



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

Cats	cat louse, <i>Felicola subrostratus</i>
Cattle	cattle biting louse, <i>Bovicola bovis</i>
Canidae and wallabies	"Australian dog louse", <i>Heterodoxus spiniger</i>
Dogs and other Canidae	dog biting louse, <i>Trichodectes canis</i> (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, <i>Bovicola caprae</i> ; Angora goat biting louse, <i>Bovicola crassipes</i> ; ? (also on Angora goats), <i>Bovicola limbata</i>
Horses and other Equidae	horse biting louse, <i>Bovicola equi</i>
Sheep	sheep biting louse, <i>Bovicola ovis</i>
Swine	none

**Description:** wingless, small; adults usually 1/20 to 1/8 inch long (a few bird lice nearly 1/4 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 nymphal 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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