

## **PHTHIRAPTERA**

Common Name: Lice.

Etymology: Phthir- = lice; -a- = without; -ptera - wings.

Metamorphosis: Hemimetabolous; ectoparasitic.

### CHARACTERISTICS

Body: Minute to small (usually less than 6.5mm); dorsoventrally flattened.

Head: Prognathous.

Mouthparts: Cryptognathous.

Eyes: Compound eyes reduced or lacking; ocelli lacking.

Antennae: Short, 3-5 segmented.

Wings: Secondarily wingless.

Legs: Adapted for clinging to host; 1 or 2-segmented tarsi; 1 or no tarsal claws.

Abdomen: Cerci lacking.

Comments: These are ectoparasites of birds and mammals, many are blood feeders; 2 species attack man, and they can transmit disease.

### SUBORDERS

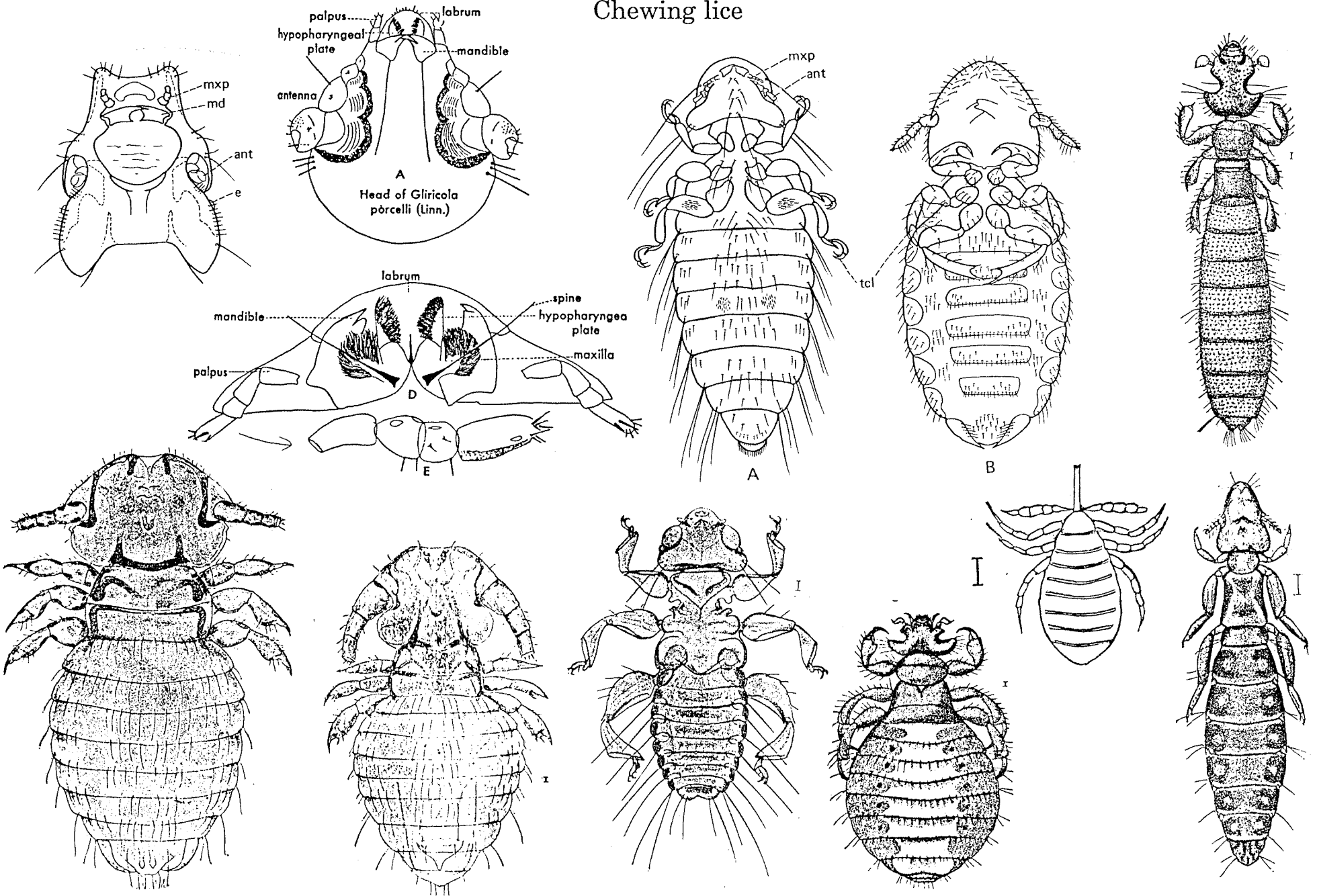
Rhyncophthirina: Head is prolonged forward in long snout-like structure; contains only 2 species, the elephant louse and a species which occurs on African warthogs. Considered to be intermediate between Mallophaga and Anoplura.

Amblycera: Head as wide or wider than prothorax; mouthparts mandibulate; antennae clubbed and concealed in grooves; maxillary palps present.

Ischnocera: Head as wide or wider than prothorax; mouthparts mandibulate; antennae filiform and exposed; maxillary palps absent.

Anoplura: Head narrower than prothorax; mouthparts haustellate.

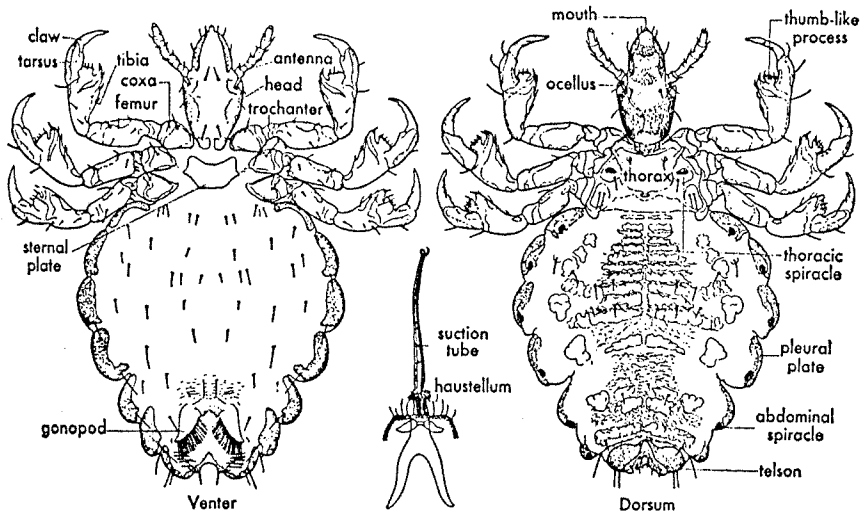
# Order Phthiraptera Group Mallophaga Chewing lice



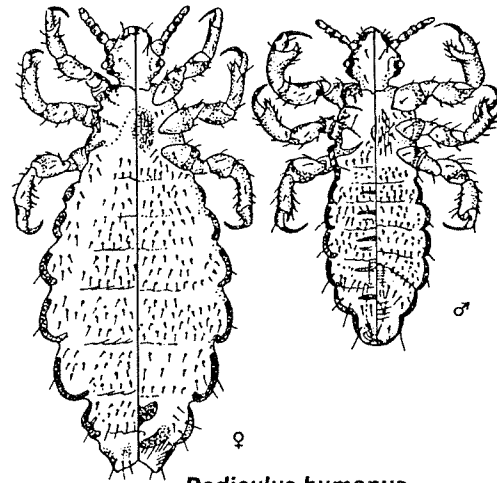
# Order Phthiraptera

## Group Anoplura

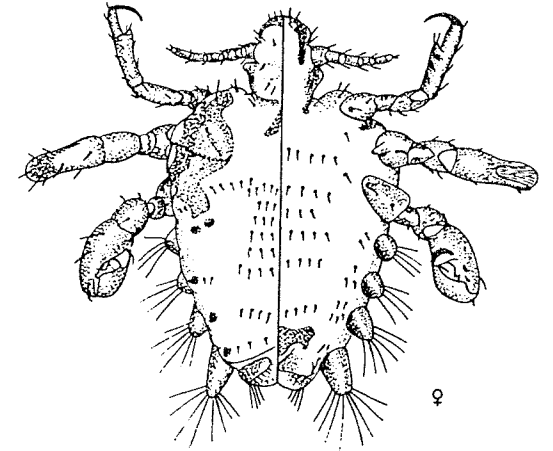
### Sucking lice



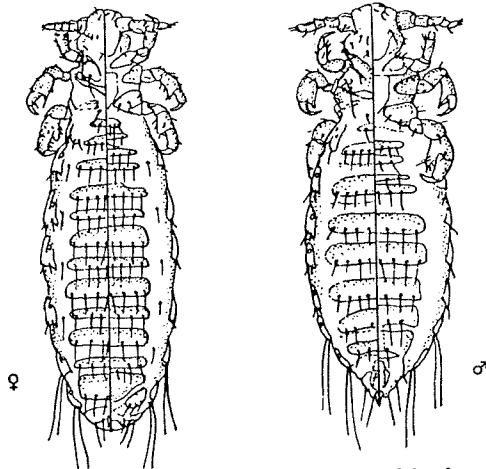
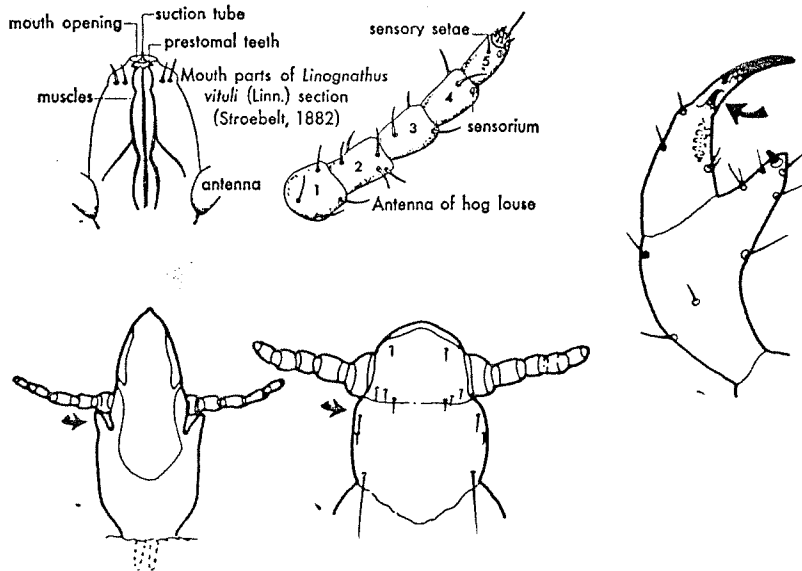
The hog louse, *Haematopinus suis* (Linn.) Female



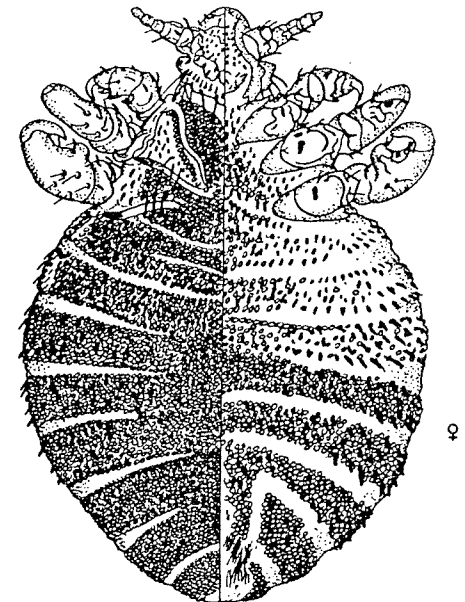
*Pediculus humanus*  
(Pediculidae)



*Pthirus pubis* (Pthiridae)



*Polyplax spinulosa* (Polyplacidae)



*Antarctophthirus ogmorhini*  
(Echinophthiriidae)