

flea

NEWS

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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 in cooperation with the Department of Entomology at Iowa State University, Ames, IA.

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 professor for inclusion herein.

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Obituary

Lindolpho Rocha Guimarães

24-January 1908 • 7-November-1998

Lindolpho Guimarães was born in Itapira, São Paulo State, Brazil, and died at the age of 90 of natural causes at his home in São Paulo City.

Mr. Guimarães was self-taught in the study of ectoparasites. Upon completing his secondary education he entered the Department of Parasitology of the Faculty of Medicine of São Paulo as a laboratory technician. From 1939 to 1946 he served as an assistant entomologist in the Department of Zoology of the Agricultural Secretariat of São Paulo State. He was promoted to Biologist in this department in 1946, and was its Director from 1959 to 1962. Following the incorporation of the Department of Zoology by the University of São Paulo in 1964 he remained fully active in its Museum of Zoology until a ripe old

age, re-cently collaboration on a book on Brazilian fleas to be published shortly.

Lindolpho was a specialist in ectoparasitic insects, mainly Siphonaptera and Mallophaga of birds. He authored or co-authored 78 publications, 17 of which dealt with fleas. One of these in particular (1972) represents a considerable effort, dealing with the systematics and interrelationships among 22,563 flea specimens and 44,214 wild hosts, captured from 82 counties during an extensive survey of endemic plague in northeastern Brazil, extending from Ceará to Bahia State and occupying an area of 240,000 square kilometers. He described new species in several different groups of ectoparasites including fleas, biting and sucking lice, nycteribiid and streblid flies. As a flea taxonomist, he organized one of the most representative Latin American collections of fleas now deposited in the Museum of Zoology at the University of São Paulo.

During his professional career as a pulicologist, Lindolpho described 13 new species and 2 new genera of fleas. He also erected a new sub-genus and redescribed another species; *Polygenis occidentalis* (Cunha, 1914). Seven ectoparasite taxa bear his name, including a genus of nycteribiid fly and three species of biting lice, and one each of a mite, a streblid and a flea:

Nycteribiidae: *Guimaraesia* Schuurmans-Stekloven Jr, 1956.

Mallophaga: *Gliricola lindolphoi* Werneck, 1942;

Microtenia guimaraesi Carriker, 1945;
Columbicola guimaraesi Tendeiro, 1962.

Acari Laelaptidae: *Atricholaelaps guimaraesi* Fonseca, 1957.

Streblidae: *Mastoptera guimaraesi* Wenzel, 1966.

Siphonaptera: *Polygenis guimaraesi* Linardi, 1978.

His demise is a great loss to South American Entomology. A list of flea taxa that he authored or co-authored follows.

Genera & Subgenera

Rothschildopsylla Guimarães, 1953

Neotroposylla Linardi & Guimarães, 1993

(*Neopolygenis*) Linardi & Guimarães, 1993

Species & Subspecies

Rhopalopsyllus truncatus Guimarães, 1936 = *Polygenis atopus* (J. & R., 1922)

Rhopalopsyllus australis tupiniquinus Guimarães, 1940

Rhopalopsyllus garberi Guimarães, 1940

Polygenis versuta Guimarães, 1942 = *Polygenis adelus* (J. & R., 1923)

Tritopsylla sinuata Guimarães, 1945 = *Adoratopsylla* (*Tritopsylla*) *sinuata*

Polygenis atra Guimarães, 1947 = *Polygenis rimatus* (Jordan, 1932)

Polygenis dentei Guimarães, 1947

Polygenis axius proximus Guimarães, 1948

Polygenis lakoi Guimarães, 1948 = *Hechtiella lakoi*

Polygenis tripopsis Guimarães, 1948

Adoratopsylla antiquorum ronnai Guimarães, 1954 = *Adoratopsylla* (*Adoratopsylla*) *antiquorum ronnai*

Polygenis pessoai Guimarães, 1956 = *Polygenis axius pessoai*

Hechtiella lopesi Guimarães & Linardi, 1993

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Information included here about the late Lindolpho Guimarães was provided by Prof. Pedro M. Linardi, Departamento de Parasitologia ICB, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Caixa Postal 486, 30.161-970 - Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

MISCELLANEA

PET MEDICINE

The truth about cats and dogs

The fleas were just the beginning. When readers John and Theresa Carr of Folsom, Calif., sought relief for their dogs Foster and Sidney and their cat Maitai, they discovered another irritant: The very same flea treatment costs four times as much for a cat as for a dog.

The Carrs' vet prescribed *Advantage*, the nation's best-selling topical flea treatment. A four-month supply - four tubes per pet - cost about \$26 for the cat, \$28 per dog. But the cat product comes in smaller tubes. Its unit price, per milliliter, is four times that of the dog variety. "Why charge so much for the cat product?" John Carr asks. "It's just packaging."

Advantage, sold only through veterinarians, is made by Bayer, the aspirin company. It is "priced according to the results it accomplishes," said John Payne, a company vice president, "not by the milliliter." Cats need less than dogs, and smaller dogs less than larger ones (there are four sizes for dogs). Could a cat owner save money by having the vet prescribe the largest tube and simply rationing? Likely not. *Advantage* is registered with the Environmental Protection Agency, and federal law prohibits using such a pesticide "in a manner inconsistent with its labeling." Bayer could sell a kit of tubes labeled for cats *and* dogs, and have owners of larger pets simply apply several tubes at once. Of course, the company wouldn't make as much profit.

This law doesn't apply to animal drugs taken internally or to vaccines. These are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, which gives vets wide discretion to use a drug for a different species or condition than originally intended, says Dr. James

Richards, director of the Cornell Feline Center, at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine. "Off-label use of [those] drugs is common in veterinary medicine," he says.

On the whole, cats are cheaper to maintain than dogs - about \$390 a year for a cat, on average, compared with about \$550 for a dog, says the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association, which counts food, vet visits, grooming, toys and sundries.

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The following colleagues have provided reprints or other literature dealing with fleas during the past year. Jean Claude Beaucournu, Dusan Cyprich, Bob George, Albertina Iori, Marcella Lareschi, Omar Larson, Pedro Linardi, Maurizio Mei and Paddy Sleeman.

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.

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