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Mites Found in the Fur of a Small Sample of Heteromyid Rodents from Oregon

Abstract

The most abundant external parasitic mites on *Dipodomys ordii* from Oregon were *Geomylicbus texensis*, *Androlaelaps fabrenholzi*, and *Hirstionyssus incomptis*; on *Perognathus parvus* they were *A. fabrenholzi* and *Geomylicbus* n. sp. New host records during this study were *Haemogamasus reidi* and *H. onychomydis* on *D. ordii* and *H. onychomydis* and *Geomylicbus* n. sp. on *P. parvus*. Parasites not previously reported from Oregon are *Geomylicbus texensis*, *Hirstionyssus incomptis*, *H. billi*, *Haemogamasus onychomydis*, *Ischyropoda armatus*, and *I. furmani*.

Introduction

The present paper is part of our continuing studies on parasitic mites of Oregon mammals, and concerns hosts for which there is relatively little parasite information available. Mites were collected by brushing and picking them off the fur. More smaller mites would undoubtedly have been found by a more exacting examination of the fur with the aid of a dissecting microscope.

Results and Discussion

Four species of heteromyid rodents were examined for mites during the present study, one chisel-toothed kangaroo rat, *Dipodomys microps* (which had no mites), 36 Ord's kangaroo rats, *D. ordii*, one dark kangaroo mouse, *Microdipodops megacephalus*, and 34 Great Basin pocket mice, *Perognathus parvus*.

Dipodomys ordii. Twenty-one of the 36 kangaroo rats examined had mites (Table 1). The most abundant mites were *Geomylicbus texensis*, *Androlaelaps fabrenholzi*, and *Hirstionyssus incomptis*. There are several reports of the latter two species on this host, whereas *G. texensis* was recently described from this host and from *D. merriami* from Texas and from *Perognathus penicillatus* from Arizona (Fain *et al.*, 1978). *Haemogamasus reidi* and *H. onychomydis* are new host records.

Perognathus parvus. Fifteen of the 34 pocket mice examined had mites (other than chiggers) (Table 1). The most abundant mites were *Androlaelaps fabrenholzi*, *Proctolaelaps* sp., and *Geomylicbus* n. sp. The only parasitic species not previously reported from

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P. parvus are *Haemogamasus onychomydis* and *Geomylichus* n. sp. (currently being described by Fain and Whitaker).

TABLE 1. Mites found in the fur of heteromyid rodents from Oregon.

	<i>Dipodomys ordii</i> (n=36)				<i>Perognathus parvus</i> (n=34)			
	Hosts Infested		Parasites		Hosts Infested		Parasites	
	No.	%	No.	Av./host	No.	%	No.	Av./host
LAELAPIDAE								
<i>Audrolaelaps fahrenheiti</i>	10	27.8	36	1.0	11	32.4	28	0.8
<i>Hirstionyssus incomptis</i>	9	25.0	21	0.6				
<i>Ischyropoda armatus</i>	4	11.1	7	0.2	4	11.8	4	0.1
<i>Ischyropoda furmani</i>	1	2.8	4	0.1				
<i>Hirstionyssus triacanthis</i>	1	2.8	2	0.1				
<i>Haemogamasus reidi</i>	1	2.8	2	0.1				
<i>Hirstionyssus utahensis</i>	1	2.8	2	0.1				
<i>Haemogamasus onychomydis</i>	2	5.6	2	0.1	1	2.9	1	0.03
<i>Hirstionyssus hilli</i>	1	2.8	1	0.03	4	11.8	5	0.1
LISTROPHORIDAE								
<i>Geomylichus texensis</i>	8	22.2	69	1.9				
<i>Geomylichus</i> n. sp.					3	8.8	9	0.3
Other Mites								
<i>Klemania</i> sp.	1	2.8	8	0.2	3	8.8	4	0.1
<i>Macrocheles</i> sp.	1	2.8	2	0.1				
<i>Proctolaelaps</i> sp.	2	5.6	2	0.1	1	2.9	12	0.4
<i>Euryparasitus</i> sp.	1	2.8	2	0.1				
<i>Bakerdania</i> sp.					1	2.9	6	0.2

Microdipodops megacephalus. On the one individual examined, three immature listrophorid mites were found. Since the only previous mite reported from this species of which we are aware (Whitaker and Wilson, 1974; Fain and Hyland, 1974) is *Ischyropoda armatus*, extra effort should be made to examine this species for listrophorids and for other external parasites.

Mites not previously reported from Oregon are *Geomylichus texensis*, *Hirstionyssus incomptis*, *H. hilli*, *Haemogamasus onychomydis*, *Ischyropoda armatus*, and *I. furmani*.

Klemania, *Proctolaelaps*, *Euryparasitus*, and *Bakerdania* are apparently not parasitic, although they are found fairly often on small mammals. *Macrocheles* is probably phoretic.

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