

LACCOBIUS, Er.

L. agilis, Rand., is about .10 in. long, head and thorax blackish, elytra pale, clouded with dusky. Body beneath black, feet pale. It is common near the banks in small ponds.

PRELIMINARY STUDIES IN SIPHONAPTERA.—VI.

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Genus *Hystrichopsylla*, Tschb.

1880. Taschenberg, Die Flohe, p. 83.

This genus has but a single species:—

Hystrichopsylla obtusiceps, Ritsema.

1826. Curtis, Brit. Ent., III., No. 114 (*Pulex talpæ*).

1831. Macquart, Ann. d. Sci. Nat., XXII., p. 405 (*Pulex terrestris*).

1868. Ritsema, Tijds. voor Entom., 2 ser. III., p. 173* (*Pulex obiusiceps*).

1880. Taschenberg, Die Flohe, p. 83 (*Hystrichopsylla obtusiceps*).

This remarkable flea has a heavier covering of spines and bristles than occurs in any other species. The head combs are on the discs of the cheeks with the spines pointing backward (as in *Typhlopsylla gracilis* and *fraterna*), instead of on the lower edges, there being 10 spines on either side. The first joint of the maxillary palpi is the longest. Pronotal comb with 20 spines on either side. The comb on the first abdominal segment consists of 20 spines on either side; that on the second segment, of 12 on either side, and that on the third segment, of 7 on either side. The tarsi are slender. Colour, chestnut-brown. Length of male, 3.5 mm.; of female, 5–5.5 mm. It has been reported as occurring on *Talpa europæa* and *Arvicola arvalis*, in various parts of Europe.

Genus *Typhlopsylla*, Tschb.

1880. Taschenberg, Die Flohe, p. 86.

TABLE OF SPECIES.*

I. Head with a comb of spines.....*A.*

II. Head without a comb of spines.....*K.*

A. Head not unusually elongated; maxillæ triangular; head comb

* In this table I have followed Taschenberg very closely, as there are many of the species which I have never seen. The characterization of this genus in my second paper will have to be modified somewhat, as two species have come into my hands which are entirely without the head combs so general in the genus, and one in which there are five spines in each head comb.