



# Article

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## Three new species of the louse genus *Saemundssonina* (Insecta: Phthiraptera: Philopteridae)

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### Abstract

I describe and illustrate three new species of chewing lice in the genus *Saemundssonina*, collected from seabirds in New Zealand, the Galápagos and other islands of the Pacific Ocean. They are: *Saemundssonina (Saemundssonina) albatrossa* n. sp. from *Phoebetria palpebrata*, *Thalassarche chrysostoma*, and *Thalassarche impavida*; *Saemundssonina (Saemundssonina) creagrusa* n. sp. from *Creagrus furcatus*; and *Saemundssonina (Saemundssonina) gygisa* n. sp. from *Gygis alba candida*.

**Key words:** *Saemundssonina*, Philopteridae, Phthiraptera, lice, new species, Procellariiformes, Charadriiformes, albatrosses, gulls, terns, New Zealand, Galápagos Islands, Pacific Ocean

### Introduction

The genus *Saemundssonina* Timmermann, 1936 includes over 100 species and subspecies (Price *et al.* 2003a: 232). They are round, stout-bodied chewing lice of medium size (adult length 1.5–3.0 mm), found regularly on the head and neck of most species of the orders Procellariiformes (albatrosses and petrels) and Charadriiformes (plovers, waders, gulls and terns), as well as on all species of Phaethontiformes (tropicbirds), several species of Gruiformes (cranes), and on one species of Anseriformes (pink-eared duck) (Price *et al.* 2003a: 281, 285, 333, 363, 369).

Perhaps due to the large number of species and subspecies included in *Saemundssonina*, there is no single publication covering them all. Most species from the Procellariiformes have been described or revised by Timmermann (1956, 1959, 1962, 1965) and Martín-Mateo (1996, as *Puffinoecus*). The species of *Saemundssonina* from the Charadriiformes have been treated by several authors, usually following the pattern of dealing with the species from one or two host families per paper, such as Clay (1949: Sternidae), Timmermann (1951a: Laridae; 1951b: Scolopacidae and Charadriidae); Ward (1955: Sternidae); Martens (1974: Scolopacidae); Palma (2000: Stercorariidae); Price *et al.* (2003b: Alcidae).

In the course of my research on lice from seabirds from New Zealand, the Galápagos and other islands of the Pacific Ocean, I have recognised three new, undescribed species of *Saemundssonina*. The aim of this paper is to name and describe these new taxa.

All the specimens examined are permanently deposited either in the collection of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa (MONZ) or in the Essig Museum of Entomology, University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A. (EMEC); they were slide-mounted following the technique described by Palma (1978). For the nomenclature of the hosts, I follow the Checklist Committee (2010) for New Zealand birds, and Dickinson (2003) for birds from the Galápagos Islands. In the sections listing material examined, “N.Z.” stands for “New Zealand”.

### Systematics

#### Order Phthiraptera

#### Suborder Ischnocera