

The genus *Myrsidea* Waterston (Phthiraptera: Menoponidae) from bulbuls (Passeriformes: Pycnonotidae), with descriptions of 16 new species

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Abstract

We redescribe the only previously known species of *Myrsidea* from bulbuls, *M. pycnonoti* Eichler. Sixteen new species are described; they and their type hosts are: *M. phillipsi* ex *Pycnonotus goiavier goiavier* (Scopoli), *M. gieferi* ex *P. goiavier suluensis* Mearns, *M. kulpai* ex *P. flavescens* Blyth, *M. finlaysoni* ex *P. finlaysoni* Strickland, *M. kathleenae* ex *P. cafer* (L.), *M. warwicki* ex *Ixos philippinus* (J. R. Forster), *M. mcclurei* ex *Microscelis amaurotis* (Temminck), *M. zeylanici* ex *P. zeylanicus* (Gmelin), *M. plumosi* ex *P. plumosus* Blyth, *M. eutiloti* ex *P. eutilotus* (Jardine and Selby), *M. adamsae* ex *P. urostictus* (Salvadori), *M. ochracei* ex *Criniger ochraceus* F. Moore, *M. borbonici* ex *Hypsipetes borbonicus* (J. R. Forster), *M. johnsoni* ex *P. atriceps* (Temminck), *M. palmai* ex *C. ochraceus*, and *M. claytoni* ex *P. eutilotus*. A key is provided for the identification of these 17 species.

Key words: chewing lice, *Myrsidea*, Phthiraptera, Menoponidae, bulbuls, Pycnonotidae

Introduction

While compiling the world checklist of chewing lice (Price *et al.* 2003), we noticed that the passerine family Pycnonotidae, with 118 described species, had only *Myrsidea pycnonoti* Eichler listed for it. This single louse species, originally described from the type host *Pycnonotus analis* (Horsfield) (= *P. goiavier analis*), had a suspiciously long list of additional host taxa. Limited to this as the only louse name available in the host family, identifiers apparently applied it generously without benefit of a detailed study of the lice themselves. Examination of over 800 slides of pycnonotid *Myrsidea* in the collections at Washington, D.C., and Stillwater, Oklahoma, many identified as *M. pycnonoti*, convinced