Two new species of the feather mite subfamily Pterodectinae (Acari: Astigmata: Proctophylloidae) from Brazil

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Abstract

We describe two new pterodectine feather mites (Analgoida: Proctophylloidae) from Brazilian passerines (Passeriformes): Pterodectes amaurochalinus sp. n., from Turdus amaurochalinus Cabanis (Turdidae), and Dolichodectes neotropicalis sp. n., collected from Elaenia chiriquensis Lawrence (Tyrannidae). A key to species of the genus Dolichodectes is presented.

Key words: Astigmata, Analgoidea, feather mite, systematics, Pterodectes, Dolichodectes, Brazil

Introduction

The feather mite subfamily Pterodectinae is one of the two major subfamilies of Proctophylloidae, currently comprising about 110 species into 13 genera (Park & Ateyo 1971; Gaud & Atyeo 1996). However, this number of species apparently represents only a small fraction of the real diversity of Pterodectinae (Mironov 2003); feather mites are still poorly explored outside Africa and Europe (Gaud & Mouchet 1957; Mironov & Kopij 1997; Mironov & Fain 2003).

Park & Atyeo (1971) made a revision of Pterodectinae and recognized 9 species in the genus Pterodectes Robin; later on, a few scattered surveys on Neotropical region added 9 more species (Berla 1973; Černý 1974; Hernandes & Valim 2005; OConnor et al. 2005). Representatives of this genus occur on various avian families of the order Passeriformes, namely on Corvidae, Emberizidae, Fringillidae, Furnariidae, Hirundinidae, Icteridae, Thraupidae, Trogloidyidae, Turdidae and Tyrannidae (Park & Atyeo 1971).

Another pterodectine genus, Dolichodectes Park & Atyeo, 1971 currently comprises