A NEW GENUS OF ISCHNOCERA (MALLOPHAGA).

BY JAMES WATERSTON, B.D., D.SC., F.R.S.

Assistant Keeper in the Department of Entomology, British Museum (Nat. Hist.).

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For some time past the writer has been engaged in a critical study of the Ischnocera occurring on Palaeartic grouse, in the course of which it has become evident that one small group of these parasites, whose members have been variously referred to Lipurus, Nirmus, and Goniotesta, really deserves separate treatment.

This new genus, which is diagnosed below, is perhaps the most characteristic of the grouse Mallophaga and, in the writer’s opinion, its included species will, when more perfectly known, afford important clues to the phylogeny of their host genera.

LAGOPOCUS, gen. nov.

Head (♂, ♀) broad; in front of the trabeculae parabolic and continuously circumfasciate, i.e. without indication of a clear linear antero-median longitudinal interruption; enlarged characteristically immediately behind the eye with the sides thereafter inclined towards the rounded temples; occiput distinctly but rather shallowly concave; upper surface (in fully adult examples) uniformly chitinised except (a) a clear straight transverse suture about one-sixth from the anterior margin and (b) a second, parabolic clear band or suture (often indistinct) running back from the antennal fossae, not reaching the occipital edge but flattened out and parallel with the middle third of that line. Ventral surface—the oral fossa anteriorly nearly parallel with the outline of the head. Antennae without appendages, the first joint in the ♂ larger and stouter. Abdomen short and broad—sometimes as broad as long; sides of first segment divergent posteriorly, bands on tergites 1-7 divided broadly (♀) or more narrowly (♂) into oblong blotches. Pleurites, heads not deeply inserted into the preceding segments, thickened but not complicated except for a more or less developed upper branch. Genitalia, ♂, basal plate slightly constricted distally. Parameres not articulated basally but quite capable of being flexed upwards and backwards, the apical and ventral hairs approximated. Mesosome flat, solid, with three ventral hairs at each side. The elongate tubular penis is free, with two hairs on each side basally. When not exerted the parameres enfold the sides of the mesosome with the penis closely appressed beneath; ♀ vulva simple, transverse medially, a little concave.

Genotype, Nirmus caeretanus Lyonet (1890). Type host, Lyrurus tetrix.

This genus has affinities both with Lipurus Nitzsch (sens. str.) and Degnerella Neum. (sens. str.). It does not, however, include forms like Lipurus docophoroides Piag., from which a careful examination of the head should secure its separation.

June 1922.