



# Article

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## **Chewing lice (Phthiraptera: Amblycera, Ischnocera) from wild passerines (Aves: Passeriformes) in northern Vietnam, with descriptions of three new species**

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### **Abstract**

Thirteen species of chewing lice (Insecta: Phthiraptera) were found on 46 wild passerines of 10 species in Cuc Phuong National Park in northern Vietnam. Three new species of the genera *Myrsidea* and *Brueelia* are described; they and their type hosts are: *Myrsidea annae* ex *Schoeniparus rufogularis* (Mandelli, 1873), *Brueelia hrabali* ex *Macronous gularis* (Horsfield, 1822) and *Brueelia neodaumae* ex *Zoothera dauma* (Latham, 1790). First records of chewing lice from *Serilophus lunatus* (Gould, 1834), *Stachyris nigriceps* Blyth, 1844, *Niltava davidi* La Touche, 1907 and *Alcippe morrisonia* Swinhoe, 1863, and a new host record for *Menacanthus nogoma* Uchida, 1926 are also included.

**Key words:** Phthiraptera, lice, *Brueelia*, *Myrsidea*, *Phlopterus*, *Menacanthus*, new species, birds, new records, Vietnam

### **Introduction**

There are 446 species of passerine birds recorded in Vietnam (Lepage 2011), of which 152 are known to be hosts of 197 species of chewing lice (Insecta: Phthiraptera) belonging to 11 genera (Price *et al.* 2003). However, there are only six species of chewing lice recorded from Vietnam only (Mey 2004; Sychra *et al.* 2009; Najer *et al.* 2012), with all the other 191 species known from neighbouring countries as well. The aim of this paper is to follow up on our previous work (Sychra *et al.* 2009; Najer *et al.* 2012) and present new data on chewing lice found on wild passerines (other than bulbuls) in Vietnam, including the descriptions of three new species.

The relative high number of new species and new louse–host associations recorded in this paper, in proportion to the low number of parasitized birds, demonstrate that our knowledge of chewing lice from Vietnam is still very limited.

### **Material and methods**

Wild passerines were examined in two locations within the Cuc Phuong National Park in northern Vietnam. For detailed locations and methods see Najer *et al.* (2012). The taxonomy of the birds follows Clements *et al.* (2011). Lice were identified primarily using papers by Ansari (1956a, 1956b), Tandan (1972), Fedorenko and Volkov (1977), Price (1977) and Mey (2004). Also, chewing lice belonging to the genus *Brueelia* were compared with all species of this genus known from birds which occur in Vietnam according to Lepage (2011). These papers we used for the comparisons: Piaget (1880), Ansari (1947, 1955, 1956a, 1956b, 1956c, 1957), Mey (1982), and Złotorzycka