HAEMAPHYSALIS (RHIPISTOMA) EUPLERES (IXODOIDEA: IXODIDAE), A PARASITE OF THE MADAGASCAR FALANOUC (MONGOOSE): NEW DATA AND MALE IDENTITY*

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ABSTRACT: Haemaphysalis (Rhipistoma) eupleres Hoogstraal, Kohls and Trapido 1965, was described and partially illustrated from a single damaged female from the falanouc, or small-toothed mongoose, Eupleres sp., from an unstated locality in Madagascar. Data are here presented for two collections (9 males, 17 females) from two localities in Tamatave Province, one from E. goudotii Doyère, the other from an unstated host. The male is described and illustrated; a complete female is illustrated.

Haemaphysalis (Rhipistoma) eupleres Hoogstraal, Kohls and Trapido (1965) is a poorly known member of the H. (R.) asiatica group (Hoogstraal and Morel, 1970; Saito et al., 1971). Adults of this group parasitize smaller-size carnivores (mongooses, civets), hyraxes, and leporids in the Oriental, Palearctic, Malagasy, and Ethiopian Faunal Regions. Haemaphysalis (R.) eupleres was previously known only from the damaged, partially illustrated female holotype from a falanouc, or small-toothed mongoose, from an unstated locality in Madagascar. Subsequently, we have received two collections containing 9 males and 17 females from two localities in Tamatave Province. The host of one collection was Eupleres goudotii Doyère, the host of the other sample was unstated. The male of H. (R.) eupleres is described and illustrated; a complete female is illustrated. There is only a slight degree of sexual dimorphism in the critical characters for distinguishing this highly distinctive species. The immature stages are unknown.

Haemaphysalis (Rhipistoma) eupleres Hoogstraal, Kohls and Trapido 1965, p. 997–1000, Figs. 1–8, described and illustrated (except hypostome) from single specimen from Eupleres sp., unknown locality, Madagascar, 24 July 1931 (HH440,779); holotype deposited in the American Museum of Natural History, New York City.

DESCRIPTION

Male (Figs. 1, 2, 5–12)

Length from palpal apices to posterior body margin 2.51 to 2.81 (avg of 7, 2.68) mm, breadth 1.01 to 1.13 (avg 1.10) mm. Color yellowish to reddish brown.

Capitulum (Figs. 5–7). Basis capituli dorsally ca. 2 times as broad as long (including cornua); external margins diverging anteriorly, posterior margin mildly convex between cornua; cornua ca. five-sevenths as long as base of basis capituli, peg-like, apices rounded. Basis capituli ventrally as illustrated; setae 2 pairs (minute) posteroexternal, 1 pair posthypostomal. Palpi broadly salient (asiatica type), combined breadth ca. 1.75 times breadth of basis capituli; each palpus ca. 1.3 times as long as broad (from posterior margin of segment 2, excluding spurs, to apex). Segment 1 minute or obsolete dorsally; ventrally as narrow pedicle with 1 seta. Segment 2 ca. 1.6 times as long as broad (from posterior margin of segment 2, excluding spurs, to apex). Segment 1 minute or obsolete dorsally; ventrally as narrow pedicle with 1 seta.
blunt (apices of both spurs at level of ca. anterior one-fourth of length of basis capituli); external profile from segmental midlength to anterior margin gradually converging; posteroventral margin straight or at a slight angle from insertion to external spur (form and size of external spur similar to external spur of dorsal margin); internodoral margin bulging anteriorly; dorsointernal setae minute, number 2; ventrointernal setae number 3; setae number 2 dorsally, 5 or 6 ventrally. Segment 3 broadly triangular, ca. one-half as long as denticle files, hooklets minute; denticles in files of 12–13. Structural details for all specimens conform to those described for the holotype, in which the hypostome was broken (Hoogstraal et al., 1965). It is now reillustrated in standard format. Our one unfed specimen (HH44,690) is in poor condition; the other available females are fed (see Material Examined). The hypostome (Fig. 15) is somewhat longer than the palpi; apex blunt, corona small; dental formula 4/4, denticles in files of 12–13. Structural details for all specimens conform to those described for the holotype.

**Nymph and larva**

These stages are unknown.

**MATERIAL EXAMINED**

Total: 9 δ, 17 Ψ, all from Madagascar. From *Eupl...s* sp., 24 July 1931, locality and collector unstated: 1 Ψ (HH40,779) (HOLOTYPE, deposited in the American Museum of Natural History). From *Eupl...s goudoti*, Tamatave, Perinet, 6 May 1972, R. Albignac: 1 Ψ (HH44,286). From Tamatave, Manakambahiny Est, Andranomalaza, December 1956, host and collector unstated: 9 δ, 15 Ψ (HH44,690) (ORSTOM-JLC-MD 19), from Institut français de Madagascar. Specimens are deposited in collections of ORSTOM, the American Museum of Natural History, the Rocky Mountain Laboratory, and the British Museum (Natural History).

**LITERATURE CITED**

