

New records of rodent fleas from Queretaro, Mexico (Siphonaptera)

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Abstract

Records of 40 species and subspecies of fleas (ectoparasites) found on indigenous rodents from the state of Queretaro, Mexico, are presented herein. Rodents were collected from 56 localities throughout the state. New flea records are given for hosts in two instances and new records for host localities in five instances.

Key words: Queretaro, fleas, localities, records, hosts

Introduction

Few works exist on the Mexican flea fauna. Morales and Llorente (1986) reviewed all the works on Queretaro fleas in the country at this time. Ponce and Llorente (1996) mentioned Queretaro as one of the Mexican states lacking faunal works on fleas. This state is part of three large biogeographic provinces of the country: Mexican Plateau, Sierra Madre Oriental, and Transmexican Volcanic Belt (Morrone 2002). This may be one of the reasons why the state has such a diversity in its fauna and flora.

Fleas were collected from wild rodents, caught in Sherman traps from 56 localities throughout the state of Queretaro, from 1986 to 1997. The collected specimens were picked and brushed from the coat of the hosts, and preserved in 70% alcohol vials. The mounting method was taken from Smit (1957). Several taxonomic keys identification were used: Traub (1950), Hopkins & Rothschild (1956, 1962, 1966), Johnson (1957), Ponce (1988), and Acosta and Morrone (2003). The host specimens were identified by Livia León Paniagua, Museo de Zoología “Alfonso L. Herrera”, Facultad de Ciencias, UNAM.

Fourty species of fleas (Table 1) were collected from 24 species of rodents (Acosta 2003). We obtained 1,229 specimens of fleas from 335 rodents, which have been deposited