



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3616.6.3>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:05C89903-B7A0-45BC-B316-931E789BDAFD>

## The feather mites (Acari, Astigmata) of the Violet-capped Woodnymph, *Thalurania glaucopis* (Gmelin) (Aves, Trochilidae), with descriptions of three new species

FABIO AKASHI HERNANDES

Departamento de Zoologia, Universidade Estadual Paulista, Rio Claro, SP, Brazil 13506-900. E-mail: abakashi@gmail.com

### Abstract

Six feather mites of the Violet-capped Woodnymph, *Thalurania glaucopis* are herein reported: *Allodectes sejugaspis* sp. n., *A. thaluraniae* sp. n., *Trochilodectes brevipenis* sp. n., *Toxerodectes biscutatus* Park & Atyeo (Proctophyllodidae), and two unidentified species from the families Analgidae (Protalginae, genus *Protalges*) and Ptyssalgidae (genus *Ptyssalges*). These are the first feather mites to be reported from this host.

**Key words:** Acari, systematic, taxonomy, Neotropics, hummingbirds, Apodiformes, Proctophyllodidae, Analgidae, Ptyssalgidae

### Introduction

The hummingbirds (Apodiformes: Trochilidae) are a diverse bird family whose members occur exclusively in the Americas, and which are particularly diverse in the Neotropics (Del Hoyo *et al.* 1999). Approximately 330 species are known, including the smallest of all living birds, the bee-hummingbird *Mellisuga helenae* (Lembeye). The most diverse group of feather mites (Acari) associated with hummingbirds is in the tribe Rhamphocaulini (Proctophyllodidae, Pterodectinae), with eight genera and approximately 50 known species (Gaud & Berla 1963; Park & Atyeo 1971a, b, 1972a, b, 1973a, b, 1974a, b, 1975; Černý 1974). Other less diverse feather mites found on these hosts include members of the Analgidae and Ptyssalgidae (Gaud & Atyeo 1967; Atyeo & Gaud 1979; Gaud & Atyeo 1991), and scattered colonizations from mites commonly associated with passerines have also occurred, *e.g.* *Proctophyllodes huitzilopochtlii* Atyeo & Braasch (Aty eo & Braasch 1966) from the Proctophyllodidae, and *Heterobrephosceles scissus* (Trouessart) from the Alloptidae (Peterson & Atyeo 1978).

The Violet-capped Woodnymph, *Thalurania glaucopis* (Gmelin) (Aves, Trochilidae) is a small hummingbird that occurs in the Atlantic Forest. To this date, no feather mites have been reported from this host, and the previous records of feather mites associated with the genus *Thalurania* are only from *T. furcata* (Gmelin), with *Toxerodectes hastifolia* in Guatemala, *Xynonodectes glaucalis* in Colombia (Park & Atyeo 1975), and *Allodectes amadoni* in Brazil (Kanegae *et al.* 2008), and from *Thalurania colombica* (Boucier), with *Allodectes* sp. and *Toxerodectes* sp. (Barreto *et al.* 2012). The aim of this paper is to describe three new species of feather mites of the Violet-capped Woodnymph from the tribe Rhamphocaulini (Proctophyllodidae), and to report other new records of feather mites from this host.

### Material and methods

Birds were captured using mist-nets and visually examined for the presence of mites. Whenever feather mites were detected, a feather was carefully plucked off and stored in a vial containing 70% ethanol. The birds were released after the feather examination. Mite specimens were mounted on glass slides in Hoyer's medium (Krantz & Walter 2009).