

## LIST OF THE SIPHONAPTERA OF CALIFORNIA.

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The wealth of fauna displayed in the list of mammals from California makes one wonder at the paucity of Siphonaptera recorded from the Golden State. The comparative ease with which specimens can be obtained, and the economic bearing of these parasites in the dissemination of epizootics of obscure origin, furnish an ample incentive for the collection and study of these insects. We are, nevertheless, aware of the repugnance assumed by certain entomologists toward the degenerate flea, and the disrepute in which Siphonapterologists are likely to be esteemed. This contempt, we observe, is not the brand which is bred through familiarity. We venture to surmise, a familiarity with the flea and its behaviour would indeed win many students for research in the Siphonaptera.

We may be presumptuous enough to maintain, that of all insects in California, the flea is probably the most popular; that is to say, it is "the most sought after." Then, too, the hunting season for the flea appears to be open throughout the year, though at some periods it proves a greater "craze" than at others. The present gigantic endeavours of the Surgeons of the U. S. Public Health and Marine Hospital Service in their efficient measures for the suppression of plague in California, are stirring up a popular interest in the flea and its notorious associations. One of the Surgeons in this Service, Dr. Carroll Fox, during the few months engaged in this work has contributed to the California Siphonaptera a greater number of species than any other entomologist.

The bibliographical references pertain only to the records of California workers.

Prior to 1905 the Siphonaptera recorded from California consisted of the following species:

*Anomiopsyllus Californicus*, Baker.

*Ceratophyllus acutus*, Baker.

*C. proximus*, Baker.

*C. sexdentatus*, Baker.

*C. Californicus*, Baker.

*C. ciliatus*, Baker.

The first of these was described in 1904, *Invert. Pacif.*, I, p. 39. The remainder were recorded from California in 1904, *Proc. U. S. N. M.*, XXVII.

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