

Types of lice (Insecta, Phthiraptera) housed in the Museo de La Plata, Argentina

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Abstract

The 333 type specimens of lice (Phthiraptera) housed at the Museo de La Plata (División Entomología), Argentina are listed, and current information on categories of types, collections and hosts provided. The types belong to 62 species and one subspecies described principally by Dolores del Carmen Castro and Armando C. Cicchino.

Key words: Phthiraptera, catalogue, type material, Museo de La Plata Collection

Introduction

Representatives of the insect order Phthiraptera, commonly known as "lice", are permanent ectoparasites of birds and mammals. It is a monophyletic group that includes four suborders: Amblycera; Ischnocera; Rhynchophthirina and Anoplura. The first three suborders (chewing lice) represent the formerly recognized order Mallophaga which is now considered to be a paraphyletic group (Lyal, 1985). The suborder Anoplura (sucking lice) includes those that are exclusive ectoparasites of eutherian mammals.

This catalogue is part of a series that undertakes a revision of the type material of Insecta and other Arthropoda housed in the collection of the Museo de La Plata (MLP), Argentina.

The purpose of this paper is to present updated information about the types of Phthiraptera at MLP, according to the recommendation of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999, article 72 F.4).