

A FINDING OF CERATOPHYLLUS AFFINIS NORDBERG, 1935 (INSECTA, SIPHONAPTERA) IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

C. affinis was described from Finland on the basis of 2 males, from unknown host. Later, 11 males and 20 females of *C. affinis* were found in the USSR, Vologda region, near Sheksna, in the nest of *Hirundo rustica* (Darskaya N. F., Mater. Pozn. Faun. Flor. SSSR, Ectoparasites 2: 85—105, 1950). From Nordberg's collection a female has been described on the basis of 4 specimens (Smit F. G. A. M., Opusc. Ent. 21: 132—146, 1956). From northern Utah, USA, a subspecies *C. affinis neglectus* has been described, from the nest of *Hirundo rustica erythrogastra* (Smit F. G. A. M., Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 108: 51—57, 1958). In the same publication Smit has recorded the finding of 1 *C. affinis* female from *H. rustica* in Wulfsdorf near Lübeck, Germany. Another finding has been reported from the vicinity of Eschenbach, from the nest of *Motacilla cinerea* (Peus F., Zool. Jb. Syst. 95: 571—633, 1968). Peus has strong doubts about Smit's opinion, that *H. rustica* is the host of *C. affinis*. He suggests that in case this species has a specific host, it is one of the genus *Motacilla*. *C. affinis* has been also reported from Norway, from *H. rustica* as its host (Mehl R., Fauna (Oslo) 20: 168—175, 1967). In the Buryat ASSR, in the delta of the river Selenga, a series of *C. affinis* has been found in the nests of *H. rustica tytleri* (Prokop'yev V. N., Migrant birds role in distr. arboviruses, Novosibirsk: 199—207, 1969). *C. affinis* has been recorded from *H. rustica* by Kemner as

C. fringillae var. *rossittensis* (err. det.) (cit. according to Brinck-Lindroth G., Smit F. G. A. M., Ent. Scand. 2: 269—286, 1971). Thus there are 6 findings of *C. affinis* from *H. rustica* against 1 finding from *Motacilla cinerea*. The mentioned facts confirm Smit's opinion that *C. affinis* is probably a swallow flea, requiring nests built in free nature.

In Czechoslovakia *C. affinis affinis* (1 female) was found on accidental host *Microtus arvalis* near the village Jindřichovice, near Kraslice in Krušné hory Mts. on September 7, 1956. The host was captured in a ditch, on the border between a spruce forest and a meadow. The landscape type of the locality are the foothills about 700 m a.s.l. covered with spruce forests interrupted by pastures and meadows.

Our specimen has 30 spines on pronotal sternalium, metanotum with one marginal spinelet on each side; terga I—IV with 2, 2, 2, 1 spinelets on each side. Posterior margin of sternum VII corresponds with Smit's figure (Smit 1956). In chaetotaxy sterna VII differ in a lower number of thin setae (3/5); 2 antensensilial setae on each side. The mentioned finding is the first confirmation of *C. affinis* occurrence in Czechoslovakia.

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