

The genus *Myrsidea* Waterston (Phthiraptera: Menoponidae) from the toucans (Piciformes: Ramphastidae), with descriptions of three new species

ROGER D. PRICE¹, RONALD A. HELLENTHAL² & JASON D. WECKSTEIN³

¹4202 Stanard Circle, Fort Smith, AR 72903-1906, USA. rpricelice@aol.com

²Department of Biological Sciences, P.O. Box 369, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556-0369, USA. ronald.a.hellenthal.1@nd.edu

³Illinois Natural History Survey, 607 East Peabody Drive, Champaign, IL 61820-6970, USA. jweckst@inhs.uiuc.edu

Abstract

Six species of *Myrsidea* from toucans are redescribed. Three new species are described and illustrated. They and their type hosts are *M. witti* ex *Ramphastos toco toco* Statius Müller, *M. aleixoi* ex *Pteroglossus beauharnaesii* Wagler, and *M. lanei* ex *P. aracari* (L.). Keys are provided for the identification of males and females of these 9 species.

Key words: chewing lice, *Myrsidea*, Phthiraptera, Menoponidae, toucans, Ramphastidae

Introduction

The chewing lice of the genus *Myrsidea* Waterston from toucans have not been the subject of systematic work for over 40 years. With the acquisition of additional material and the need to reexamine the status of the previously described taxa, we have undertaken a review of this group. There are over 200 recognized species of *Myrsidea*, with the vast majority of these from hosts in the Passeriformes. Fewer species are found on the Ramphastidae of the Piciformes and on the Apodiformes. On hosts within the Ramphastidae, or toucans, there are 14 species-level names associated with *Myrsidea*, with 6 of these originally described in *Ramphasticola* Carriker and 8 placed in what we consider typical *Myrsidea* (see Price et al. 2003). It is our purpose here to redescribe and illustrate the 6 recognized species of *Myrsidea* and to describe and illustrate 3 new species.

In our treatment of the toucan *Myrsidea*, we divide the species into 3 groups with 3, 2, and 4 species, respectively. This separation is based primarily on the state of development