



Fleas (Insecta-Siphonaptera) of Chile: a review

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Abstract

This study presents a revision of the fleas (Siphonaptera) in Chile, gathered from 1993–2013 in response to a request to update our knowledge of the fauna of this country, as catalogued by Beaucournu & Gallardo in 1991 and 1992. For each taxon we give the depository of the type, the main references concerning it, its general distribution, particularly in Chile, and its known hosts, mainly in this country. Our review of the existing literature on fleas of Chile gives information on a total of 8 families, 11 subfamilies, 31 genera, 9 subgenera and 112 species (with 11 subspecies). The hosts are represented by 21 families of mammals (91 species) and 16 of birds (27 species). In addition we present 21 new reports of fleas for Chile and 165 new localities.

Key words: Siphonaptera, review, Chile

Introduction

The "*Catalogue provisoire des Puces du Chili (Insecta: Siphonaptera)*" was published in two parts in 1991 and 1992 by Beaucournu & Gallardo. Since then we have been able to continue the study of the flea fauna of this country. New species have been described, particularly from birds. Other colleagues have helped to improve our knowledge of the fleas in this country and we must mention in particular the studies of Michael W. Hastriter and Marcela Lareschi and their team.

We wish to update our knowledge of the Chilean flea fauna, the species richness of which now stands at 112 taxa (the report of Alarcón (2000) listed 91 species but omitted Tungidae). However, it is certain that this list is not the final tally, even without the description of new taxa; other species present either in Argentina or Peru will eventually be included in the Chilean lists, e.g. *Dasypyllus lasius lasius*, *D. stejneri* (Ceratophyllidae), *Tiarapsylla* spp. (Stephanocircidae) and the Malacopsyllidae, only known in Argentina today.

The purpose of the present study is to offer a checklist that summarizes all described fleas in Chile, their hosts, depository of types, their general distribution and particularly their distribution in Chile. In addition, new host and geographic records from Chile are reported.

Material and methods

This list was prepared on the basis of data published from 1911 to present. Fleas are presented in order according to taxa; each record contains information on the species name, authority and year, deposit types, holotype, neallotype, references, distribution, and host. Localities are arranged alphabetically according to provinces (Figure 1). In addition, we present a table organized according to the host of the fleas (Table 1).

To supplement the checklist, and with the permission of the Chilean Government Sanitary Office (resolution 2012 and 1095), we captured fleas in different localities of Chile.

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