

flea

NEWS

57



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FLEA NEWS is a biannual newsletter devoted to matters involving insects belonging to the order Siphonaptera (fleas) and related subjects. It is compiled and distributed free of charge by Robert E. Lewis <relewis@iastate.edu> in cooperation with the Department of Entomology at Iowa State University, Ames, IA, and a grant in aid from **Wellmark International**.

Flea News is mainly bibliographic in nature. Many of the sources are abstracting journals and title pages and not all citations have been checked for completeness or accuracy. Additional information will be provided upon written or e-mail request. Further, recipients are urged to contribute items of interest to the profession for inclusion herein.

This newsletter is now available in electronic format. The preferred method of accessing the electronic version is through the WorldWide Web at the following Universal Resource Locator: <<http://www.public.iastate.edu/~entomology/FleaNews/AboutFleaNews.html>> or through either Gopher or anonymous FTP: <<gopher.ent.iastate.edu>> in the "Publications" directory. Electronic versions are available for No. **46**, July, 1993; No. **47**, December, 1993; No. **48**, July, 1994;

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The **Fifth International Symposium on Ectoparasites of Pets** will be held in Fort Collins, Colorado, on April 11-13, 1999. This is a biennial event bringing together some of the world's foremost researchers on pests affecting companion animals (cats, dogs, horses). Paper submissions are solicited on appropriate topics.

February 8, 1999 is the deadline for submission of paper titles and 250-word abstracts. The 10 minute papers will be presented on topics involving ectoparasites of pets. Abstracts must be accompanied by a title, name of author(s), affiliations and addresses. Title and abstract may be submitted in hard copy or electronically in Word for Windows or WordPerfect.

All speakers will be requested to submit a formal paper at the meeting. These will be compiled into a bound proceedings and distributed to the participants.

February 17, 1999 is the cutoff for hotel reservations. Please call the University Park Holiday Inn at (970) 482 2626. Mention that you are with the "Ectoparasite Symposium". This is also the deadline for pre-registration. Registration prior to this date: Full Member \$100.00, Student \$50.00. After this date: Full Member \$150.00, Student \$75.00. Make checks or international money orders payable to Ann Donoghue - 5th ISEP and return check and registration form to her at her business address. A registration form for this Symposium may be found on page 676 of this issue

The symposium will begin at 1:00 pm on Sunday, April 11th. The welcoming mixer will run from 6-8:00 pm. Monday's sessions will be on dogs and cats. Monday evening is the banquet. Tuesday's session will meet from 8:00 am until noon and focus on pests of horses. This tentative schedule is subject to change depending on the the quantity and type of abstracts received.

Fort Collins is located on the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. Spring skiing before and after the meeting is only a 2-3 hour drive away at the major ski resorts. The Old Town district is beautifully restored, with many shops, restaurants and lovely

walks. Colorado State University is right next door. There are 8 microbreweries in town, live music, a dinner theater and the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.



MISCELLANEA

The following article concerning plague in prairie dogs in Texas is taken from the July-August issue of the Technical Information Bulletin of the Armed Forces Pest Management Board.

"In late April and early May of 1998, approximately 500 prairie dogs were captured from a site in southwest Hockley County, Texas, by an exotic animal dealer in the Texas panhandle. Five days after the last collection, 356 of the animals were shipped to a broker in another part of the state. A few deaths occurred 3-4 days post-arrival at that facility but were considered to be due to shipping stress. Seven days after arrival (12-17 days post-capture) a significant number of deaths [occurred] and continued for 3-4 days. Tetracycline and sulfamethazine were administered and about 75 of the animals survived.

"Cohorts retained by the dealer remained healthy, so a feed or environmental problem was suspected. Three of the dead prairie dogs arrived at the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) in Amarillo on May 15. Contaminants prevented bacteriological confirmation, but Gram staining and gross pathology resulted in the Texas Department of Health (TDH) Public Health Region 1 being notified of suspected plague on May 20. The CDC plague laboratory in Fort Collins, Colorado, confirmed plague by [fluorescent antibody] testing on May 22, 1998. Upon notification of the results, the broker immediately euthanized and incinerated all remaining prairie dogs. Since the cohorts in the panhandle remained unaffected, the dealer returned them to the capture site. A plague alert was issued to all appropriate health professionals in the area. Although the capture site apparently remains unaffected, die-off in other prairie dog towns in the vicinity has been detected since the incident.

Notification of oil companies operating in the area has been implemented.

"In spite of a stringent flea control program during and following capture, and a minimum 10-day post-capture isolation protocol for plague detection (on site or at the broker's facility), diseased prairie dogs had the potential [of being] shipped around the world. Based on the shipper's protocol, the animals in this incident could have been shipped 2 days prior to the occurrence of significant death losses, which would have exposed a myriad of people.

"This incident highlights the danger inherent in removing wild animals from their environment for sale as pets or research subjects, placing them in close contact with humans."



SIPHONAPTERA LITERATURE

Although it may not be obvious from the titles, citations included here pertain to fleas and the zoonoses associated with them. No particular effort has been made to search the medical and veterinary literature and the emphasis here is on the taxonomy, systematics and general biology of the order.

It should be understood that all Russian and Chinese citations listed here are in Russian or Chinese, although they may have summaries or abstracts in English or some other language. Additional information is available upon request (including e-mail) and recipients are urged to report citations of articles on Siphonaptera, particularly those published in rare sources or those in journals peripheral to the field of Entomology.

1995 (List 7)

Litvinova, E. A. Description of a new species of the genus *Spilotylenchus* (Nematoda, Tylenchida) a parasite of the flea *Neopsylla bidentatiformis* (Insecta: Siphonaptera). *Zoologicheskii Zhurnal* 74(6): 39-43.

MA Li-ming Some physiological and environmental factors influencing the feeding activities of *Neopsylla bidentatiformis* and *Citellophilus tesquorum sungaris*. *Acta Parasit-*

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Mei, M. Siphonaptera. In Fratelli Palombe (Ed.). *Gili Insetti di Roma*. pp. 238-239.

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Hastriter, M. W. *Chiastopsylla tetratracha* (Siphonaptera: Chimaeropsyllidae), a new species from Cape Province, South Africa. *Journal of African Zoology* 112(2): 97-102.

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Kwiecinski, G. G. *Marmota monax*. *Mammalian Species* 591: 1-8.

McGill, J. S. & J. H. Hobson. Multi-centre clinical evaluation of an herbal skin gel [Phytogel] for veterinary practice - a questionnaire survey. *Veterinary Times* 28(1): 20-21.

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Peck, S. B., J. Heraty, B. Landry & B. J. Sinclair. Introduced insect fauna of an oceanic archipelago: The Galápagos Islands, Ecuador. *American Entomologist* 44(4): 218-237.

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Wilson, K., P. Eady & A. J. del Nevo. Origin of an insular population of the wood mouse based on parasitological evidence. Journal of Wildlife Diseases. 34(1): 150-154.

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