

SUMMARY

With the objective of creating a pictorial key for an easy identification of the main species of fleas of medical and veterinary interest, specimens from three Brazilian collections were examined. The species used for the construction of the key were: *Pulex irritans* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Ctenocephalides canis* (Curtis, 1826), *Ctenocephalides felis* (Bouché, 1835), *Echidnophaga gallinacea* (Westwood, 1875), *Xenopsylla cheopis* (Rothschild, 1903), *Xenopsylla brasiliensis* (Baker, 1904), *Tunga penetrans* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Nosopsyllus fasciatus* (Bosc. 1800), *Leptopsylla segnis* (Schönherr, 1811) e *Polygenis* spp. The following characteres were considered: eyes, format of the head, ocular and occiput bristle, genal and pronotal ctenidia, hind tibia, thoracic segments, antensensilial bristle and spermatheca.

KEY WORDS: Siphonaptera, pictorial key, fleas.