



New host records and descriptions of five new species of *Myrsidea* Waterston, 1915 (Phthiraptera: Menoponidae) from passerine birds (Aves: Passeriformes)

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Abstract

Three species of previously described *Myrsidea* from the birds *Lochmias nematura obscurata* Cabanis, *Automolus ochrolaemus* (Tschudi, 1844) (both Furnariidae) and *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus* Lawrence, 1861 (Cotingidae) are redescribed, including new host and geographical records. Five new species of *Myrsidea* from the Neotropics are described and illustrated. These species and their type hosts are: *M. waterstoni* n. sp. from *Anabacerthia variegaticeps* (Sclater), *M. meyi* n. sp. from *Syndactyla subalaris* (Sclater) (Furnariidae), *M. dalgleishi* n. sp. from *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* (Vieillot) (Dendrocolaptidae), *M. cicchinoi* n. sp. from *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus* (Temminck) (Tyrannidae), and *M. castroae* n. sp. from *Atlapetes albinucha gutturalis* (Lafresnaye) (Emberizidae). Sequences of a portion of the mitochondrial cytochrome oxidase I (COI) gene for four of these new species were highly divergent from those of other species of *Myrsidea*.

Key words: *Myrsidea*, chewing lice, new species, new host records, redescriptions, Neotropics, phylogeny, taxonomy

Introduction

Myrsidea Waterston, 1915 is the most speciose genus of parasitic lice (Phthiraptera) with about 350 described species (Sychra 2010). Members of this genus parasitize species of Passeriformes, Piciformes, and Apodiformes. This paper describes five new species of *Myrsidea* from Neotropical songbirds (Aves: Passeriformes) and reports new morphological and distributional data for three other species previously described.

In the following descriptions, all measurements are in millimeters. Abbreviations are: DHS, dorsal head setae (*sensu* Clay, 1969); TW, temple width; HL, head length at midline; PW, prothorax width; PSPL, prosternal plate length; MW, metathorax width; MSPL, metasternal plate length; AWIV, abdomen width at segment IV; ANW, female anus width; GL, male genitalia length; GSL, male genital sclerite length; and TL, total length. Host classification below the ordinal level follows Dickinson (2003).

Most of the holotypes and paratypes of the new species are deposited in the collection of the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS), Champaign, Illinois, USA. Where indicated, some types are deposited in the Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil (MZUSP). Other specimens studied are held in the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois, USA (FMNH) and in the Museum für Naturkunde, Humboldt-Universität, Berlin, Germany (MNHU). Sequences from a portion of the mitochondrial cytochrome oxidase I (COI) gene were obtained from each of the new species with methods described by Johnson *et al.* (2002) and compared to sequences of other *Myrsidea* spp. to assess the genetic distinctiveness of each new species.