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CERATOPHYLLUS ROSSITTENSIS DAMPF, 1912 (APHANIPTERA) IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

There have been very few data on the distribution of *Ceratophyllus rossittensis* until recently (LIU CHI-YING, Am. Ent. Soc. Amer. 28: 121—125, 1935, PEUS F., Parasitenk. 11: 371—391, 1939, idem, Z. Morph. Ökol. Tiere 37: 426—454, 1941, idem, Dtsch. Ent. Z. 14: 81—108, 1967, ROTHSCHILD M. and BOSSANYI I., Entomologist 83: 59, 1947, SMIT F. G. A. M., Insecta Helvetica, Catalogus I. Siphonaptera, 1966, SKURATOWICZ W., Klucze do oznaczania owadów Polski, XXIX, 1967). The crows *Corvus corone corone* L., 1758 and *Corvus corone cornix* L., 1758 have been described as hosts for this flea. However, this flea species has been also found in the nests of *Tyto alba* (Scop., 1769) and *Accipiter nisus* (L., 1758) (SMIT F. G. A. M., Handbooks for Identification of British Insects, 1957).

I collected *C. rossittensis* in two nests of *Corvus corone cornix* on September 29, 1967 at Horná Mičiná, district of Banská Bystrica (2 ♂♂ and 3 ♀♀). After a number of investigations (ROSICKÝ B., Fauna ČSR — Blechy — Aphaniptera, Praha 1957, JURÍK M., Disserta-

tion paper, 1967) which yielded negative results, these findings were the first demonstration of the occurrence of this flea species in Czechoslovakia. On the whole, the specimens studied agree with the description and existing drawings (Fig. 1, 2, 3). They differ only in the termination of sternum 9 in males which in both studied specimens does not taper to point as strikingly as in the existing drawings of this species (Fig. 3a, b).

The nests of *C. corone* have been studied in Czechoslovakia for some time and only *C. gallinae* have been recorded from them (ROSICKÝ B. 1957). *C. rossittensis* is a specific flea for *C. corone*. F. PEUS (1941) already pointed out the fact that crow nests, due to their building material, character and location, constitute a favourable environment for the development of fleas. However, it remains to be explained why *C. rossittensis* has so far been recorded as a specific flea for *C. corone* so very rarely. The difficult accessibility of crow nests has surely been one of the reasons. The other, in my opinion, consists in the fact that the occurrence of crows in the major