



Five new species of *Myrsidea* Waterston (Phthiraptera: Menoponidae) from antshrikes and antbirds (Passeriformes: Thamnophilidae)

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Abstract

Five new species of *Myrsidea* parasitic on members of the avian family Thamnophilidae are described herein. They and their type hosts are *Myrsidea klickai* ex the Northern Slaty Antshrike, *Thamnophilus punctatus* (Shaw, 1809), *M. dacostai* ex the Barred Antshrike, *Thamnophilus doliatus* (Linnaeus, 1764), *M. spellmani* ex the Spotted Antbird, *Hylophylax naevioides* (Lafresnaye, 1847), *M. milleri* ex the Rufous-throated Antbird, *Gymnopithys rufigula* (Boddaert, 1783), and *M. mayermae* ex the White-faced Antbird, *Pithys albifrons* (Linnaeus, 1766). A portion of the mitochondrial COI gene for some of these and other species of *Myrsidea* was sequenced to compare genetic divergences.

Key words: chewing lice, sequence, mitochondrial COI

Introduction

At present, *Myrsidea mcleannani* Sychra, 2006, is the only species of *Myrsidea* recognized from hosts in the passerine family Thamnophilidae as delimited by Dickinson (2003). Herein we describe and illustrate five new species of *Myrsidea* from thamnophilid hosts from Panama, Peru, and Venezuela.

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. Host classification below that of order follows Dickinson (2003). The parenthetical number following each female and male heading is for the number of specimens quantified.

Holotypes for three of the new species, as indicated by "(USNM)", are in the collection of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; those of the other two new species, as indicated by "(INHS)", are in the collection of the Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign. Paratypes are distributed between these two collections.

Sequences of a portion of the mitochondrial COI gene were obtained for two of the species described herein. These were compared to sequences of other *Myrsidea* to evaluate the genetic distinctiveness of these species and their possible phylogenetic relationships.