**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; No. 49, December, 1994; No. 50, June, 1995; No. 51, December, 1995; No. 52, June, 1996, No. 53, December, 1996; No. 54, June, 1997, 55, January, 1998 and this number.

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**MISCELLANEA**

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**Dr. Glen Chilton** of the Department of Biology, St. Mary's College, Calgary, Alberta, T2S 2N5, Canada, recently called my attention to the Birds of North America accounts published jointly by the American Ornithologists' Union and the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. To date 320 accounts have been published and the following titles include information on fleas:

7. Northern Mockingbird
11. Tree Swallow
12. House Sparrow
14. Violet-green Swallow
15. Blue Grouse
42. Northern Saw-whet Owl
48. European Starling
50. Cassin's Auklet
59. Glaucous-winged Gull
61. Burrowing Owl
64. Harris' Sparrow
114. Gyrfalcon
124. Herring Gull
137. Neotropical Cormorant
142. Veery
149. Cliff Swallow
157. Crested Myna
176. Bobolink
182. Northern Waterthrush
183. White-crowned Sparrow
184. Red-winged Blackbird
228. Florida Scrub-jay
230. Le Conte's Thrasher
257. Manx Shearwater
268. Black Phoebe
282. Pelagic Cormorant
286. Sky Lark
287. Purple Martin
288. Chestnut-collared Longspur
316. Northern Wheatear

More information on this series is available from the Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1195

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Those of you familiar with the literature on the Siphonaptera are likely aware of the only major treatment of the Siphonaptera of South America to be published in English. I am referring to "A classification of the Siphonaptera of South America" by Dr. Phyllis Truth Johnson, as Memoir Number 5 of the Entomological Society of Washington (1957). Dr. Johnson recently wrote that she has a number of copies of this monograph that she is willing to give to interested parties on a first come, first serve basis. She may be reached at 4721 East Harbor Drive, Friday Harbor, WA 98250

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Shortly after sending out Flea News 55 last January I received a communication from Dr. Liu Jun, No. 2 Shi Xi Road, Huhhot, 010031, China containing an English abstract of "The Plague of Inner Mongolia" by Liu Jiyou and other authors. The book contains sections dealing with The Epidemiology and Natural Foci of Plague; Bacteriology and Serology of Plague; Hosts and Vectors; and the History of and Future Prospects for Plague Control. This publication is available from Dr. Liu at the address given above. Its price, including postage, is $50.00 American.

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Also released in December of 1997 were volumes 11A, B and C (Insecta) of the series "Microscopic Anatomy of Invertebrates" edited by F.W. Harrison and published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. These volumes contain scattered references to fleas where appropriate, are sold only as a set, and cost $675.00 American. Considering that the volumes are so current, consist of 1520 pages and cover almost every imaginable aspect of insect anatomy, the price may not be as outrageous as it first appears.

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While on the subject of publications, the 1997 winter issue of the American Entomologist, 43(4): 227-245, contains an interesting article entitled "Historical Natural History: Insects and the Civil War" by Gary L. Miller. It includes sections on Flies, 'Gallinippers' (mosquitoes), Lice, Bees and Wasps and Food-infesting insects, as well as fleas, and the following excerpts are reprinted from the flea section with permission from the Entomological Society of America.
"The fact that microbes caused more deaths than hostile fire is well known to the student of the American Civil War. However, much overlooked is the insect role in the transmission of disease-causing organisms. Maladies such as dysentary and malaria have an important or critical component and accounted for tremendous suffering during the war. Surrounded by insects such as flies, lice, and fleas, both Union and Confederate soldiers often found themselves battling more than each other. This account reveals the influence of insects on soldiering during the Civil War...

"Overcrowding and poor sanitation during the war provided excellent conditions for rodent populations and their fleas. In addition, camp mascots (e.g. dogs and cats) and humans could harbor their own infestations. Some soldiers were besieged by fleas. In 1862, a Mississippian returning from furlough complained of being preferred for flea attack. 'They hav most Eate me up since I came Back her,' he related. 'I was fresh to them so they pitched in' (Wiley, 1994).

"The abundance of fleas in some camps resulted in some amazing stories, and one Confederate believed fleas could provide additional entertainment. 'I think there are 50 on my person at this time,' he wrote to his wife, 'but you know they never did trouble me.' He then added, 'May I have thought of you often while mashing fleas; if you were here you could have your own sport' (Wiley, 1994). Another Rebel said, 'they [fleas] collect in companies at knight fall for the purpos of carrying us off... though like the Yankees they are repulsed by desperate efforts & great patience' (Wiley, 1994)."

"An even more imaginative comrade contended,
A great alarm was heard in the upper part of the regiment; hastening to the spot I enquired what was the matter. A man was asleep in his tent and a couple of fleas had taken holt on him and carried him half way to the river intending drownding [him] while asleep for he had sworn vengence against them (Wiley, 1994)...

"As with lice, fleas also became integrated into soldiering activities. The lowley flea even found its way into a stanza of A. Pender's Goober Peas:

I think my song has lasted almost long enough,
The subject's interesting, but the rhymes are mighty rough,
I wish this war was over, when free from rags and fleas,
We'd kiss our wives and sweethearts and gobble goober peas!"

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**SIPHONAPTERA LITERATURE**

Since the Traub Memorial issue of the Journal of Medical Entomology was due some time in July, I decided to wait with this issue until I could include the papers in it dealing with fleas. The issue is very well done and much credit goes to Cluff Hopla and Lance Durden who co-edited this number of the Journal.

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.

1994 (List 8)

1995 (List 6)

Suntsov, V.V., Ly Thi Vi Huong & N. I. Suntsova. The role of wild small animals in the plague foci if Vietnam. Zoologicheskii Zhurnal 74(9): 119-127.

1996 (List 5)


1997 (List 3)


Giannetto, S., A. Virga & A. Iori. New records of Nosopsyllus (Nosopsyllus) barbarus (Jordan & Rothschild, 1912)


**GONG Z.-d. & FENG X.-g.** A new species of *Palaeopsylla* and a description of the male of *Palaeopsylla nushanensis* from Mt. Cangshan, Yunnan, China (Siphonaptera: Hystrichopsyllidae) Acta Zootaxonomica Sinica 22(2): 209-214.


**King, J.M.** Anemia caused by flea infestation in a cat. Veterinary Medicine 92(8): 692.


Tripet, F. & H. Richner. The coevolutionary potential of a 'generalist' parasite, the hen flea Ceratophyllum gallinae. Parasitology 115(4): 419-427.


1998 (List 1)


Bouchard, S. Chaerephon pumilus. Mammalian Species 574: 1-6.


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.

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**MAILING LIST CHANGES**

Prof. Pedro S. Castillo Carrillo
Universidad Nacional de Tumbes
Apartado Postal 108
Tumbes, PERU
<pcastillo@untumbes.edu.pe>

Mr. Paul Cooney
16351 Glenmore
Redford MI 48240

Dr. Vladimir Cerny
Zeleny pruh 41
147 00 Praha 4, Braník
CZECH REPUBLIC

Mr. L. R. Fiske
N-5102 Alversund
NORWAY

S. Giannetto
Cattedra di Parassitologia Veterinaria
University di Messina
Messina, ITALY

Prof. D. E. Jacobs
The Royal Veterinary College
North Mymms, Hatfield
Herts AL9 7TA, UK

Dr. Victor J. V. Parks
2233 Argentia Road, Suite 200 East Tower
Mississauga, ONTARIO L5N 2X7

Mr. Dylan W. Self
11871 St. Highway 129
Brilliant, AL 35548
<rdself@sonet.net>
Mr. Mark Spurlock
The Bob Martin Company
Wemberham Lane, Yatton,
Somerset BS49 4BS, UK

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**Flea News**
Department of Entomology
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011-3222 USA

Phone:   (515) 232 7714
Fax:     (515) 233 1851
E-mail: relewis@iastate.edu