
New County Record for the Least Shrew, *Cryptotis parva*, and Notes on an Ectoparasite, *Haemogamasus longitarsus*.

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The least shrew (*Cryptotis parva*) is a small insectivore that ranges from the northern United States west to the Midwest and south to Texas and Florida; it is also found in Central America (Whitaker 1974). In Oklahoma, *C. parva* occurs over most of the state, except the western panhandle (Caire et al. 1989); however, there are apparently no records for Delaware Co. in northeastern Oklahoma. Although the least shrew has a wide distribution, little is known of its ecology, especially its ectoparasite fauna, in Oklahoma. Here, we report a new county record for the least shrew from Oklahoma and also report on a laelapid mite, *Haemogamasus longitarsus*, collected from it.

On 9 May 2015, an adult female *C. parva* was collected as a salvage specimen from a county road just west of Maysville, AR, on Co. Rd. E0430 in Delaware Co. (36.394695°N, 94.610809°W). The surrounding habitat consisted of a matrix of pastureland and agricultural cropland. The shrew was searched for ectoparasites following previous methods described in Connior et. al. (2014). Two mites were collected and placed in vials containing 70% ethanol. Mites were cleared in lactophenol and slide-mounted in Hoyer's medium (Walters and Krantz 2009). Voucher specimens of mites were deposited in the General Ectoparasite Collection in the Department of Biology at Georgia Southern University (accession no.

L3720). The voucher host was deposited in the Henderson State University (HSU 878) collection, Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

Since Caire et al. (1989), several additional county records have been reported for *Cryptotis parva* in Oklahoma (Braun and Revelez 2005); however, these all occur in western Oklahoma. This is the first report of an additional distribution record from northeastern Oklahoma for *C. parva* to our knowledge. This record (Delaware Co.) fills a distributional hiatus from surrounding Ottawa and Adair cos. In addition, *C. parva* has been collected from adjacent Benton Co. in Arkansas, as well as Washington and Madison cos. in extreme northwestern Arkansas (Pfau et al. 2011). This shrew species commonly inhabits grassy or brushy areas, but may go undetected due to its small size and habits, unless specifically targeted. Thus, this shrew is probably more prevalent than museum records represent.

Two mites (1 female, 1 nymph) identified as *Haemogamasus longitarsus* were recovered from *C. parva*. This laelapid mite has been previously reported from the shrew of the genus *Blarina* (McCay 2001; Whitaker et al. 2007) and rodents from Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. (Whitaker et al. 2007). It has not been, to our knowledge, previously reported from any

mammalian host in Oklahoma. We therefore document a new state record for *H. longitarsus* in Oklahoma. Furthermore, this is only the second report of a mite from an insectivore from Oklahoma (McAllister and Durden 2014).

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