Ectoparasites of the critically endangered insular cavy, *Cavia intermedia* (Rodentia: Caviidae), southern Brazil

André Luis Regolin a,*, Nina Furnari b, Fernando de Castro Jacinavicius c, Pedro Marcos Linardi d, Carlos José de Carvalho-Pinto e

a Departamento de Biologia, Universidade Federal de Santa Maria, Santa Maria 97110-970, Brazil
b Departamento de Psicologia Experimental, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo 05508-030, Brazil
c Departamento de Parasitologia, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte 31270-901, Brazil
d Departamento de Microbiologia e Parasitologia, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Florianópolis 88040-900, Brazil
e Departamento de Psicologia Experimental, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo 05508-030, Brazil

**ABSTRACT**

*Cavia intermedia* is a rodent species critically endangered and is found only on a 10 hectare island off the southern Brazilian coast. To identify the ectoparasites of *C. intermedia*, 27 specimens (14 males and 13 females), representing approximately 65% of the estimated total population, were captured and examined. A total of 1336 chewing lice of two species were collected: *Gliricola lindolphoi* (Amblycera: Gyropidae) and *Trimenopon hispidum* (Amblycera: Trimenoponidae). In addition, chiggers *Arisocerus hertigi* (Acari: Trombiculidae) and *Eutrombicula* sp. (Acari: Trombiculidae) were collected from the ears of all captured animals. This low species richness compared to those for other *Cavia* species is expected for island mammals. Although the results presented here are not conclusive about the relationship between *C. intermedia* and ectoparasites, this low species richness found might be reflected in a low level of investment by the hosts in the basal immune defense, since investments in white blood cell production by mammals are influenced by the diversity of parasites in the environment. Additionally, considering that it might result in host vulnerability to other parasites that might be introduced through exotic or migratory host species, the monitoring of *C. intermedia*, including parasitological and immunological assessments, is recommended as a key component of conservation efforts.

© 2014 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Ltd on behalf of Australian Society for Parasitology. This is an open access article under the CC BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

1. Introduction

Species richness on islands results from a dynamic balance between migration and extinction processes, which depend on island size and its distance from the adjacent continent (MacArthur and Wilson, 1967). Thus, insular environments are characterized primarily by a decrease in species richness. As a consequence, many biological processes are affected and differentiated from those on the mainland, including host–parasite interactions, mainly through differences in the number of parasite species, their biological characteristics and host specificity (Magnanou and Morand, 2006). Parasites play an important role in host ecology, immune investment, population dynamics, and behavior, so it seems relevant to identify and quantify the parasite assemblages associated with archipelago mammals, specially the insular endemic species (Linardi and Guimarães, 2000; Berglund et al., 2009; Bordes and Morand, 2009).

*Cavia intermedia* is an endemic species from the largest island (9.86 ha) of Moleques do Sul Archipelago, in Santa Catarina State, Southern Brazil (Cherem et al., 1999). The species probably diverged from a common ancestral population of *C. magna* as the result of vicariance associated with archipelago formation, approximately 8000 years ago (Gava et al., 1998; Cherem et al., 1999; Furnari, 2013). It is categorized as “critically endangered” at the global level according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria (Chapman, 2008). It is probably the mammal with the smallest geographic distribution in the world (Alcover et al., 1998) and its average population size was estimated as just 42 individuals (Salvador and Fernandez, 2008). The ectoparasites of this species have not previously been described.

The aim of this study was to document the ectoparasites of *C. intermedia*, record their prevalence and abundance, examine the influence of host sex on these parameters and describe the host–parasite interactions based on comparisons to other species of the genus *Cavia*.
2. Methods

The Moleques do Sul Archipelago (27°51′S; 48°26′W) consists of three oceanic islands. It is located 8 km from Santa Catarina Island and 14 km from the coast of Brazil, and is part of the Serra do Tabuleiro State Park in Santa Catarina State, Southern Brazil (Fig. 1). A detailed description of the area was provided by Salvador and Fernandez (2008).

*Cavia intermedia* were captured over 9 days in December, 2009, and for 4 days in February, 2010, using 34 traps baited with maize and placed in areas of high host density. Animals captured were numbered with ear-tags (Fish and small animal tag size 1, National Band and Tag Co., Newport, Kentucky, USA) and released at the place of capture. Techniques were approved by the Brazilian Federal Wildlife Agency (IBAMA) (license number # 033/07, process number # 02026.000394/2007-18) and are in accordance with guidelines published by the American Society of Mammalogists for use of wild mammals in research (Gannon and Sikes, 2007).

Lice were collected by brushing the hair coat on to a white tray, after rubbing cotton with ethyl ether on the host’s body, and were then preserved in 70% ethanol. The sorting and counting of the lice was performed using a stereomicroscope. At least one sample containing several lice from each individual host was stored on permanent slides and identified according to Werneck (1942, 1948) and Emerson and Price (1975). Both the validity of specific names of lice and host were confirmed based on Price et al. (2003).

Chiggers were collected from the ears of the hosts by using forceps and they were stored in 70% alcohol. They were mounted in Hoyer’s medium and examined on a light microscope with phase-contrast optics, according to Krantz and Walter (2009). They were identified according to Brennan and Goff (1977) and Brennan and Jones (1964), following the terminology of Goff et al. (1982). All mites and lice have been deposited at the Acari Collection of Instituto Butantan (IBSP130, IBSP11989, IBSP11990, IBSP11991).

Prevalence and abundance of lice were calculated according to Bush et al. (1997). Differences in abundance and prevalence among louse species were evaluated using a t-test and chi-square, respectively. Possible differences in parasite abundance (all species together or separately) between male and female hosts were evaluated with a t-test. Before performing the t-test, Levene’s test was used to evaluate the homoscedasticity of the data. The parasitological parameters were not calculated for chiggers, because the collection of these parasites was not standardized.

3. Results and discussion

Twenty-seven *C. intermedia* (14 males and 13 females) were captured, which corresponds to approximately 65% of the total population as estimated by Salvador and Fernandez (2008). 1336 Mallophaga of two species were collected, *Gliricola lindolphoi* (Amblycera: Gyropidae) (Fig. 2) and *Trimenopon hispidum* (Amblycera: Trimenoponidae) (Fig. 3; Table 1). The morphological diagnosis of *G. lindolphoi* was based on: meso and methatorax fused into pterothorax; maxillary palpi 2-segmented; male genitalia with elongate and wide basal plate; straight parameres; genital sac with many sclerites; females presenting the longest terminal seta of the posterior margin shorter than the length of the last tergite. The morphological diagnosis of *T. hispidum* was based on: subtriangular head with straight lateral and posterior margins; pigmented eyes; presence of two claws on each of tarsi II–III and five pairs of abdominal spiracles.

Chiggers of two species, *Arisocerus hertigi* (Acari: Trombiculidae) (Fig. 4) and *Eutrombicula* sp. (Acari: Trombiculidae), were collected from the ears of all captured caviés. The morphological diagnosis of *A. hertigi* were based on: palpal tarsus with 7 branched setae; galeal seta nude; tibial claw trifurcate; 3 genualae I; a genuala II and III; a tibiala III and a mahtatarsala III; palpal setae B/B/NNN; coxal setae 1.1; 2 pairs of sternal setae; PL>AL>AM, 20–22 dorsal

![Fig. 1. Location map of Moleques do Sul Archipelago.](image_url)
setae; arranged 2H-6-6-(2–4)-2; 12–15 ventral setae; arranged 2st-2st-8-2-2; the sensilla are unilaterally expanded only one side and PL setae are long. The morphological diagnosis of *Eutrombicula* sp. were based on: palpal tibial claw bifurcate; cheliceral blade with tricuspid cap; palpal tarsus with 7 branched setae; a subterminala; and a tarsala; scutum roughly rectangular; wider than long; sensillae branched flageliform; five scutal setae; eyes 2/2, in a plate; leg segmentation 7-7-7; two or 3 genualae I; one genua II and III; one tibiala III; 0–2 mastitibialae III; 1–3 mastitarsalae III.

Prevalence did not differ significantly among the two louse species and was high for both ($\chi^2 = 0.18$, df = 2, $p = 0.915$). The mean abundance was 49.5 (±39.1) parasites/host. Abundance of *T. hispidum* was greater than that of *G. lindolphoi* (Table 1) ($t = 3.54$, df = 26, $p = 0.001$). Host sex did not affect mean abundance ($t = -0.5$, df = 25, $p = 0.62$) or the abundance of either louse species individually (*T. hispidum*: $t = -1.033$, df = 25, $p = 0.311$; *G. lindolphoi*: $t = -0.049$, df = 25, $p = 0.961$).

This work shows, for the first time, the occurrence of two chewing louse species, *T. hispidum* and *G. lindolphoi*, and two trombiculid mites, *A. hertigi* and *Eutrombicula* sp., associated with *C. intermedia*, a rodent species highly endangered and endemic to an island in southern Brazil. Approximately 50 species of ectoparasites have been reported for the genus *Cavia* (Table 2), but in the current study only a few were found on *C. intermedia*. This low number of parasite species is expected for island mammals, as reported for *C. fulgida* (Guitton et al., 1986) and *C. porcellus* (Linardi et al., 1991). The structure of parasites assembly on islands is strongly related to the low richness of free-living species typical of these environments (MacArthur and Wilson, 1967). This occurs because the parasites

![Fig. 2. Gliricola lindolphoi male collected on Cavia intermedia. The bar corresponds to 100 μm.](image1)

![Fig. 3. Trimenopon hispidum male collected on Cavia intermedia. The bar corresponds to 100 μm.](image2)

![Fig. 4. Arisocerus hertigi collected on Cavia intermedia. The bar corresponds to 200 μm.](image3)

**Table 1**

| Louse species          | Prevalence (%) | Abundance (parasites/host) | Sex and developmental stage | Total |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| Trimenopon hispidum    | 100           | 32.0                        | $\sigma'$ 299 243 323       | 865   |
| Gliricola lindolphoi   | 89            | 17.4                        | $\sigma'$ 96 113 262        | 471   |
| Total                  |               | 49.5                        | $\sigma'$ 395 356 585       | 1336  |
| Ectoparasites | Cavia aperea | Cavia aperea pamparum | Cavia porcellus | Cavia fulgida | Cavia intermedia |
|--------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| Phthiraptera |             |                      |                |              |                  |
| Gliricola brasiliensis |             |                      | Cardozo-de-Almeida et al. (2003) |              |                  |
| Gliricola lindolphi | Emerson and Price (1975); Cardozo-de-Almeida et al. (2003); Krüger (2006) | Emerson and Price (1975) |                |              |                  |
| Gliricola porcelli | Emerson and Price (1975); Dittmar (2002); Krüger (2006) | Castro et al. (1987) | Emerson and Price (1975); Linardi et al. (1991); Dittmar (2000); Cruz et al. (2003); Valim et al. (2004) | Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |
| Gliricola spinosus | Cardozo-de-Almeida et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Cruz et al. (2003); Valim et al. (2004) | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |
| Gyropus ovalis | Emerson and Price (1975); Dittmar (2002); Cruz et al. (2003); Linardi et al. (1991); Dittmar (2000); Cruz et al. (2003); Valim et al. (2004) | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |              |                  |
| Polyploxy spinulosa | Dittmar (2002); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Cruz et al. (2003); Valim et al. (2004) | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |
| Pterophthirus imitans | Emerson and Price (1975); Castro et al. (1987) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Trimenoson hispidum | Emerson and Price (1975); Ciccino and Castro (1984); Krüger (2006) | Ciccino and Castro (1984); Castro et al. (1987) | Emerson and Price (1975); Ciccino and Castro (1984); Dittmar (2000); Cruz et al. (2003); Valim et al. (2004) | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |
| Siphonaptera |             |                      |                |              |                  |
| Adoratopsylla intermedia | Linardi and Guimarães (2000) |             | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |              |                  |
| Ctenocephalides felis felis |             |                      | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |              |                  |
| Echidnophaga gallinacea | Dittmar (2002); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Cruz et al. (2003) | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |
| Leptopsylla segnis | Dittmar (2002); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Cruz et al. (2003) | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |
| Polygenis bohlsi jordani | Linardi and Guimarães (2000) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Polygenis frustratus | Linardi and Guimarães (2000) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Polygenis plataentesis | Linardi and Guimarães (2000) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Polygenis rimatus | Linardi and Guimarães (2000) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Pulex simulans | Linardi and Guimarães (2000) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Xenopsylla cheopis | Linardi and Guimarães (2000) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Acari |             |                      |                |              |                  |
| Amblyomma tigrinum | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Androlaelaps fahrenholzi | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Arisocerus hertigi | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Chirodiscoides caviae | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Dermanyssus gallinae | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Eubrachylaelaps batatas | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Eutrombicula alfreddugesi | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Eutrombiula bruyanti | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Eutrombiula sp. | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Gigantolaelaps mattozogrossensis | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Myobia musculi | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Myocoptes musculus | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Myoxoela als microspinosus | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Neoadelaps bispinosus | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Neoparadela als bispinosus | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Notoedres muris | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Ornithonyssus bacoti | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Ornithonyssus brasiliensis | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Ornithonyssus latzi | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Ornithonyssus monteiroi | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Ornithonyssus spp. | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Ornithonyssus vitzthumii | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
| Ornithonyssus wernecki | Linardi and Guimarães (2000); Cruz et al. (2003) |             | Emerson and Price (1975); Guitton et al. (1986) |                  |                  |
depend on the hosts to disperse to these sites and also to establish, especially for those who require more than one species of host to complete its life cycle (Magnanou and Morand, 2006). Until now, C. aperea, C. fulgida, C. a. pamparum and C. porcellus were reported as hosts of T. hispidum. This louse species is common in these hosts, but G. lindolphi is known only from C. aperea (Table 2), and is rare, being reported here for only the sixth time (Emerson and Price, 1975; Cardozo-de-Almeida et al., 2003; Krüger, 2006).

Arisocerus hertigi was originally described in rodents (Dasyproctidae) and marsupials from Sommerfeld, Paraguay (Didelphidae) (Brennan and Jones, 1964). Subsequently, this species was also found parasitizing marsupials (Didelphidae) in the Federal District, Brazil (Goff and Gettinger, 1989). Therefore, this work reports the first record of this species in Caviidae.

The genus Eutrombicula, the most important in terms of human and animal health in the Neotropical Region, is composed of about 80 species (Brennan and Reed, 1974; Stekol’Nikov and González-Acúña, 2010). According to Daniel and Stekol’Nikov (2004) many species of this genus were identified “by default”. Thus, the correct identification of the material from C. intermedia will be possible only after a taxonomic revision of the genus.

We observed 100% prevalence and an abundance of 33 parasites/host for T. hispidum on C. intermedia. These values are slightly higher than those found in two other studies of Cavia spp., except for a location where the estimated abundance was much lower, Valim et al. (2004) estimated a prevalence of 100% and an abundance of 4.8 parasite/host and a prevalence of 90% and abundance of 29.1 parasites/host for T. hispidum on C. porcellus in Duque de Caxias and Silva Jardim in Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil, respectively. Krüger (2006) reported a prevalence of 97% and abundance of 23 parasites/host for T. hispidum on C. aperea from Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul State, Brazil. While the prevalence of G. lindolphi in this study (89%) is much higher than previously reported by Krüger (2006) (48%), the abundance (17.4 parasites/host) is similar to that reported by this author on C. aperea (16 parasites/host).

The differences between these studies and the results reported here are possibly related to high population densities of the hosts, but parasitological parameters different from those found in studies on other Cavia spp. on the mainland of Brazil; the presence of generalist species (trombiculid mites); and direct life cycles species (lice) (Magnanou and Morand, 2006). Parasitological studies of Cavia spp., especially of C. magna, may help to clarify the interaction of C. intermedia and its ectoparasites.

Additionally, considering that it might result in host vulnerability to other parasites that might be introduced through exotic or migratory host species, the monitoring of C. intermedia, including parasitological and immunological assessments, is recommended as a key component of conservation efforts.

Acknowledgments

We wish to thank José Ramiro Botelho for laboratory support, Gabriela Ferreira de Souza and Caroline Oswald for the helping in capturing the rodents, Jonas Sponchiado and Jean Susan Al-Qureshi for manuscript review, and to Juliana Scotton and Luciano Candisani for the figures. Thanks are also extended to Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente (IBAMA) and Fundação do Meio Ambiente FATMA for the license to capture the animals. This research was sponsored by Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (FAPESP), Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq), and the Coordenación de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal do Ensino Superior (CAPES).

References

Alcover, J.A., Campillo, X., Macias, M., Sans, A., 1998. A mammal species of the world: additional data on insular mammals. Am. Mus. Novit. 3248, 1–29.

Bastos, F.A.N., 2008. Revisión taxonómica das especies do gênero Ornithonyssus (Acarina: Macronyssidae) parasitos de pequenos mamíferos terrestres no Brasil e avaliação da recorrência desses acarídeos para aéciréticas spp. Master dissertation. Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil.

Berglund, H., Järemo, J., Bengtsson, G., 2009. Endemism predicts intrinsic vulnerability to nonindigenous species on islands. Am. Nat. 174 (1), 94–101.

Bordes, F., Morand, S., 2005. Coevolution between multiple helminth infestations and basal immune investment in mammals: cumulative effects of polyparasitism? Parasitol. Res. 106, 33–37.

Brennan, J.M., Goff, M.L., 1977. Keys to the genera of chiggers of the western hemisphere (Acarina: Trombiculidae). J. Parasitol. 63 (3), 554–566.

Brennan, J.M., Jones, E.K., 1964. Five new species of chiggers from South America (Acarina: Trombiculidae). J. Med. Entomol. 1, 307–310.

Brennan, J.M., Reed, J.T., 1974. The genus Eutrombicula in Venezuela (Acarina: Trombiculidae). J. Med. Entomol. 1, 307–310.

Bush, A.O., Lafferty, K.D., Lotz, J.M., Shostak, A.W., 1997. Parasitoid meteology affects Ecology on its own terms: Margolis et al. revisited. J. Parasitol. 83 (4), 575–583.

Cardozo-de-Almeida, M., Linardi, P.M., Costa, J., 2003. The type specimens of chewing lice [Isca, Mallophaga] deposited in the entomological collection of Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Mem. Inst. Oswaldo Cruz 98 (2), 233–240.

Castro, D.D.C., Mauri, R., Cicchino, A.C., Mosquera, S., 1987. Ectoparasites of roedores de la provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina (Acarina, Anoplura, Mallophaga y Siphonaptera). Rev. Soc. Entomol. Argent. 44, 317–327.

Chávez, K.E., Cavia intermedia. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2013.1. Available from: http://www.iucnredlist.org.

Cherem, J.J., Olimpio, J., Ximenez, A., 1999. Descrizione di una nuova specie del gênero Cavia Pallas, 1766 (Mammalia – Caviidae) delle isole dei Moleques del Sud, Santa Catarina, Sul do Brasil. Biotemas 12, 95–117.

Cicchino, A.C., Castro, D.C., 1984. Contribuzioni al conoscimento dei mallophagi argentini XIV. Una nuova specie del gênero Philandesius Kellogg e Nakayama, 1914 Mallophaga – Trimenoponidae. Hist. Nat. 4, 25–32.

Cruz, K.D., Ribbeck, R., Daugschies, A., 2003. Vorkommen und verbreitung von ektoparasiten bei meeresschweinchen (Cavia spp.) in Peru, Südamerika. Berl. Munch. Tierarztl. Wochenschr. 116, 102–107.

Daniel, M., Stekol’Nikov, A.A., 2004. Chigger mites of the genus Eutrombicula ewing, 1938 (Acarina: Trombiculidae) from Cuba, with the description of three new species. Folia Parasitol. 51, 359–366.

Dittmar, K., 2002. Arthropod and helminth parasites of the wild Guinea pig, Cavia porcellus, including C. intermedia, one of the world’s rarest mammals. Mammal Rev. 43 (4), 323–326.

Gannon, W.L., Sikes, R.S., 2007. Guidelines of the American Society of Mammalogists for use of wild mammals in research. J. Mammal. 88 (3), 809–823.
Gava, A., Freitas, T.R.O., Olimpio, J., 1998. A new karyotype for the genus Cavia from a southern island of Brazil (Rodentia – Caviidae). Genet. Mol. Biol. 21 (1), 77–80.

Goff, M.L., Getzinger, D., 1989. Two new species of schoengastiine chiggers (Acari: Trombiculidae) from Brazil and rediagnosis of Arisocerus Brennan, 1970. J. Med. Entomol. 26 (6), 554–558.

Goff, M.L., Loomis, R.B., Welbourn, W.C., Wrenn, W.J., 1982. A glossary of chigger terminology (Acari: Trombiculidae). J. Med. Entomol. 19 (3), 221–238.

Guittot, N., Araujo-Filho, N.A., Sherlock, I.A., 1986. Ectoparasitos de roedores e marsupiais nos ambiente Silvestre de Ilha Grande, Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Brasil. Mem. Inst. Oswaldo Cruz 81, 233–234.

Krantz, C.W., Walter, D.E., 2009. A Manual of Acarology. Texas Tech University Press, Lubbock, Texas. 807 pp.

Krüger, C., Mascarenhas, C.S., Müller, G., Brum, J.G.W., 2010. Ocorrência de Siphonaptera em pré Cavia aperea Exerleben, 1777 (Rodentia: Caviidae) no Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil. Arq. Bras. Med. Vet. Zootec. 62 (5), 1288–1290.

Krüger, C.P., 2006. Artrópodes e helmintos parasitos de Cavia aperea Exerleben, 1777 (Rodentia: Caviidae) no sul do Brasil (Master dissertation). Universidade Federal de Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

Linardi, P.M., Guimarães, L.R., 2000. Siphonápteros do Brasil. Museu de Zoologia USP/FAPESP Press, São Paulo.

Linardi, P.M., Botelho, J.R., Rafael, J.A., Valle, C.M.C., Cunha, A., Machado, P.A.R., 1991. Ectoparasitos de pequenos mamíferos da Ilha de Maracá, Roraima, Brasil. I. Ectoparasitofauna, registros geográficos e de hospedeiros. Acta Amaz. 21, 1–140.

MacArthur, R., Wilson, E., 1967. The Theory of Biogeography. Princeton University Press, New Jersey.

Magnanou, E., Morand, S., 2006. Insularity and micromammal-macroparasite relationships. In: Monrad, S., Krasnov, B.R., Poulin, R. (Eds.), Micromammals and Macroparasites: From Evolutionary Ecology to Management. Editora Springer Press.

Moore, S.L., Wilson, K., 2002. Parasites as viability cost of sexual selection in natural population of mammals. Science 297, 2015–2018.

Price, R.D., Hellenthal, R.A., Palma, R.L., 2003. World checklist of chewing lice with host associations and keys to families and genera. In: Price, R.D., Hellenthal, R.A., Palma, R.L., Johnson, K.P., Clayton, D.H. (Eds.), The Chewing Lice: World Checklist and Biological Overview. Illinois Natural History Survey Special Publication. 448pp.

Salvador, C.H., Fernandez, F.A.S., 2008. Population dynamics and conservation status of the insular cavy Cavia intermedia (Rodentia: Caviidae). J. Mammal. 89, 721–729.

Soliman, S., Main, A.J., Marzouk, A.S., Motasser, A.A., 2001. Seasonal studies on commensal rats and their ectoparasites in a rural area of Egypt: the relationship of ectoparasites to the species, locality and relative abundance of the host. J. Parasitol. 87, 545–553.

Stanko, M., Miklisová, D., Bellocq, J.G., Morand, S., 2002. Mammal density and patterns of ectoparasite species richness and abundance. Oecologia 131, 289–295.

Stekolnikov, A.A., González-Acuña, D., 2010. Four new species of chigger mites (Acari: Trombiculidae) of the genus Eutrombicula from Chile. Int. J. Acarol. 36, 313–325.

Valim, M.P., Amorim, M., Serra-Freire, N.M., 2004. Parasitismo por Acari e Phthiraptera em cabaços [Cavia porcellus (Linnaeus, 1758)] de ambientes rural e urbano nos municípios de Silva Jardim e Duque de Cássia, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil. J. Vet. Res. Anim. Sci. 41, 440–446.

Werneck, F.L., 1942. Sobre algumas espécies do gênero Gliricola (Mallophaga). Mem. Inst. Oswaldo Cruz 37, 297–319.

Werneck, F.L., 1948. Os Malófagos de Mamíferos. Parte I: Amblycera e Ischnocera (Phthirapteridae e parte de Trichodectidae). Rev. Bras. Biol.