



## Article

### Species in the genus *Bonomiella* Conci, 1942 (Phthiraptera: Menoponidae) from Argentina and Chile

ARMANDO C. CICCCHINO<sup>1</sup> & DANIEL ALFONSO GONZÁLEZ-ACUÑA<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Laboratorio de Artrópodos, Departamento de Biología, Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata, Funes 3300, 7600 Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina. Research Career of the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET).

E-mail: cicchino@copetel.com.ar

<sup>2</sup>Departamento de Ciencias Pecuarias, Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria, Universidad de Concepción, Chillán, Chile.

E-mail: danigonz@udec.cl

<sup>3</sup>Corresponding autor

#### Abstract

Species of the genus *Bonomiella* Conci, 1942, are a parasitic on bird species belonging to the family Columbidae (Aves, Columbiformes). In the present study we redescribe the species *Bonomiella columbae* Emerson, 1957 from Argentinean specimens, and describe the new species *B. zenaidae* **sp. nov.** from *Zenaida auriculata virgate* Bertoni, 1901, and *Z. auriculata auriculata* (des Murs 1847) from Argentina and Chile. Descriptions include male and female diagnostic features, and also descriptions of nymphal instars II and III. Also, we include a full diagnosis of the genus *Bonomiella* and an annotated checklist of the six species known to date, with their respective hosts.

**Key words:** *Bonomiella*, chewing lice, new species, bird lice, ectoparasites, Argentina, Chile

#### Introduction

Five species are currently included in the chewing lice genus *Bonomiella* Conci, 1942 (Phthiraptera: Amblycera: Menoponidae), parasitic on species belonging to the columbid genera *Columba* Linnaeus, 1758, *Streptopelia* Bonaparte, 1855, and *Turtur* Boddaert, 1783 (Aves: Columbiformes: Columbidae) (Price *et al.* 2003:93). Pigeon and doves are medium-sized and compact birds with small heads. Food is mainly plant material (grain, seeds, shoots, fresh leaves). The young are fed on “pigeon-milk” from the crop (Svensson, 2009).

Louse samples from two subspecies of *Z. auriculata* available to us belong to a new species which we describe and name in this paper. *Bonomiella zenaidae* **sp. nov.** is so far the only species of this genus known to parasitize one out of six dove species included in the genus *Zenaida* Bonaparte, 1838. Therefore, records made by Emerson (1972) of *B. columbae* Emerson, 1957 on *Z. macroura* (Linnaeus, 1758), Conti & Forrester (1981) on *Z. macroura* and *Z. asiatica* (Linnaeus 1758), and Galloway & Palma (2008) on the latter should be regarded with the same caution as shown by Di Mare (2003), who regarded all *Bonomiella* collected from *Z. asiatica* in Costa Rica as belonging to an unidentified species. Records of *B. columbae* on *Z. auriculata* by Cicchino (1987) and Cicchino & Castro (1998: 102) from Argentina must be referred to the new species described herein; leaving *B. columbae* still unrecorded for this country at the time. Our purpose is to describe the new species *Bonomiella zenaidae* from Argentinean and Chilean adult specimens, as well as the nymphal instars II and III.

Also we (1) include a diagnosis of the genus *Bonomiella*; (2) redescribe *B. columbae* based on Argentinean specimens, giving male and a female diagnostic features; and (3) include an annotated checklist of the species known to date with their respective hosts.