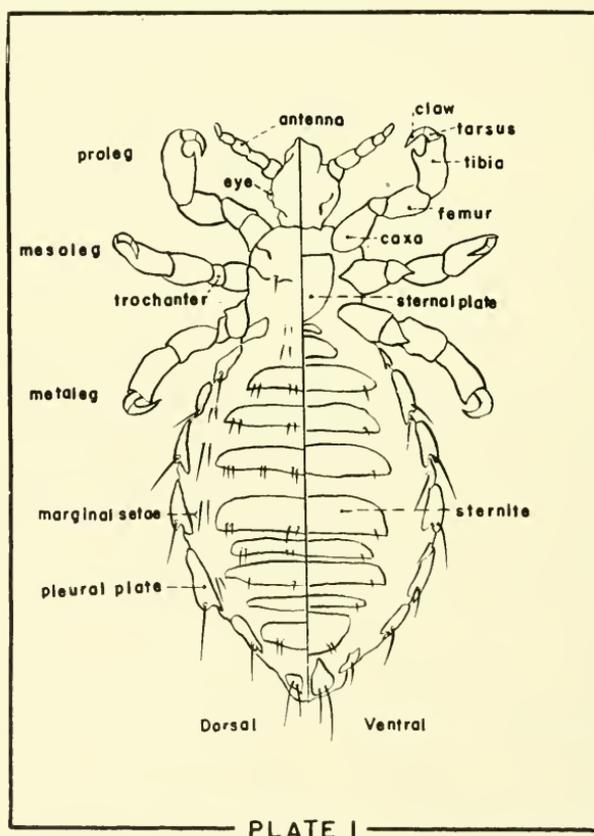
TABLE II
Louse associations of the families of rodents of the
Great Salt Lake Desert.

Rodent		Louse Species	Rodent-lice Associations
Family	Species		
Muridae	1	3	3
Sciuridae	5	6	10
Cricetidae	8	8	11
Heteromyidae	6	3	6

¹ University of Utah Ecological Research, Dugway, Utah.

The following sources were utilized in preparing the key and louse-host list: Ferris (1916, 1919-1935, 1951); Kellogg and Ferris (1915); Hopkins (1942); Durrant (1952).

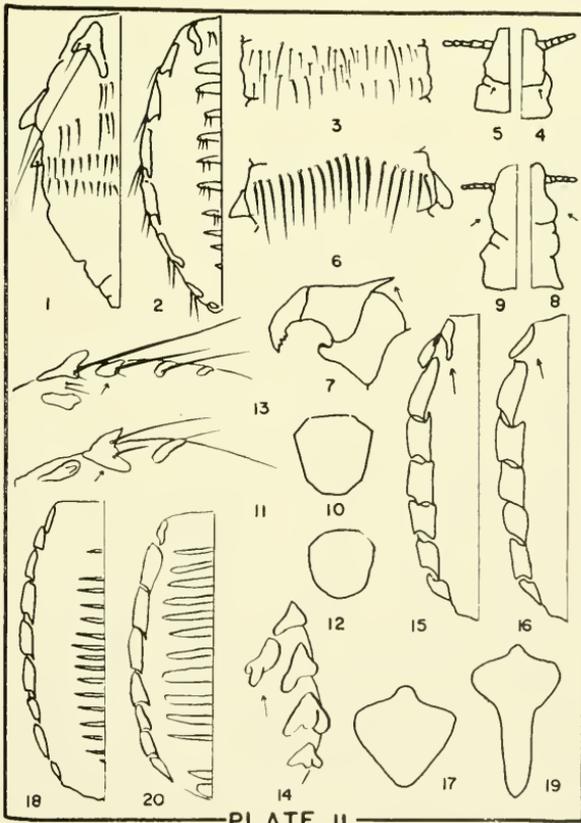
The figures of each plate are arranged so that the top or left of each plate points cephalad. In some cases a small arrow designates the particular characteristics under consideration. A notation such as "II-1" in the key refers to figure one as depicted on plate II. In the keys and louse-host list, the presence of one asterisk after the louse species indicates an association which is known from other areas, but has not yet been found to occur in the Great Salt Lake Desert. Two asterisks denotes the recovery of the species from the host in the southern part of the Great Salt Lake Desert.



The study was conducted at Ecological Research, University of Utah, Dugway, Utah. Acknowledgements are made to the many workers of this group who aided in trapping and brushing the mammals as well as in the preliminary preparation of the specimens.

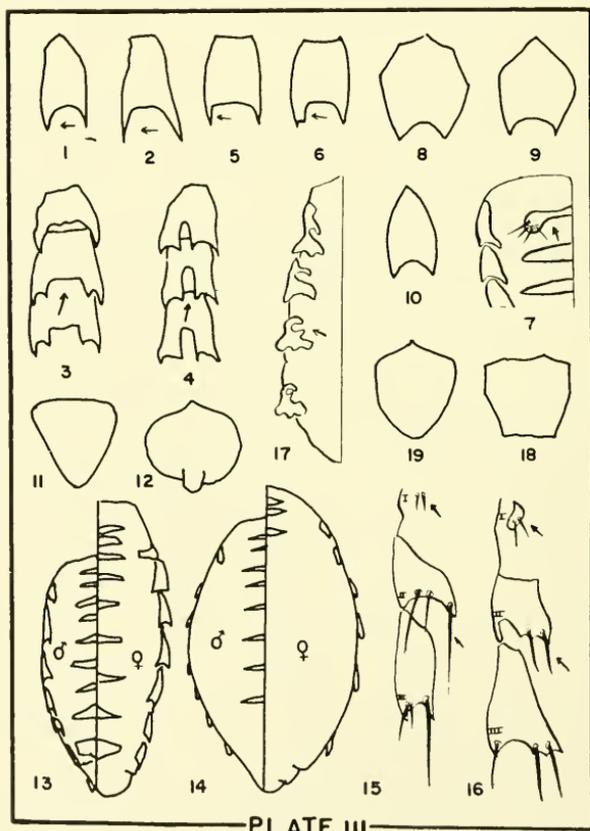
ILLUSTRATED KEY TO THE SUCKING LICE KNOWN OR SUSPECTED TO OCCUR IN THE GREAT SALT LAKE DESERT

- 1. Pleural plates of second to seventh abdominal segments absent or reduced; abdomen membranous except in the genital region. (Fig. II-1) 2
- 2. Pleural plates of second to seventh abdominal segments present and well developed (Fig. II-2), except in *Neohaematopinus laeviusculus* where they are modified as hook-shaped sclerites (Fig. III-17); abdomen not membranous 6
- 2. Abdominal segments with more than one row of setae per segment (Fig. II-3); occiput produced into thorax (Fig. II-4); occurring on coyotes, Genus **LINOGNATHUS**: one species setosus*
- Abdominal segments with one row of setae per segment (Fig. II-6); occiput not produced into thorax (Fig. II-5); not occurring on coyotes 3



- 3. Pleural plates distinctly present on the second to fourth abdominal segments (Fig. II-1); meso- and metatarsi

- projected into point at outer basal angle (Fig. II-7);
occurs on rodents, Genus FAHRENHOLZIA 5
Pleural plates absent or when present reduced to minute
plates; tarsi not as described above; occurs on the Lago-
morpha and Artiodactyla 4
4. Head with distinct, rounded, posterior antennal angle (Fig.
II-8); occurs on the black-tailed jackrabbit and the Audu-
bon cottontail, Genus HAEMODIPSUS: one species setoni**
Head without distinct, rounded, posterior antennal angle
(Fig. II-9); occurs on the mule deer, Genus SOLENOP-
TES: one species ferrisi*
5. Sternal plate octagon-shaped (Fig. II-10); with definite
sides, pleural plate of the third segment of the largest
single abdominal sclerite (Fig. II-11); the shortest seta



of the paired setae on this plate one-fourth of the length
of the long seta; occurs on the little pocket mouse, Great
Basin pocket mouse and the Ord kangaroo rat pinnata**
Sternal plate oval-shaped without definite sides (Fig. II-
12); pleural plate of the third segment not the largest

- single sclerite (Fig. II-13); the shortest seta of the paired setae of this plate less than one-sixth the length of the long seta; occurs on the Great Basin pocket mouse and the long-tailed pocket mouse *reducta***
6. Second abdominal sternite with a posterior-projecting process (Fig. II-14); ventral abdominal segments with one row of setae per segment (Fig. II-6); head without a deeply indented post-antennal angle (Fig. II-9); occurring primarily on ground squirrels, Genus *ENDERLEINEL-LUS* 7
- Second abdominal sternite without a posterior-projecting process; ventral abdominal segments with one or more rows of setae per segment (Fig. II-3); head with a definite indented post-antennal angle (Fig. II-8) 8
7. Two to four setae on the second abdominal tergite; setae short and stout, generally few in number; fourth abdominal tergite on males with two to six long setae in the median group; occurs on the rock squirrel *osborni**
- Nine to eighteen setae on the second abdominal tergite; setae long and slender; males without long setae in the median group; occurs on the Townsend and antelope ground squirrels *suturalis***
8. First pair of abdominal pleurites located on the dorsum (Fig. II-15); Genus *HOPLOPLEURA* 9
- First pair of abdominal pleurites located laterally (Fig. II-16) 12
9. Sternal plate shieldlike (Fig. II-17); length of posterior point less than one-half the greatest width of the plate; tergites and pleurites separated by more than three times the width of the widest tergite (Fig. II-18) 10
- Sternal plate arrow-head shape (Fig. II-19); posterior point more than one-half the greatest width of the plate; tergites and pleurites separated by less than three times the width of the tergite (Fig. II-20) 11
10. Lobes of the pleural plates of the fourth abdominal segment at least one-third the length of the plate on which they are borne (Fig. III-2); occurs on the least chipmunk and the northern grasshopper mouse *arboricola***
- Lobes of the pleural plates of the fourth abdominal segment less than one-third the length of the plate on which they are borne (Fig. III-1); occurs on the Townsend ground squirrel and the cliff chipmunk *erratica***
11. Dorsal marginal setae present (Fig. I); notch of the third pleural plate less than twice as long as wide (Fig. III-3); occurs on the long-tailed meadow mouse and the house mouse *acanthopus**
- Dorsal marginal setae absent; notch of the third pleural plate at least twice as long as wide (Fig. III-4); occurs on the long-tailed pocket mouse, white-footed deer mouse, northern grasshopper mouse, pinyon mouse, canyon mouse, house mouse, and the western harvest mouse *hesperomydis-reithrodontomydis* complex 11a
- 11a. The males of *hesperomydis* and *reithrodontomydis* appear to be identical. The females may be separated as follows: Dorsal lobe of pleurite seven definitely acute apically (Fig. III-5) *hesperomydis***
- Dorsal lobe of pleurite seven broad and apically truncate (Fig. III-6); occurs on western harvest mouse *reithrodontomydis***
12. Ventral abdominal segments with at least eight setae per row; second abdominal tergite posteriorly emarginate in

- the males (Fig. III-7); sternal plate emarginate posteriorly (Figs. III-8, 9, 10); or with a posterior projecting process (Fig. III-2); or triangle-shaped; occurs on ground squirrels and wood rats, Genus NEOHAEMATOPINUS 13
- Ventral abdominal segments with five to seven setae per row; second abdominal tergite not posteriorly emarginate in the males; sternal plate not emarginate posteriorly or with a posterior projecting process (Figs. II-11, 18, 19); occurs on mice, Genus POLYPLAX 17
13. Sternal plate posteriorly emarginate (Fig. III-8, 9, 10) 14
- Sternal plate rounded or pointed posteriorly, never emarginate (Fig. III-12) 16
14. Abdominal tergites present in males and females, often reduced in the females (Fig. III-13); occurs on ground squirrels 15
- Abdominal tergites reduced or absent in females and reduced in the males (Fig. III-14); occurs on the bushy-tailed wood rat inornatus*
15. Pleural plate one absent, represented by a setal group (Fig. III-15); second pleural plate triangle-shaped with three setae evenly spaced along the edge of the pleurite; at least one seta of this group longer than the greatest length of the plate; occurs on the antelope ground squirrel citellinus**
- Pleural plate one small, but definitely present (Fig. III-16); second pleural plate rectangle-shaped with paired setae located on the inner third of pleurites; setae no longer than the greatest length of the plate; occurs on the Townsend ground squirrel pacificus*
16. Sternal plate hexagonal in shape with posterior projection (Fig. III-12); pleural plates modified as hook-shaped sclerites (Fig. III-17); occurs on the rock squirrel laeviusculus
- Sternal plate triangular in shape with the angles rounded; posterior margin truncate, projection absent; pleurites not reduced to hook-shaped sclerites; occurs on the desert wood rat probably new species**
17. Sternal plate pear-shaped with the anterior corners rounded; occurs on the house mouse serrata*
- Sternal plate not pear-shaped 18
18. Sternal plate concave anteriorly, posterior edge truncate (Fig. III-18); occurs on the white-footed deer mouse auricularis**
- Sternal plate not concave anteriorly; posterior edge not truncate (Fig. III-19); occurs on the long-tailed meadow mouse abscisa*

HOST KEY TO THE SUCKING LICE KNOWN OR SUSPECTED
TO OCCUR ON MAMMALS, EXCLUSIVE OF BATS,
OF THE GREAT SALT LAKE DESERT

Occurs on:

1. Rodents 4
- Other mammals 2
2. Rabbits: Audubon cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*) and the
black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*)
Haemodipsus setoni Ewing**
- Other mammals 3

3. Mule deer (<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>)	
Coyote (<i>Canis latrans</i>)	<i>Solenoptes ferrisi</i> Fahrenholzia*
	<i>Linognathus setosus</i> Olfers*
4. Squirrels and chipmunks (family <i>Sciuridae</i>)	5
Mice and rats (families <i>Heteromyidae</i> , <i>Muridae</i> and <i>Cricetidae</i>) ..	8
5. Chipmunks: cliff chipmunk (<i>Eutamias dorsalis</i>) and the least chipmunk (<i>Eutamias minimus</i>)	
<i>Hoplopleura arboricola</i> Kellogg and Ferris**	
Rock and ground squirrels	6
6. Rock squirrel (<i>Citellus variegatus</i>)	
<i>Neohaematopinus laeviusculus</i> Grube*	
<i>Enderleinellus osborni</i> Kellogg and Ferris*	
Ground squirrels	7
7. Antelope ground squirrel (<i>Citellus leucurus</i>)	
<i>Neohaematopinus citellinus</i> Ferris**	
<i>Enderleinellus suturalis</i> Osborn**	
Townsend ground squirrel (<i>Citellus townsendii</i>)	
<i>Neohaematopinus pacificus</i> Kellogg and Ferris**	
<i>Neohaematopinus laeviusculus</i> Grube**	
<i>Hoplopleura arboricola</i> Kellogg and Ferris*	
<i>Enderleinellus suturalis</i> Osborn*	
8. Heteromyidae (pocket mice and kangaroo rats)	9
Muridae and Cricetidae	11
9. Pocket mice (<i>Perognathus</i> spp.)	10
Ord kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys ordii</i>)	
<i>Fahrenholzia pinnata</i> Kellogg and Ferris**	
10. Great Basin pocket mouse (<i>Perognathus parvus</i>)	
<i>Fahrenholzia pinnata</i> Kellogg and Ferris**	
<i>Fahrenholzia reducta</i> Ferris**	
Little pocket mouse (<i>Perognathus longimembris</i>)	
<i>Fahrenholzia pinnata</i> Kellogg and Ferris**	
Long-tailed pocket mouse (<i>Perognathus formosus</i>)	
<i>Fahrenholzia reducta</i> Kellogg and Ferris**	
11. House mouse (<i>Mus musculus</i>)	
<i>Hoplopleura hesperomydis</i> Osborn*	
<i>Hoplopleura acanthopus</i> Burmeister*	
<i>Polyplax serrata</i> Burmeister*	
Other rats and mice	12
12. Wood rats (<i>Neotoma</i> spp.)	13
Other rodents	14
13. Desert wood rat (<i>Neotoma lepida</i>)	
<i>Neohaematopinus</i> sp.**	
Bushy-tailed wood rat (<i>Neotoma cinerea</i>)	
<i>Neohaematopinus inornatus</i> Kellogg and Ferris*	
14. White-footed mice (<i>Peromyscus</i> spp.)	15
Other mice (grasshopper, harvest and meadow mice)	16
15. Canyon mouse (<i>Peromyscus crinitus</i>)	
<i>Hoplopleura hesperomydis</i> Osborn**	
Deer mouse (<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>)	
<i>Hoplopleura hesperomydis</i> Osborn**	
<i>Polyplax auricularis</i> Kellogg and Ferris**	
Pinyon mouse (<i>Peromyscus truei</i>)	
<i>Hoplopleura hesperomydis</i> Osborn**	
16. Long-tailed meadow mouse (<i>Microtus longicaudus</i>)	
<i>Hoplopleura acanthopus</i> Burmeister*	
<i>Polyplax abscisa</i> Fahrenholzia*	
Northern grasshopper mouse (<i>Onychomys leucogaster</i>)	
<i>Hoplopleura hesperomydis</i> Osborn**	
<i>Hoplopleura arboricola</i> Kellogg and Ferris**	
Western harvest mouse (<i>Reithrodontomys megalotis</i>)	
<i>Hoplopleura reithrodontomydis</i> Ferris**	

HOST-LICE ASSOCIATIONS OF MAMMALS,²
EXCLUSIVE OF BATS, OF THE GREAT SALT LAKE DESERT

- Canis latrans* (coyote)
 Linognathus setosus Olfers*
- Citellus leucurus* (antelope ground squirrel)
 Neohaematopinus citellinus Ferris**
 Enderleinellus suturalis Osborn**
- Citellus townsendii* (Townsend ground squirrel)
 Neohaematopinus pacificus Kellogg and Ferris*
 Neohaematopinus laeviusculus Grube**
 Hoplopleura arboricola Kellogg and Ferris*
 Enderleinellus suturalis Osborn*
- Citellus variegatus* (rock squirrel)
 Neohaematopinus laeviusculus Grube*
 Enderleinellus osborni Kellogg and Ferris*
- Dipodomys ordii* (Ord kangaroo rat)
 Fahrenholzia pinnata Kellogg and Ferris**
- Eutamias dorsalis* (cliff chipmunk)
 Hoplopleura arboricola Kellogg and Ferris**
- Eutamias minimus* (least chipmunk)
 Hoplopleura arboricola Kellogg and Ferris**
- Lepus californicus* (black-tailed jackrabbit)
 Haemodipsus setoni Ewing**
- Microtus longicaudus* (long-tailed meadow mouse)
 Hoplopleura acanthopus Burmeister*
 Polyplax abscisa Fahrenholzia*
- Mus musculus* (house mouse)
 Hoplopleura hesperomydis Osborn*
 Hoplopleura acanthopus Burmeister*
 Polyplax serrata Burmeister*
- Neotoma lepida* (desert wood rat)
 Neohaematopinus sp.**
- Neotoma cinerea* (bushy-tailed wood rat)
 Neohaematopinus inornatus Kellogg and Ferris*
- Odocoileus hemionus* (mule deer)
 Solenoptes ferrisi Fahrenholzia*
- Onychomys leucogaster* (northern grasshopper mouse)
 Hoplopleura hesperomydis Osborn**
 Hoplopleura arboricola Kellogg and Ferris**
- Perognathus formosus* (long-tailed pocket mouse)
 Hoplopleura hesperomydis Osborn**
 Fahrenholzia reducta Ferris**
- Perognathus longimembris* (little pocket mouse)
 Fahrenholzia pinnata Kellogg and Ferris**
- Perognathus parvus* (Great Basin pocket mouse)
 Fahrenholzia pinnata Kellogg and Ferris**
 Fahrenholzia reducta Ferris**
- Peromyscus crinitus* (canyon mouse)
 Hoplopleura hesperomydis Osborn**
- Peromyscus maniculatus* (deer mouse)
 Hoplopleura hesperomydis Osborn**
 Polyplax auricularis Kellogg and Ferris**

2. Arranged alphabetically according to genus

- Peromyscus truei* (pinyon mouse)
Hoplopleura hesperomydis Osborn**
Reithrodontomys megalotis (western harvest mouse)
Hoplopleura reithrodontomydis Ferris**
Sylvilagus audubonii (Audubon cottontail)
Haemodipsus setoni Ewing**

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