

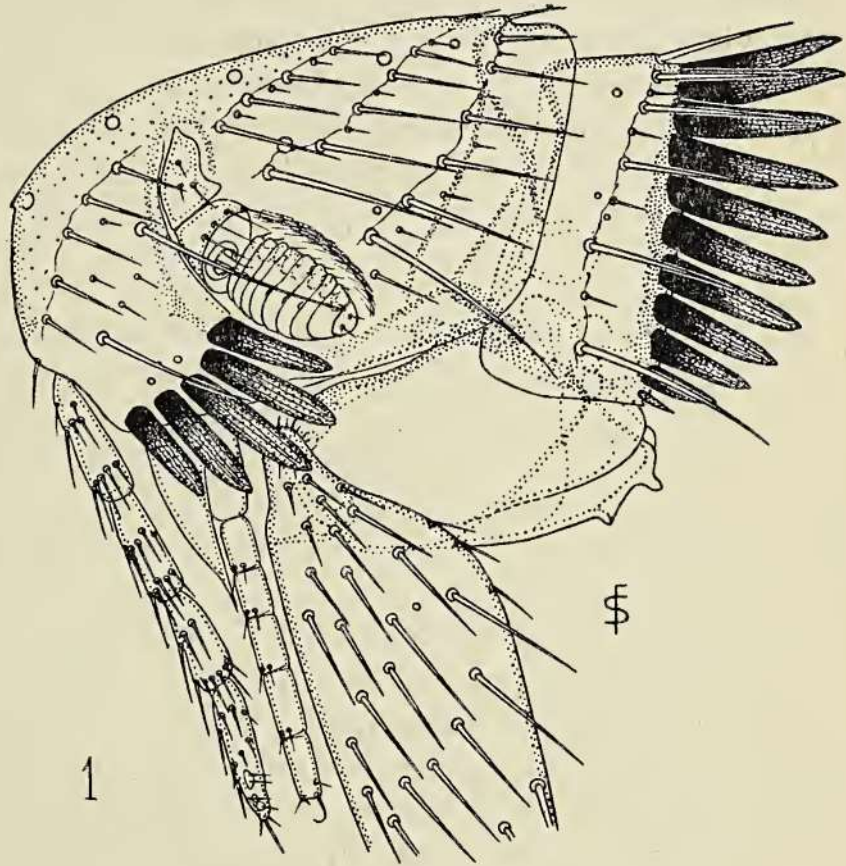
Siphonaptera Neerlandica Faunae Nova Species, II

by
FRANS G. A. M. SMIT

I have pleasure in adding another species to the list of Netherland fleas, bringing the number of species known to be found in the Netherlands up to 47. It is the rather rare flea :

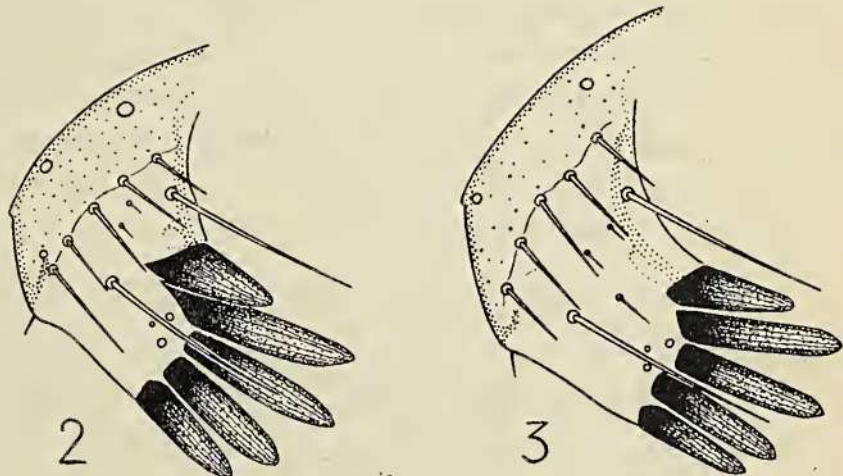
Rectofrontia isacanthus Roths. 1907. Wageningen, 12-1-1948. 1 female off *Clethrionomys glareolus*, leg. F. SMIT.

Shortly after this discovery I continued collecting in the same locality for some time. However, the many bank-voles obtained did not supply me with another specimen of *R. isacanthus*. It is very probably a real nest-flea, just as bird-fleas are : one seldom finds a nest-flea on its host. The idea of *R. isacanthus* being a nest-flea is supported by the fact that 15 out of 22 specimens in the ROTHSCHILD Flea Collection are taken from the nests of *Cl. glareolus* and "mice" (probably also bank-voles). It is most interesting to compare the results of collecting fleas from the hosts and from their nests, but to obtain the nests of mammals in reasonable quan-



1. *Rectofrontia isacanthus*
R. ♀ (from Wageningen, Holland). Head, prothorax and base of coxa I.

2. *R. pentacanthus* *R.* ♀
(from Reipzig nr. Frankfurt am Oder, Poland). Anterior part of head.



3. *R. casta* *R.* ♀ allotype
(from Monte Cadini, Misurina, Dolomites)
Anterior part of head.

tities is normally very difficult. It is also interesting to note that some species of fleas occur very locally, just as many other insects do. Whereas the host of a certain flea may cover a large and almost continuous area, we may find that one of its fleas is to be found only in certain, very restricted areas. This is my experience with e.g. *Malariaeus penicilliger* Gr. Its main host, *Cl. glareolus*, covers the greater part of Holland and I have collected it in many localities. *M. penicilliger* however has only been found at Wilp up till now. The same restriction of locality may apply to *R. isacanthus*. It would be interesting to get to know the factors that limit the distribution of certain species, making such species heterotope. A nest-flea occurring very locally will indeed be a rare flea from the collector's point of view, but if he knows the locality where it lives, then he may find that either the flea is common there — as this applies to *M. penicilliger* in Holland — or the flea is even in that restricted area difficult to obtain (my experience with *R. isacanthus* as well as with *R. pentacanthus* and other fleas, e.g. *Megabothris walkeri*).

R. isacanthus is known to occur in England, Holland, Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Jugoslavia, Austria and Finland. So it has a fairly wide distribution.

Because the head of this flea has not yet been adequately figured, I give here a drawing of it, for comparison together with the anterior part of heads of the closely related species *R. pentacanthus* Roths. — which is also found in Western Europe — and of *R. casta* Jordan, a more Central European species.

British Museum, The Zoological Museum, Tring. September 1949.

Overlast door rupsen van *Charanyca clavipalpis* F. In de zomer van 1949 werd ik uitgenodigd om eens op een boerderij in ons dorp te komen, waar men te kampen had met een rupsenplaag die wel zeer hevig was. De rupsen (die ik determineerde als larven van *Charanyca clavipalpis* F.) drongen iedere avond bij honderden de woning binnen en nestelden zich onder de vloerkleden, in de linnenkasten, zelfs in de bedden en in de mantelzak van de dochter van de boer. Wanneer men 's avonds naar bed ging, moest men eerst op de rupsenjacht om 's nachts niet gewekt te worden door rupsengekriebel op het gelaat.

Iedere morgen werden een 100 rupsen verzameld onder de vloerbedekking en op allerlei andere plaatsen, die dan in de gierput vernietigd werden. Men was ten einde raad, te meer daar de boerin een uiterst zindelijke vrouw is en zich ten onrechte schaamde over het geval. Na ongeveer 3 weken nam de plaag die met DDT bestreden werd, af. Het meeste succes had men echter met het wegvangen en vernietigen. Waarschijnlijk zijn de rupsen, die de boer en de boerin zulke nachtmerries hebben bezorgd, met het hooi naar binnen gekomen. Schade aan kledingstukken heeft men niet geconstateerd.

S. DE BOER, Middelle 182.

Vroege vlinders. *Gonepteryx rhamni* L. Op 12 Januari, tijdens een wandeling door het Baarnse Bos, zag de heer P. H. VAN DOESBURG SR. een ♂ van de citroenvlinder vliegen, dat hij met de hand kon vangen.

Erannis leucophaearia Schiff. De heer W. OORD ving op 14 Januari een ♂ te Diepenveen. — Lpk.