

## A NEW SPECIES OF *ORNITHONYSSUS* (ACARI: MACRONYSSIDAE) IN WESTERN NORTH AMERICA AND A REVIEW OF NEARCTIC SPECIES

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**ABSTRACT** - *Ornithonyssus hypertrichus* **n. sp.** is described from four localities over a large area of the western nearctic region. Species characteristics include a high degree of hypertrichy on the opisthonotal portion of the female dorsal shield and the unarmed cuticle of the protonymph and adults, thus far unique within the genus. All specimens were collected from species of the cricetine rodent genus *Peromyscus*. A revised diagnosis is given for the genus *Ornithonyssus*. Keys are given to adult females, adult males, and protonymphs of the 6 species recognized as belonging to the genus *Ornithonyssus* in the nearctic region. **Key words** - Acari, Macronyssidae, *Ornithonyssus* Sambon, new species, hypertrichous setation, mammal ectoparasite, Cricetinae, western nearctic, generic rediagnosis, species keys.

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Internat. J. Acarol. 33(3): 223-229.