**Mallophaga; chewing (biting) lice or "bird lice"**

- **Cats**
  - cat louse, Felicola subrostratus

- **Cattle**
  - cattle biting louse, Bovicola bovis

- **Canidae and wallabies**
  - "Australian dog louse", Heterodoxus spiniger

- **Dogs and other Canidae**
  - dog biting louse, Trichodectes canis (can be intermediate host of dog tapeworm)

- **Fowl**
  - (several species, including a more diverse array of body shapes and sizes than those on mammals)

- **Goats**
  - goat biting louse, Bovicola caprae; Angora goat biting louse, Bovicola crassipes; ? (also on Angora goats), Bovicola limbata

- **Horses and other Equidae**
  - horse biting louse, Bovicola equi

- **Sheep**
  - sheep biting louse, Bovicola ovis

- **Swine**
  - none

**Description:** wingless, small; adults usually 1/20 to 1/8 inch long (a few bird lice nearly ¼ inch); rounded head broader than thorax; typically pale yellowish or amber in color.

**Domestic animals affected:** cattle, horses, sheep, goats, fowl, dogs, cats; not swine.

**Damage caused:** loss of hair, reduced skin integrity, itching; scratches and bruises from rubbing; reduced feeding efficiency. Seldom linked to disease transmission (see Dog on accompanying list).

**Development:** gradual metamorphosis; egg, three nymphaal instars that resemble adults but are smaller and paler in color, adult.

**Generational time:** typically ca. 3 to 4 weeks, more slowly in hot or very cold weather.

**Oviposition site:** eggs are glued to individual hairs, strands of wool, or feathers of the host—typically quite close to the skin.

**Nymphal habitat, feeding:** nymphs share the adult habitat and feeding habits.
**Adult habitat, feeding:** live entire life sheltered by host’s pelage or feathers, feeding on skin cells; some species of fowl lice feed on shafts and/or barbs of feathers.

**Method of dispersal or infestation:** host-to-host contact, exposure to bedding or roosts used by infested hosts; occasionally phoretic on flies.

**Seasonality:** biting (chewing) lice are most abundant during winter.

**Notes or comments:** Most chewing lice are host specific to a single species of host. Exceptions involve lice of Equidae and Canidae.

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