

## Fleas of Small Mammals in St. Petersburg

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**Abstract**—In the territory of St. Petersburg, 26 sites with 4 types of forest vegetation were examined. Fleas of 16 species were collected off 13 species of small mammals. The most common flea species was *Ctenophthalmus agyrtes*. Two types of flea communities can be distinguished: those of suburban forests and forest parks and those of urban parks and cemeteries. 16 species from 4 families of fleas were recorded on 13 species of insectivores and rodents in the territory of St. Petersburg. Two main groups of communities of fleas parasitizing small mammals could be distinguished. The first group unites communities of parasites of small mammals in territories subject to inconsiderable anthropogenic impact. Such biotopes are mostly inhabited by the bank vole and the common shrew, whereas the flea species associated with them, namely *Ctenophthalmus uncinatus* and *Megabothris turbidus*, and also *Palaeopsylla soricis* and *Doratopsylla dasyncnema*, are prevalent. The second group unites associations of parasites of small mammals in territories subject to high anthropogenic impact. In such territories the striped field mouse is the dominant small mammal, and the most frequently recorded flea species is *Ctenophthalmus agyrtes*. The IA of fleas is lower in the first group (from 0.01 and up to 0.16) than in the second one (from 0.01 to 0.57). However, species diversity is higher in the first group (11 species) than in the second (8 species). The indices of dominance of some species are higher in the second group.

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