The same species of sucking louse was inadvertently described twice in the recent parasitological literature. In order to clarify the correct name that should now be applied to this louse, and to document morphological variation within this species, we present the following brief account.

The louse in question was first described as *Gomez*, 1998 from a holotype female, *Abrocoma bennetti* Waterhouse, 1837 collected in Copiapo (= Copiapo) (27° 22' S, 70° 20' W), Chile (Gomez, 1998). After comparing type specimens designated from each description, we also document some morphological variation within this species with respect to the paratergal plate on abdominal segment 3 in the female which usually has two relatively long apical setae, but occasionally has only one.

**KEY WORDS**: *Abrocomaphthirus chilensis*, new combination, Chile, ectoparasite, *Abrocoma bennetti*.

The rationale for describing a new genus to accommodate these two species of sucking lice was mainly based on the presence in them of five abdominal spiracles, rather than the six that characterise the female which usually has two relatively long apical setae, but occasionally has only one.

**Résumé** : *Abrocomaphthirus chilensis* (Gómez), comb. n. (*Phthiraptera-Anoplura*), ectoparasite du rongeur *Abrocoma bennetti* (*Abrocomidae*) du Chili


**MOTS CLÉS** : *Abrocomaphthirus chilensis*, comb. n., Chili, ectoparasite, *Abrocoma bennetti*.
balsam. Although the latter specimens are cleared to a much greater degree than the former ones, morphological structures are also relatively clear in the specimen's mounted in Hoyer's medium. Nevertheless, the apical paratergal lobes shown for both sexes in the Durden & Webb (1999) drawings are more difficult to distinguish in the specimens mounted in Hoyer's medium. Also, the arrangement of the dorsal and ventral abdominal plates and setae is less clear in the latter specimens (Gomez, 1998).

Re-examination of specimens from both descriptions has revealed one important area of morphological variation in this louse that should be documented. This concerns the setation of the paratergal plate on abdominal segment 3 of the female. Although the holotype male designated by Durden & Webb (1999) had two relatively long apical setae on this plate on each side, both of the female specimens they examined (the allotype and paratype) had only one apical seta on this plate on each side. However, Gomez (1998) clearly showed two apical setae on the paratergal plate on abdominal segment 3 of the female. After re-examining the specimens, we can confirm that these findings are correct and that the number of setae on this plate can be either one or two. In fact, two female specimens in the Gomez (1998) series possess two setae on this plate on one side and one seta on the corresponding plate on the other side.

The date of publication printed on the inside cover of the journal issue in which the Gomez (1998) paper was published is March 1998, and that of the Durden & Webb (1999) paper, is November 1999. Therefore, the Gomez (1998) description and specific epithet clearly have priority. However, because Durden & Webb (1999) erected a new genus to accommodate this louse and a closely related species, the correct name of this louse, according to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, becomes *Abrocomaphthirus chilensis* (Gomez, 1998). At the time of writing, neither name or citation has been published in the Zoological Record.

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