



## A taxonomic catalog, including host and geographic distribution, of the species of the genus *Gyropus* Nitzsch (Phthiraptera: Amblycera: Gyropidae)

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### Abstract

This taxonomic catalog of the species of the genus *Gyropus* (Phthiraptera, Amblycera, Gyropidae) includes 27 species and subspecies listed in alphabetical order. The deposition of types, synonymies, collection data, geographical and host distribution are presented for each species. Relevant published taxonomic and biological references are provided. Cases of doubtful host records are discussed with some changes in host associations proposed based on current knowledge of host geographical distributions. The host of *Gyropus martini matthaeensis*, the only species without a known host, is proposed based on morphological features and distribution records.

**Key words:** Phthiraptera, taxonomy, chewing lice, *Gyropus*, Rodentia, Neotropical region, systematics

### Introduction

The family Gyropidae (Phthiraptera: Amblycera), the third most diverse in the suborder, contains three subfamilies: Gyropinae, Protogyropinae and Gliricolinae. Species are separated by the number of abdominal spiracles and tarsal claws on meso- and meta-thoracic legs (Ewing 1924; Clay 1970). There are 96 species described in this family (Price *et al.* 2003), all of them restricted to the Neotropics, except for two cosmopolitan species that have spread throughout the world on domesticated Neotropical hosts introduced by humans. Within the Gyropinae, *Gyropus* Nitzsch has the widest geographic distribution, the greatest number of species, and its type species, *G. ovalis* Burmeister, is of veterinary importance. This genus includes 27 species and subspecies, of which more than 50% were described by F.L. Werneck (1933 to 1948); only 13% were described by others in the last two decades.

Although hosts of the type species are Caviidae, only 7.5% (2) of *Gyropus* spp. are found on this family. Rodents of the family Echimyidae (Rodentia) are the primary hosts for *Gyropus*; *Proechimys*, *Thrichomys* and *Trinomys* are hosts for half of the 27 described species.

The purpose of this catalogue is to integrate all host, geographic and taxonomic information published about *Gyropus* (*sensu* Werneck 1948; Hopkins and Clay 1952; Price *et al.* 2003). Species accounts include comments and perspectives, with recommendations for future research.