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Pediculus Humanus Capitis

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Name

Latin: *pediculus* = small foot, *humanus* = human,
caput = head; French: *pou*, German: *Kopflaus*.

Synonyms

Human head louse; *Pediculus capitis*

General Information

With a length of about 3 mm the adult head lice (Figs. 1 and 2) are smaller than the body lice. The

eggs are glued to the hair and are characterized by an operculum with typically placed small pores (Fig. 3). The life cycle takes about 15–16 days. The females produce about 200–250 eggs within the lifespan of about 1 month (Figs. 4, 5, 6 and 7).

Therapy

► [Ectoparasitical Drugs](#), Licener[®] a Neem-extract of Alpha-Biocare, Düsseldorf.

Further Reading

- Al-Quraishy S et al. (2015) Head louse control by suffocation due to blocking their oxygen uptake. *Parasitol Res* 114: 3105–3110
- Aspöck H, Walochnik J (2007) Die Parasiten des Menschen aus Sicht der Koevolution. *Denisia* 20(66):149–254
- Mehlhorn B, Mehlhorn H (2009) *Louse alert*. Düsseldorf University Press, Düsseldorf



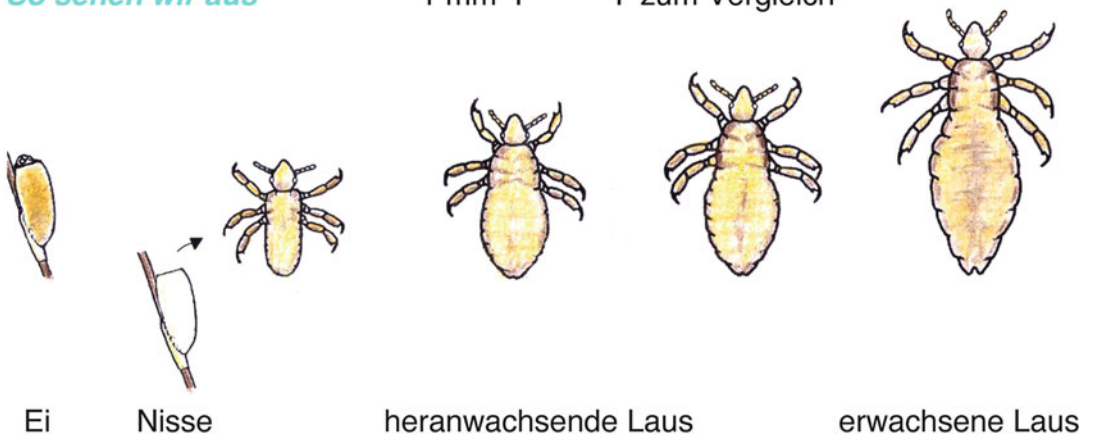
Pediculus Humanus Capitis, Fig. 1 Light and scanning electron micrographs of two female head lice and a male adult (*right*)

Pediculus Humanus Capitis, Fig. 2 Scanning electron micrograph of the typical foot claws of head lice



So sehen wir aus

1 mm |-----| zum Vergleich



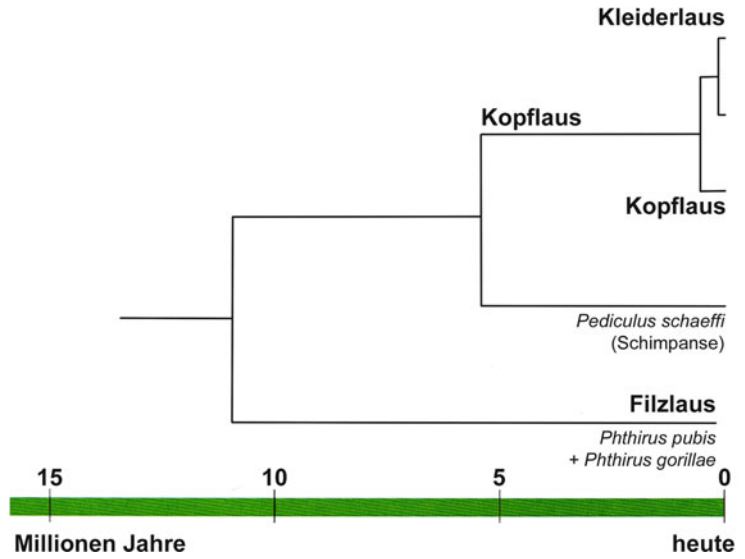
Pediculus Humanus Capitis, Fig. 3 Diagrammatic representation of the life cycle stages of *P. h. capitis* (in German)

Pediculus Humanus Capitis, Fig. 4 Scanning electron micrograph of an egg (nit) of *P. h. capitis*



Pediculus Humanus Capitis,

Fig. 5 Diagrammatic representation of the relations of the human lice species (according to Aspöck and Walochnik); Kleiderlaus = body louse; Kopflaus = head louse; Filzlaus = *Phthirus pubis*; Millionen Jahre = million years; heute = today



Pediculus Humanus Capitis,

Fig. 6 Macrophoto of seeds of the neem tree (left: on the tree; right: peeled)



Pediculus Humanus Capitis, Fig. 7 Attention on inflammable antilice products. This woman burned her face and hair after using an inflammable silicone containing anti-louse product

'Getekend voor het leven'

De Limburger
Limburgs Dagblad

Gevangen. Zo voelt Marga Kaspers zich. „Eerst had ik een bruisend leven. Nu kan ik niets meer.“ Ze gebruikte een antiluisenmiddel dat licht ontvlambaar bleek. Met gruwelijk gevolgen. Kaspers (44) is getekend voor de rest van haar leven.



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(Foto Jos Meulenberg)