

**NEW RECORD OF *ANCISTROPLAX CROCIDURAE* WATERSTON  
(ANOPLURA : HOPLOPLEURIDAE) FROM INDIA WITH  
REDESCRIPTION OF THE TAXA.**

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**INTRODUCTION**

*Ancistropalax crocidurae* was first reported by Waterston (1929) from horsfield from *Crocidura horsfield* Sri Lanka. This paper describes quite a few female specimens from single host, *Suncus etnaseus* from Arunachal Pradesh, India, which is recorded for the first time from India.

Earlier description of both genus and species was inadequate. As such, the species is redescribed following the terminologies after Mishra (1981).

The voucher materials are in National Zoological Collection at Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

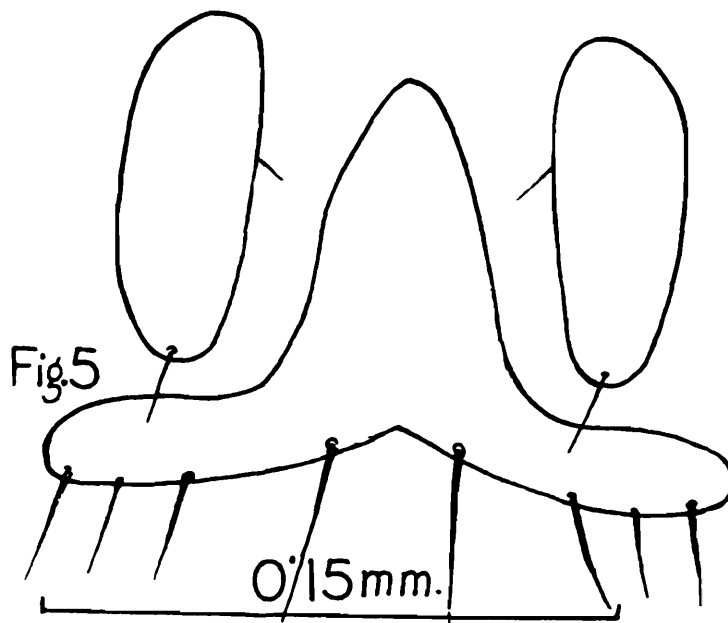
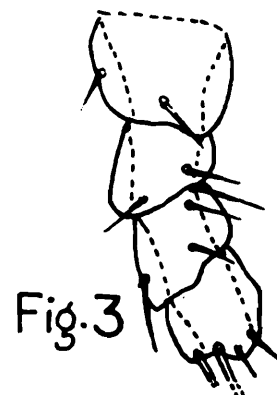
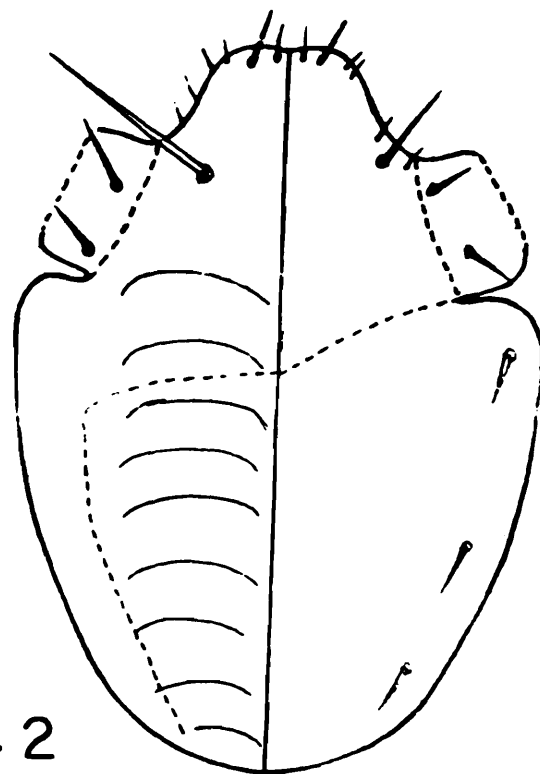
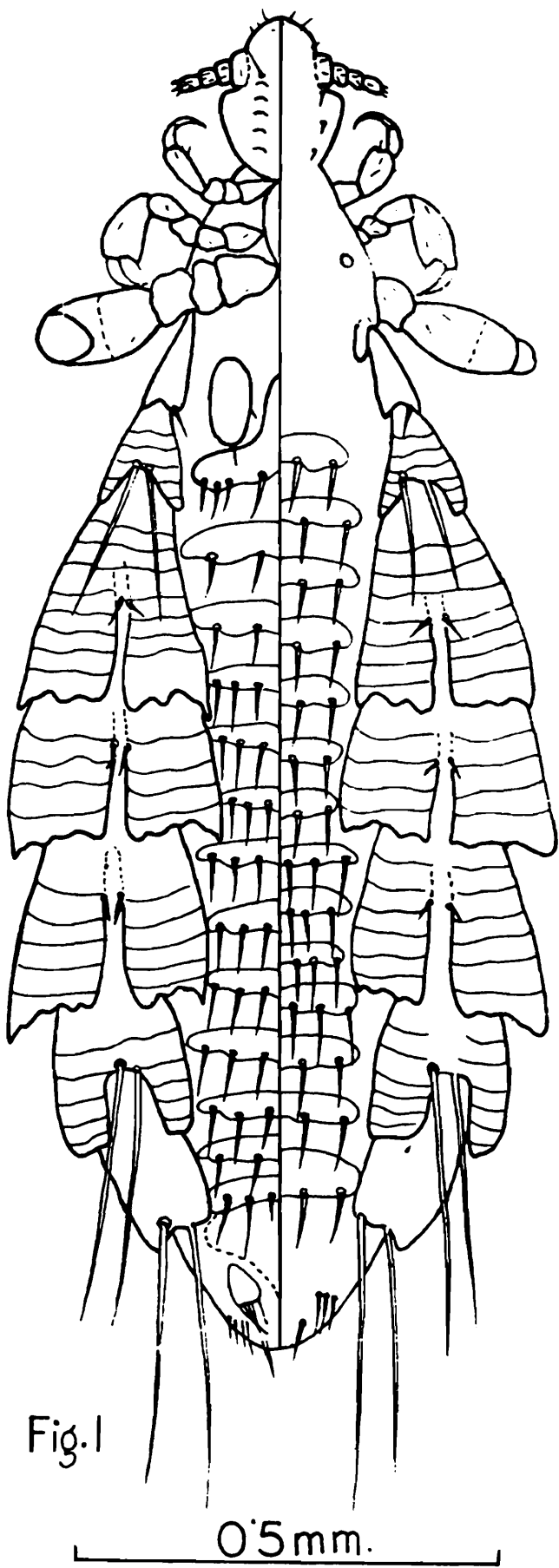
***Ancistropalax* Waterston 1929**

1929. *Ancistropalax* Waterston, *Parasitology*, 21 : 161.  
1951. *Ancistropalax*, Ferris, *The sucking lice*, p.119.  
1964. *Ancistropalax*, Johnson, Misc. Publ. Ent. Soc. America, 4 : 76.  
1981. *Ancistropalax*, Mishra, *Rec. zool. Surv. India, Occ. paper*. 21 : 20.  
Type species : *Ancistropalax crocidurae* Waterston.

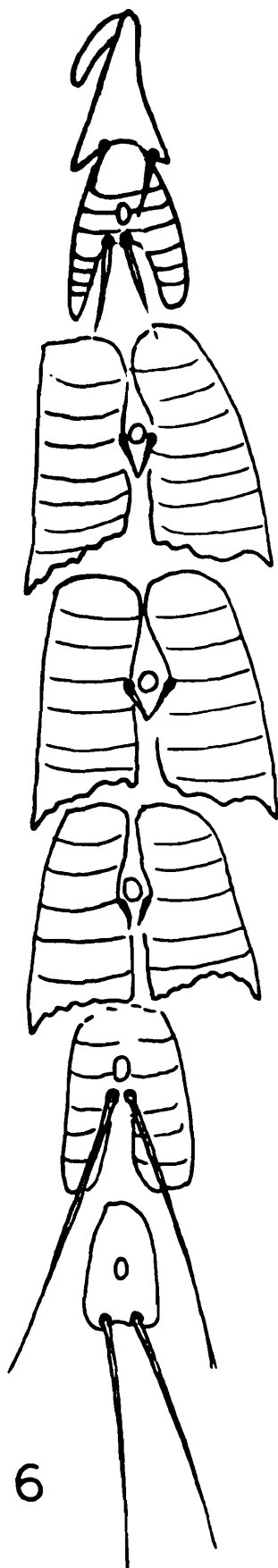
Anoplura without eye; Antennae four segmented, first segment broad, remaining segments more or less same, terminal segment with a large sensoria. First pair of legs small and weak, with a slender claw; middle legs slightly larger; posterior pair highly modified with all the parts large and stout. Thoracic sternal plates well developed. abdominal tergites and sternites well developed and chitinized; sternites of segment II divided into two parts. Three tergites and three sternites present on each segment of III to VI. Paratergites present in segment II to VIII, of which those of segment III to VII large, appear as being longitudinally divided into two parts by a medianline of weak sclerotization. Spiracles present on III to VIII segments.

***Ancistropalax crocidurae* Waterston 1929**

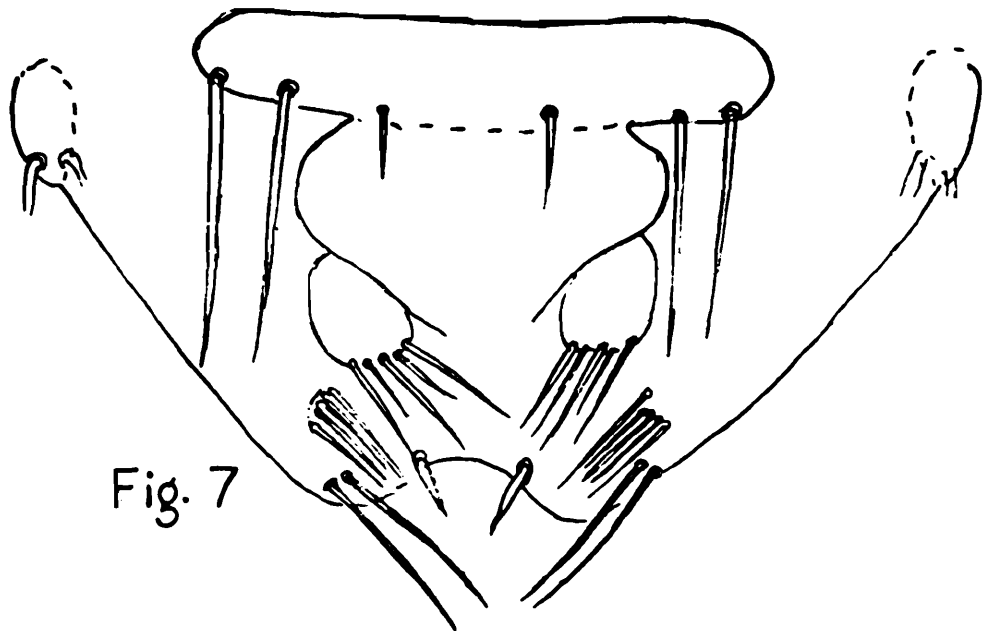
1929. *Ancistropalax crocidurae* Waterston *Parasitology*, 21 : 161.  
1932. *Ancistropalax crocidurae*, Ferris, *Contributions toward a monograph of the sucking lice*. pt. 5 : 308, figs. 188, 189.  
1951. *Ancistropalax crocidurae*, Ferris, *The sucking lice*, p. 120, figs. 53, 54.



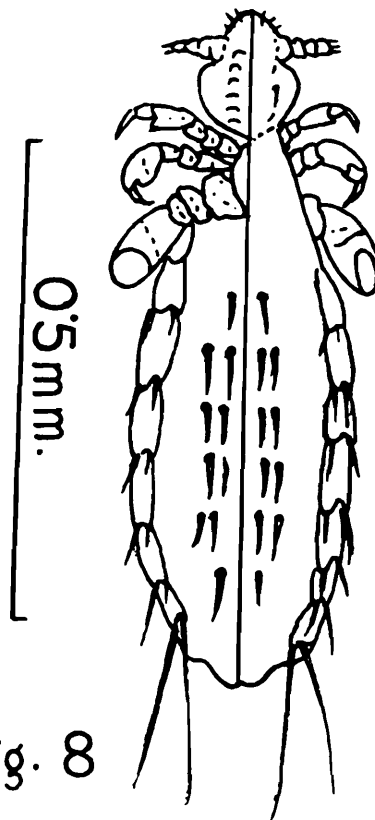
Figs. 1-5. *Ancistroplax crocidurae* Waterston. 1. Full body; 2. Head; 3. Antenna; 4. Sternal plate of thorax; 5. Sternite and setae of abdomen.



0.4mm.



0.15mm.



0.5mm.

Figs. 6-8. *Ancistroplax crocidurae* Waterston. 6. Paratergites; 7. Genitalia; 8. Nymph.

**Female** : (Fig. 1) Total body length 1.54 mm. **Head** : (Fig. 2) slightly longer than broad, weakly pigmented with distinct, sclerotic ventral plate bearing a number of crescentic markings : post antennal angle present, occipital angle rounded. Chaetotaxy of the head : clypeal setae (CS) 2-3 pairs, small; ventral oral setae (VOS) 2-4 pairs, Ventral Pre-antennal setae (VPas) long; oral setae (OS) 2-4 pairs; Pre antennal setae (Pas) slightly long; Post-antennal setae (POS) 2 pairs; Marginal setae (MS) 2 pairs; Principal dorsal head setae (PDHS) absent. **Antennae** : (Fig. 3) Four segmented, first segment broad; remaining more or less same size, terminal segment with large sensorium. **Thorax** : small, shorter than head, thoracic sternal plate wedge-shaped (Fig. 4), with small rounded process anteriorly and long posterior process rounded at the tip. **Legs** : Anterior legs small, weak with slender claw, middle legs comparatively longer than anterior, but of same type; posterior legs with all parts enlarged and flattened, whole structure being very stout. **Abdomen** : Elongate and slender; **Dorsal** segment I and II without tergites. Segment III with single tergite; two rows of setae, anterior row with two minute setae, posterior row with 2 pairs of thin elongate setae; segment IV and VII each with 3 tergites, having 4-6 setae each; segment VIII and terminal segment each with single tergite having 4 or 5 setae. Setae off plates between tergites and paratergites (DAAS) absent. **Ventral** : segment I apparently without sternites. Sternites of segment II divided longitudinally into two oval plates seemingly articulating with corresponding paratergites; each oval plate with two minute setae, one in ventral other in lateral side of plate; ventral setae slightly longer than lateral (Fig. 5). Segment III with single sternite, cap shaped, prolonged medially between plates of segment II and provided with 8 setae, segments IV and VII each with 3 sternites having 4-6 setae each. Setae off plates between sternites and paratergites (VAAS) absent. **Lateral** : Paratergites (Fig. 6), II typical, like *Hoplopleura* sp. dorsal and ventral setae small, almost equal in size, III dorsal posterior process long and tapering, both setae long, ventral process broad, both process marked with transverse line. IV to VII each with posterior process lobe like, broad and serrated, posterior outer angles somewhat pointed, setae small sized except paratergite VII in which dorsal and ventral setae long, all with marked transverse line. Paratergite VIII without lobe and transverse line, both setae long. Spiracle small, present on III to VIII segments.

**Genitalia** : (Fig. 7) Genetal plate triangular, gonopod paired each with 3 long and 2 small setae, genital seta enlarged and spiniform.

**Male** : Unknown.

**Nymph** : 1, 2. Unknown.

**Nymph** : 3 (Fig. 8) Total body length 0.71 mm. **Head** : slightly longer than broad. Sclerotic ventral plate bearing a number of crescentic margins; post antennal angle and occipital angle slightly rounded. All typical head setae present. Principal dorsal head setae absent. **Antennae** 4 segmented, terminal segment bears sensorium. **Thorax** : Small; thoracic sternal plate present, wedge shaped, with small rounded tip. **Legs** :

anterior legs small, weak, with slender claw; middle legs slightly longer but same type of anterior pair; posterior pair flattened, with all parts enlarged. *Abdomen* : tergites and sternites absent; only few rows of setae in abdominal region. Paratergites poorly developed on segments II to III. Setae of paratergites smaller than plates except VIII which has 2 long setae.

*Material examined* : 3 females, 1 nymphs, India : Kanning dist. Jamiri, 18.10.85 Arunachal Pradesh, Coll. C. C. Adhikary.

*Host* : *Suncus etruscus* (Savi).

*Remarks* : The present specimens correspond with those described by Waterston (1929), and Ferris (1932) from Sri Lanka but with following differences: Clypeal setae 2-3 pairs, ventral preantennal setae long, post antennal setae slightly long; marginal setae 2 pairs. Tergites of segment III with two rows of setae; IV and VII with 4-6 setae each, segment VIII and terminal segment with 4 or 5 setae respectively, each oval plate of segment II having two minute setae; sternites of segment III with eight setae and IV to VII having 4-6 setae each; dorsal posterior process of paratergites III long and tapering, ventral process broad; IV to VII each with posterior process lobe-like; broad and serrated, posterior outer angle somewhat pointed. Each gonopod usually with three long and two small setae.

#### SUMMARY

*Ancistroplax crocidurae* Waterston known earlier from Sri Lanka is recorded from *Suncus etneseus* in India. Description of the genus and species is revised with inclusion of some new features of taxonomic importance.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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