



Argentine *Philornis* Meinert species (Diptera: Muscidae) with synonymic notes

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Abstract

The examination of *Philornis* Meinert specimens recently collected in Argentina prompted this study, in which the presence of the previously recorded species is discussed and the literature concerning them is revised. From the seven species previously recorded from Argentina, we recognise three: *P. torquans* (Nielsen, 1913); *P. blanchardi* Garcia, 1952; and *P. seguyi* Garcia, 1952, herein considered as a senior synonym of *P. nielseni* Dodge, **syn. nov.** *Philornis pici* (Macquart, 1854) is considered a doubtful record and *P. angustifrons* (Loew, 1861) has been mistakenly recorded in Argentina. Finally, *P. umanani* Garcia, 1952 is considered an unrecognisable species (*nomen dubium*). Historical data and comments on each of these species are given.

Key words: Muscidae, *Philornis*, Taxonomy, Argentina

Introduction

Philornis Meinert is predominantly a Neotropical muscid genus known from 50 valid species (Dodge 1955; Carvalho *et al.* 2005). The biology of the larvae is very interesting as they are associated with a wide range of bird species, most of them living as subcutaneous parasites. Data on the biology of the larvae is known for less than 50% of the species (Couri 1999).

Philornis specimens are rare in collections, or at least they are present in small series. The opportunity to examine material recently collected by MQ and LRA in Argentina prompted an analysis and discussion of the species recorded in the literature from this country. The material examined included information on the immature stages, biology and hosts, which also gave support to the study.

Seven *Philornis* species have been recorded from Argentina: *P. angustifrons* (Loew, 1861), *P. blanchardi* Garcia, 1952, *P. nielseni* Dodge, 1958, *P. pici* (Macquart, 1854), *P. torquans* (Nielsen, 1913), *P. seguyi* Garcia, 1952 and *P. umanani* Garcia, 1952.

Historical data

The first records of *Philornis* in Argentina was by Nielsen (1911). The material was from Concepción (Tucumán) and was collected from wild birds of the genera *Sporophila* Cabanis, 1844 (Emberizidae) (as *Spermophila*), *Mimus* Boie, 1826 (Mimidae), *Pseudoseisura* Reichendach, 1853 (Furnariidae) (as *Homorus*) and *Pitangus* Swainson, 1827 (Tyrannidae). The species was identified as *Mydaea anomala* (Jaenicke, 1867) (originally described in *Mesembrina*).

Subsequently, Nielsen (1913) received more material from the locality of Bonpland (Misiones), collected from *Xiphocolaptes* Lesson, 1840. He realised that the species he had identified in 1911 as *M. anomala* was a new species, and he named it *Mydaea torquans* (= *Philornis torquans*), while the material examined in 1913