

## SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION

OCCURRENCE OF *CRANEOPSYLLA MINERVA MINERVA* (ROTHSCHILD, 1903)  
(SIPHONAPTERA, STEPHANOCIRCIDAE) FROM *DIDELPHIS ALBIVENTRIS*  
IN THE STATE OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL, BRAZIL

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## ABSTRACT

The occurrence of *Craneopsylla minerva minerva* is reported for the first time in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, parasiting *Didelphis albiventris* (opossum).

KEY WORDS: *Craneopsylla minerva minerva*, Siphonaptera, *Didelphis albiventris*, opossum.

## RESUMO

OCORRÊNCIA DE *CRANEOPSYLLA MINERVA MINERVA* (ROTHSCHILD, 1903) (SIPHONAPTERA, STEPHANOCIRCIDAE) EM *DIDELPHIS ALBIVENTRIS* NO ESTADO DO RIO GRANDE DO SUL, BRASIL. É relatada a ocorrência de *Craneopsylla minerva minerva* pela primeira vez no Estado do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil, parasitando *Didelphis albiventris* (gambá).

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: *Craneopsylla minerva minerva*, Siphonaptera, *Didelphis albiventris*, gambá.

The occurrence of *Craneopsylla minerva minerva* is reported for the first time in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, parasiting the opossum *Didelphis albiventris*. Three females were collected from one *D. albiventris* from Cerrito, RS. The fleas were preserved in alcohol 70°GL and the identification was made in the Laboratory of Entomology, Department of Microbiology and Parasitology, Institute of Biology, UFPel (DEMP-IB-UFPel). For the specific identification the keys of JOHNSON (1957) and LINARDI & GUIMARÃES (2000) were used. The existence of only one species with two sub-species is reported in the literature: *C. minerva minerva* (ROTHSCHILD, 1903) and *C. minerva wolffhuegeli* (ROTHSCHILD, 1909). The difference between the two sub-species are the number of the spines of the genal comb: five on each side for *C. m. minerva* (Fig.1) and seven or eight on each side for *C. m. wolffhuegeli*, which had not been described in Brazil until now, only in Argentina and Chile.

HOPKINS (1951) in JOHNSON (1957) cited the occurrence of *C. m. minerva* in the State of Minas Gerais but the host was not described.

The geographical distribution for *C. m. minerva* is Brazil, Argentina, Paraguai, Peru and Venezuela; in Brazil the occurrence has been reported in the states of Alagoas, Bahia, Ceará, Minas Gerais, Paraná, Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro, Santa



Fig. 1 - Head and prothorax of *Craneopsylla minerva minerva* from *Didelphis albiventris*

Catarina, and São Paulo (LINARDI & GUIMARÃES, 2000).

In the endemic area of the bubonic plague, the Brazilian Northeast (Alagoas, Pernambuco, Ceará), *C. m. minerva* represents 2.0% of the fleas described from wild animals (GUIMARÃES, 1972).

One exemplary specimen was catalogued and deposited in the DEMP - IB - UFPel, Entomologic Collection.

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Received on 17/6/02

Accepted on 18/11/02