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SEX RATIO IN THREE SPECIES OF THE GENUS ANTRICOLA

The members of the genus *Antricola* occur frequently in various hot caves in Cuba. Until now 7 species of this genus have been described from this territory (Cruz J., Poeyana 185: 1—5, 1978) and there exist some further undescribed species. During our investigations in March and April 1980 we had the opportunity to examine large quantities of bat guano in various cave systems and to collect the material of 3 species of this genus (see Table 1) from which the following conclusions can be made.

Table 1. Survey of examined material

Species	Cave	Collected		
A. habanensis Cruz, 1976	Cueva del Mudo Catalina de Güines, prov. Habana	578 ♂	322 ♀	1261 N
A. martelorum Cruz, 1978	Cueva de los Murciélagos Santa Cruz del Norte, prov. Habana	35 ♂	20 ♀	77 N
A. naomiae Cruz, 1978	Cueva de Santa Catalina Camarioca, prov. Matanzas	29 ♂	12 ♀	122 N

In all species the males prevail. The male: female ratio in *A. habanensis* was 1.8 : 1, in *A. martelorum* 1.75 : 1 and in *A. naomiae* 2.4 : 1. The nymphs were more numerous than the adults. The nymphs: adults ratio was in these 3 species 1.3 : 1, 1.4 : 1 and 3.0 : 1, respectively. The ticks were kept alive for one or several days under laboratory conditions and their behaviour was observed. It is interesting to note the copulation position in the members of this genus which is similar as in *Ixodes*. The male is situated on the lower body part of the female so that their venters are touching each other. The legs I and II of the male are directed anteriorly and sometimes one or both legs of the first pair enter the genital opening of the female. The legs III and IV embrace the body margin of the female behind its posterior legs. The female can walk without difficulties. Very frequently the pairs of pre-female nymphs and males are found. But in this case the male is always situated on the dorsal part of the nymph's body and never ventrally.

Our observations represent further contribution to the very poor knowledge on the bionomics of the *Antricola* species.

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