

A NOTE ON THE DISCOVERY OF A RARE BAT FLEA IN OHIO
(SIPHONAPTERA: ISCHNOPSYLLIDAE)

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A recent discovery of a single female specimen of the rare bat flea, *Eptesocopsylla chapini* (Jordan), taken from a big brown bat, *Eptesicus fuscus* (Beauvois), in Hocking County, Ohio, is worthy of special mention.

The collection and subsequent identification of bat fleas is an exceptional occurrence. Bat fleas are rare and are seldom encountered even on careful inspection of many specimens of their hosts. In the United States all of the fleas found associated with the Chiroptera have been classified in the family Ischnopsyllidae. Members of this family are quite striking in their appearance and are easily separated from species of other families of the Siphonaptera by conspicuous morphological characteristics.

Eptesocopsylla chapini was described by Karl Jordan in 1929, although at that time he placed it in the genus *Nycteridopsylla*. Jordan's specimens were taken from *Eptesicus fuscus* at Glen Echo, Maryland, and consisted of two males and two females. Fox (1940) presented the only other record in the literature of the collection of this species of flea. His specimens were taken from the cave bat, *Myotis sodalis* Miller and Allen, at Colossal Cave, Kentucky and consisted of one male and five females. Fox (1940) erected a new genus, *Eptesocopsylla*, for this parasite and designated it the genotype.

The present paper reports a third collection record of *Eptesocopsylla chapini* and notes the first time that this species has been taken in Ohio. The Ohio specimen was collected by Robert M. Goslin on March 2, 1951, and is deposited in the Ohio State Museum, Columbus, Ohio.

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THE OHIO JOURNAL OF SCIENCE 53(3): 178, May, 1953.