



***Myrsidea* Waterston (Phthiraptera: Menoponidae) from wrens (Passeriformes: Troglodytidae), with descriptions of three new species**

ROGER D. PRICE¹, KEVIN P. JOHNSON², & ROBERT C. DALGLEISH^{3*}

¹1409 Burnham Court, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903-2579, USA. E-mail: rpricelice2@aol.com

²Illinois Natural History Survey, 1816 South Oak Street, Champaign, Illinois 61820-6970, USA. E-mail: kjohnson@inhs.uiuc.edu

³10601 Tierrasanta Boulevard, San Diego, California 92124-2616, USA. E-mail: rcdalgleish@san.rr.com

*Corresponding author

Abstract

Three new species of *Myrsidea* parasitic on members of the avian family Troglodytidae are described herein. They and their type hosts are *M. whitemani* ex the Rufous-naped Wren, *Campylorhynchus rufinucha* (Lesson, 1838), *M. bessae* ex the Riverside Wren, *Thryothorus semibadius* Salvin, 1870, and *M. vincesmithi* ex the Rufous-breasted Wren, *Thryothorus rutilus* Vieillot, 1819. *Myrsidea troglodyti* (Denny, 1842) is redescribed and a lectotype designated. Results of sequencing a portion of the mitochondrial COI gene for one of these species and several other species of *Myrsidea* are given to compare genetic divergence.

Key words: chewing lice, mitochondrial COI, sequencing

Introduction

To date, *Myrsidea troglodyti* (Denny, 1842) represents the only species of this genus recognized from wrens (Passeriformes: Troglodytidae) as delimited by Dickinson (2003). Herein we describe and illustrate three new species of *Myrsidea* from wrens.

In the following descriptions, all measurements are in millimeters. Abbreviations are TW, temple width; HL, head length; PW, prothorax width; MW, metathorax width; AWIV, abdomen width at segment IV; ANW, female anus width; GL, male genitalia length; and TL, total length. Types for each new species will be deposited, as indicated, in the collection of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC (USNM); The Natural History Museum, London, England (TNHM); or the collection of the Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, Illinois (INHS).

Genus *Myrsidea* Waterston

Myrsidea Waterston, 1915: 12. Type species: *Myrsidea victrix* Waterston, 1915, by original designation.

A thorough characterization of this genus may be found in Clay (1966). We provide here only the characters we have found to be pertinent to the delineation of the genus as it pertains to the wren lice.

Head evenly rounded anteriorly; lacking lateral slit or notch; with long inner and minute outer occipital seta on each side; each temple margin with 4 very long setae; without ventral sclerotized processes; gula with 5, less often 4 or 6, setae on each side with posterior seta heavier and longer than those anterior to it.