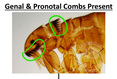
PICTORIAL KEY TO SOME COMMON FLEAS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

By James D. Campbell

Genal & Pronotal Combs Present



Genal comb consists of 5 or more teeth/spines which are pointed at the tips and aligned horizontal.

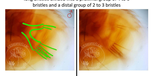
Head length is twice its width (more "football" shaped than C. canis), and spine 8; 6 of genal comb are approximately equal in length

C. canis

Ctenocephalides felis

Genal comb is aligned vertically and consists of 5 to 7 stout black teeth/spines

Ventral margin of male clasper contains a row of long bristles divided into a proximal group of 4 to 6 bristles and a distal group of 2 to 3 bristles

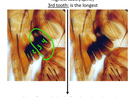


Spermatheca

Cediopsylla inaequalis interrupta

Genal comb consists of 4 teeth/spines and eyes are reduced (sunken in to the head; vestigial) or absent

Genal comb:
4th tooth: is the broadest (Most dorsal or highest tooth/spine)
3rd tooth: is the longest

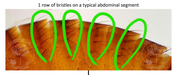


Head is well-rounded or bullet-shaped, and contains 2 heavy spiniforms posterior to the apex of the head

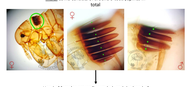
Leptopsylla segnis

Only Pronotal Comb Is Present

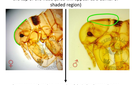
1 row of bristles on a typical abdominal segment



Pronotal Comb:
Female: comb consists of around 16 teeth/spines in total
Male: comb consists of around 9 teeth/spines in total

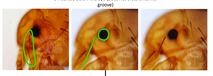


Head of females are well-rounded, and the head of males are flattened with thickened exoskeleton at the top of the head (area will appear as a darker or shaded region)

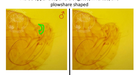


Postantennal region contains 2 bristles located near the antennal ridge

Gena contains 2 heavy bristles and the ocular bristle is inserted below the eye (does not cross antennal groove)



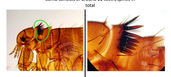
Male's upper clasper is elongated, inverted, and plowshare shaped



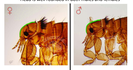
Spermatheca has a somewhat pear-shaped body with a tail that has a strong crook/bend apically

Hoplopsyllus anomalus

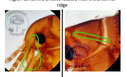
Pronotal Comb:
Comb consists of around 22 teeth/spines in total



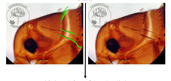
Head is well rounded in both males and females



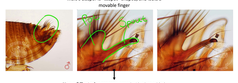
Gena contains 2 heavy bristles and postantennal region contains 2 bristles located near the antennal ridge



Posterior border/margin of head contains 4 to 6 bristles



Male's clasper is "Isaaps" shaped, and lacks a movable finger



"Isaaa" "Posterior process: armed with a heavy black spiniform process, and is roughly the same as long as "ion" (anterior process), and is roughly the same as long as "ion" (anterior process), and is roughly the same as long as "ion" (anterior process),