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(Mallophaga, Trichodectidae) on Blackbuck Antelope
(Antilope cervicapra L.) in Texas**

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***Tricholipeurus balanicus balanicus* (Werneck, 1938)
(Mallophaga, Trichodectidae) on Blackbuck Antelope
(*Antilope cervicapra* L.) in Texas**

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Blackbuck antelope are native to India and were introduced into the hill country ranches of Texas in the 1930's. The population of these antelope in Texas increased from approximately 1,000 in 1955 to over 7,000 in 1980 with 80% being located in the Edwards Plateau (Mungall, 1978, Kleberg Studies in Natural Resources, RMA/KS3, Texas A&M University System, College Station, Texas, 184 pp.). Normally, blackbuck antelope are relatively free of ectoparasites, but lone star ticks (*Amblyomma americanum* (Linnaeus, 1758) and biting lice (*Tricholipeurus parallelus* (Osborn, 1891) which are common to white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus* (Zimmermann)) have been found on these antelope in Texas (Thornton et al., 1972, J. Wildl. Dis. 9: 160-162).

In the fall of 1982, a young male blackbuck antelope, estimated to be approximately 10-mo-old, was killed on a Kerr County ranch and taken to a local taxidermy shop in Kerrville. Lice were found migrating toward the muzzle. The taxidermist commented that he had not seen

lice on any other blackbuck he had processed in the last 20 yr. They were identified as *Tricholipeurus balanicus balanicus* (Werneck, 1938). This is the first record of this louse in North America. It was originally described from collections from a blackbuck antelope at the London Zoo (Werneck, 1938, Mem. Inst. Oswaldo Cruz Rio de J. 33: 413-422). The collection of lice from this young blackbuck was either the result of transmission of lice from an infestation of long standing duration on this ranch or from an introduction on recently imported animals. The impact of this louse species on resident herds of blackbuck, other exotics, and native wild game in Texas is unknown.

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