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A NOTE IN REGARD TO TRICHODECTES HERMSI.

(Mallophaga; Trichodectidae)

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Kellogg and Nakayama have recently published in Psyche, v. 22, No. 2, April, 1915, a description of a new species of Trichodectes (T. hermsi), from the goat. The authors of this species say of Trichodectes climax: "It is the only Trichodectes until now found on the domestic goat." It seems safe to assume then that these writers follow Taschenberg in regarding T. limbatis and T. caprae as synonyms of T. climax. It seems, however, that they must have overlooked, at the time of publication, the case of Trichodectes crassipes, for they state in regard to T. hermsi: "It shows more of a resemblance, in shape and markings of head, and general appearance of body to T. penicillatus than to any other species of the genus, which resemblance, if it suggests any near relationship—it probably does not—is most extraordinary, as penicillatus has been recorded only from a kangaroo!"

The species Trichodectes crassipes was described by Rudow (1866) from the goat. Taschenberg (1882), on an examination of Rudow's material, stated it was identical with T. penicillatus from the kangaroo. Taschenberg states in comment that if one compares Rudow's and Piaget's figures he will regard this as quite impossible, since Rudow's figures are as inexact as his descriptions are noncommittal. It is interesting to note in this connection that Rudow's T. crassipes from the goat came from the Zoological Garden at Hamburg, and that Piaget's T. penicillatus from the kangaroo came from the Zoological Garden at Rotterdam. While one would be inclined to think under these circumstances that we were dealing with a habitual parasite of the kangaroo accidentally present on the goat, and assume that the parasites of the goat were well known, nevertheless the record of Kellogg and Nakayama suggests that there is, on the contrary, a rather widely distributed goat parasite which has been reported once as an accidental parasite of the kangaroo.

It would not be safe to say positively at this time that T. hermsi was identical with T. penicillatus, although a comparison of the figures and descriptions shows only minor differences, but the fact that the resemblance has been noted by the authors of T. hermsi, and that T. penicillatus has been reported from the goat and the kangaroo in the opinion of Taschenberg and of
Railliet, and that Kellogg and Nakayama have apparently overlooked or forgotten this fact, all argue for the likelihood that *T. hermsi* is a redesription of *T. penicillatus.*