

PRELIMINARY STUDIES IN SIPHONAPTERA.--II.

BY CARL F. BAKER, FORT COLLINS, COLO.

Family *Pulicidae*, Tschlb.

1880. Taschenberg, Die Flohe, p. 62.

Table of Genera.*

- A. Eyes well developed; antennæ with circular incisions or cleft only on one side; head and thorax usually stout and compact; head rarely angulated in front; lower edge of head and pronotum behind sometimes with combs, abdominal segments and discs of cheeks without. *Pulex*.
- AA. Eyes wanting, or very rudimentary; antennæ with circular incisions.
- B. Eyes entirely wanting: head and thorax stout and compact; head angulated in front, truncate; discs of cheeks, pronotum, and several abdominal segments with combs of numerous spines, the whole body heavily bristled. *Hystriochysylla*.

* The genus *Stephanocircus*, Skuse (Records of Austral. Mus., II., 5, Sydney, Sept., 1890), with its single species, *Pasyuri*, Skuse, parasitic on *Pasyurus maculatus*, Kerr., I do not include in this table. As characterized, it possesses a most extraordinary structure. Should further study verify all points of the description, this genus will form a very interesting addition to the family. It, however, seems probable that two species have been confused, and that both are referable to known genera. The description (for a copy of which I am indebted to Mr. Wm. J. Fox) is as follows:—"*Stephanocircus*, gen. nov. Body elongate, especially in the female, bristly, noticeably stronger at the anal extremity. Antennæ capitate, four-jointed, the second joint in the female with long bristles extending to the tip of the fourth; in the male very short; fourth joint lamellar, apparently composed of nine segments. Head moderately large; in the female with an exerted, cap-like patella in the front, strongly pectinated round its posterior margin, the face also strongly pectinated; in the male the posterior margin of the head only pectinated; eyes wanting in the female; trophi less than the length of the head; mandibles extremely slender, minutely serrated, encased in four-jointed labial palpi, which they somewhat exceed in length; lingua extremely slender; maxillæ elongate, triangular, somewhat exceeding the second joint of the labial palpi, with no apparent apical joint; maxillary palpi four-jointed, the first and fourth of about equal length, the third shorter and the second the longest, acuminate; joints of the labial palpi progressively diminishing in length and thickness. Prothorax in female with a strong pectinate fringe. Legs long, spinous; coxæ of posterior two pairs with a distinct notch posteriorly at the apex; femora very minutely and sparingly spined; tarsi five-jointed, the first, second and fifth joints long, the third shorter, the fourth shortest, half the length of the fifth; claws microscopically denticulate.

"*Stephanocircus pasyuri*, sp. nov. Length of male, 1.60 mm.; of female, 2.80 mm. Castaneous brown, nitidous. Head of the male convex above, of female flat. Eyes of male small, black. Pectinal fringes and setæ black or dark brown. Thorax long, in the female nearly the length of the body. Abdomen about twice as long as broad in the male, shorter in the female, darker castaneous brown in the female, bristly. Legs of a uniform pale castaneous brown. Habitat: New South Wales, on *Pasyurus maculatus*, Kerr."