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WOODRAT NEST FLEA *ANOMIOPSYLLUS AMPHIBOLUS*  
IN SOUTHEASTERN OREGON

Harold J. Egoscue<sup>1</sup>

ABSTRACT.— The flea *Anomiopsyllus amphibolus* is reported from southeastern Oregon, a range extension of about 475 km from the nearest reported localities in northwestern Utah.

To my knowledge fleas in the genus *Anomiopsyllus* have not been previously recorded in Oregon (Hubbard 1947, Barnes, Tipton and Wildie 1977), although one or more kinds of woodrats (*Neotoma*) that normally host these interesting nest fleas are found throughout the state. This note reports the presence of *Anomiopsyllus amphibolus* Wagner, 1936, in southeastern Oregon, a range extension of about 475 km from the nearest localities mapped by Barnes et al. (1977) in northwestern Utah.

My first specimen, a female (H.J.E. No.6641), was collected 25 November 1968 from a bushy-tailed woodrat, *Neotoma cinerea alticola*, captured 11.2 km south of Crane, Harney County, elevation 1290 m. A male *A. amphibolus* (H.J.E. No.8026) was collected 21 April 1980 from a deer-mouse, *Peromyscus maniculatus* ssp. caught less than 4 m from the woodrat den where the 1968 host was trapped.

This locality is near the northeastern limits of the Great Basin in Oregon, in arid wasteland characterized by low annual precipitation and vegetation dominated by desert shrubs. Traps were set along a steep, dry talus- and boulder-strewn hillside that included several prominent lava outcrops. Spiny hopsage, *Grayia spinosa*, is the dominant plant. The area is treeless, the nearest scat-

tered stands of juniper being some miles distant. Other small mammals trapped here included desert woodrats, *Neotoma lepida nevadensis*, canyon mice, *Peromyscus crinitus crinitus*, and Great Basin pocket mice, *Perognathus parvus parvus*. Other fleas in the subfamily Anomiopsyllinae found here were *Stenistomera hubbardi*, *S. alpina*, and *Callistopsyllus terinus terinus*.

The sympatric occurrence at this place of the bushy-tailed woodrat and desert woodrat was unexpected. Zonally, the habitat seemed ideal for the latter species but too low and arid for *N. cinerea*, although Finley (1958) found that lack of suitable den sites more than type of vegetation limited the distribution of bushy-tailed woodrats in Colorado.

Field work in 1980 was done under Scientific Taking Permit No. 063 courtesy of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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