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Mites associated with the eared dove, *Zenaida auriculata* (Des Murs, 1847), in São Paulo State, Brazil*

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to report the mite species found in association with the eared dove, *Zenaida auriculata* (Des Murs, 1847), in São Paulo State, Brazil. A total of 34 bird specimens was examined, and mites were found on 31 of them. The following numbers of mite species were found: Astigmata: Falculiferidae - three species; Analgidae - two species; Dermoglyphidae, Epidermoptidae, Hypoderatidae and Pyroglyphidae - one species each. Prostigmata: Cheyletidae, Cheyletiellidae and Syringophilidae - one species each. Mesostigmata: Macronyssidae and Rhinonyssidae - one species each. We present the first report of *Z. auriculata* as host of *Diplaegidia columbae* Buchholz, 1869; *Diplaegidia columbigallinae* Cerný, 1975; *Byersalges talpacoti* Cerný, 1975; *Pterophagus spilosikyus* Gaud & Barré, 1992; *Hypodectes propus* (Nitzch *in* Giebel, 1861), *Ornithocheyletia columbigallinae* Fain & Bochkov, 2002; *Ornithonyssus bursa* (Berlese, 1888) and *Tinaminyssus zenaidurae* (Crossley, 1952).

Key words: Eared-dove, ectoparasites, feather mites, quill mites.

Introduction

Data concerning rates of infestation of bird-associated mites are rare, especially from tropical regions. The eared dove, *Zenaida auriculata* (Des Murs, 1847) (Columbiformes: Columbidae), occurs from the Antilles to Tierra del Fuego, throughout most of Brazil, including Fernando de Noronha Island where it is abundant (Sick, 2001). They live in savanna regions, benefiting from deforestation and expansion of agriculture. Large flocks of this dove may become pests in grain crops. Its population has increased in the last few decades, reaching extensively urbanized areas as the city of São Paulo, probably displacing the ruddy-ground dove [*Columbina talpacoti* (Temminck, 1810)] (Santiago, 2007).

Mites associated with *Z. auriculata* are only known from an extensive study conducted by González *et al*. (2004) in Chile and from four short studies conducted in Brazil (Boas Filho & Prado, 2005; Boas Filho *et al*., 2006; Goulart *et al*., 2009a, b).

The objective of this study is to present new records of mites associated with *Z. auriculata* in São Paulo State, Brazil.

Materials and Methods

Thirty-four specimens of *Z. auriculata* were examined in this study; these were received between 2005 and 2010 from the following localities in São Paulo State: Campinas (22°49’11’’S; 47°4’12’’W, alt. 604 m), Valinhos (22°58’14”S; 47°59’45”W, alt. 660 m), Jaguariúna

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