

# NOTES TO THE MORPHOLOGY OF THE SPECIES *POLYPLAX RECLINATA* (NITZSCH) (ANOPLURA)

Findings of lice of the genus *Polyplax* from the shrew-like mammals are very rare. In our territory only one specimen was found on *Crocidura suaveolens* Pall. in the surroundings of Lanžhot (ROSICKÝ B., Věst. čs. zool. spol. 15: 115–124, 1951; SMETANA A., Ac. rer. natur. Mus. nat. Slov., Bratislava 11: 30–33, 1965). While trapping small terrestrial mammals in the surroundings of Pliešovce (district of Zvolen) on June 23, 1966 a specimen of *Crocidura leucodon* Herm. was caught, from which 3 females of *Polyplax reclinata* (Nitzsch, 1864) were collected. Due to the fact that an independent subspecies *P. reclinata leucodontis* Jancke, 1932 was described from this host and was later regarded as the synonym of the nominate species by some authors who had revised it, and because of the rare finding of the collected specimens I consider it expedient to present a morphological characterization of some of their features.

Total measurements of females were  $1.16 \times 0.47$ ,  $1.10 \times 0.45$  and  $0.99 \times 0.43$  mm. The head measured  $179 \times 134$ – $136 \mu$ , thorax was 175 to  $177 \mu$  wide. The body chaetotaxy as in Table. The presence of one long and one short seta on each paratergal plate IV and V is considered to be characteristic for the subspecies *leucodontis*, while plate VI bears only two short setae (JANCKE, Die Tierwelt Deutschlands, 35 Teil: 43–78, 1938, Fig. 21c). I did not find any similar arrangement in our specimens, but I observed a shortening of the longer seta on paratergal plate VI, which in its length sometimes slightly differs from the shorter seta. The length of this shorter seta is evidently the smallest on IV and the greatest on VI paratergal plate. Due to the fact that the chaetotaxy of paratergal

Table 1. Body chaetotaxy of ♀♀ *Polyplax reclinata* from *Crocidura leucodon*

	Dorsally			Ventrally		
I		2			—	
II		2			3	
		5–7			2	
III		5–6		1	3	1
					6	
IV		5		1	4–5	1
		6			6	
V		5–6		1	4–6	1
		6			5–6	
VI		4–6		1	5–8	1
		6			6	
VII	1	4–5	1	1	4–6	1
		4			4–6	
VIII		4			—	

plates, notably of plate VI of *P. reclinata* is subject to great variability (JOHNSON P. T., U. S. Dept. Agric., Techn. Bull. No. 1211: 1–146, 1960), the ascertained relative measurements of paratergal setae IV–VI may be considered to be within the variability of the species. Our specimens, however, differ in some points from the description of *P. reclinata* given in the literature. They are distinctly bigger and wider than those described by JANCKE, but the thorax is somewhat narrower. The chaetotaxy is also somewhat poorer than that given by SMETANA (1965). Only more abundant comparative material would show whether these are constant features.

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