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**ANTARCTOPHTHIRUS NEVELSKOVII – A NEW SPECIES OF
ECHINOPHTHIRIIDAE LICE FOUND IN THE NORTHERN FUR SEAL**

Mikhail Yu. SHCHELKANOV^{1,2,3}, Tatyana V. MOSKVINA²,
Egor M. SHCHELKANOV²

¹ Federal Scientific Center of the East Asia Terrestrial Biodiversity, FEB RAS, Vladivostok, Russia

² Far Eastern Federal University, Vladivostok, Russia

³ National Scientific Center of Marine Biology, FEB RAS, Vladivostok, Russia

The sucking lice from the family *Echinophthiriidae* are specific parasites of pinnipeds. These insects have adapted to living in the sea by inhabiting in the upper respiratory tract of pinnipeds. There is relatively scant information about systematic, morphology and biodiversity of these ectoparasites. Totally two *Echinophthiriidae* species including *Antarctophthirus callorhini* (Osborn) and *Proechinophthirus fluctus* (Ferris) were described from the northern fur seal *Callorhinus ursinus* (L.). However, *Echinophthiriidae* species have never been previously described from the Okhotsk Sea.

During expedition to the Tyuleniy Island situated near Sakhalin Terpeniya Cape we investigated nasal cavities of fur seal puppies, and louse was collected. Totally 15 specimens were examined including 1 females and 11 males and 4 nymphs. Louse was prepared following the slightly modified protocol of Palma (1978). The specimens were treated with 20 % aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide (KOH) for 24 h. The KOH was removed and replaced by distilled water for 30 min, and then by 10 % of aqueous solution of acetic acid. The acetic acid neutralizes the remaining alkali, stopping maceration and avoiding damage by over treatment. The specimens were dehydrated in an ethanol series 70 %, 80 %, 90 % and 96 % for 30 min at each concentration. After dehydration, the alcohol was replaced by pure clove oil for 24 h. The lice were placed on the slide with some drops of glycerol added and flattened the coverslip.

The male body length turned to be 2.7 mm, female – 3.2 mm. Head lightly longer than wide (length 0.35, width 0.42); anterior margin heavily sclerotized, maxillary vestige distinct, ventral labrum connected to long apodemes; postantennal angle development, dorsally with two long hairs in both sides; posterolateral angle not developed antennae with 5 segments. Basal segment has a short spine. Terminal segment has equal size with 4 segments with sensoria at apex. Thorax trapezoidal, longer than head and twice as wide, with many setae of various lengths both dorsally and ventrally; 3 dorsal mesothoracic spine, 4 dorsal metathoracic spines arranged in 2 rows and 3 dorsal marginal abdominal hairs. Abdomen: large, oval, without distinctive tergites or sternites; paratergal plates are not developed; six spiracles present; posterior margin lightly elongated. Totally 9 row of setae of various shapes and size are appeared in abdomen; scale-like setae occupy the most part of the abdomen (4–9 rows). The forms and types of setae covered the head, thorax and abdomen are distinguished this species from the *A. callorhini*. The lo-

calization of setae on the head and thorax similar with *A. carlinii*, described from Weddell seal *Leptonychotes weddelli*, however the shape and size of male genitalia are distinguished in both species.

Thus, one could conclude that the unique features of lice from the Tyuleniy Island mentioned above are enough evidence to further describe it as a new species. We have suggested to name this new species as *Antarctophthirus nevelskoy* – after the famous Russian admiral Gennady Ivanovich Nevelskoy (1813–1876), who discovered that Sakhalin was the Island.

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