

Two new species of the feather mite genus *Dicrurobius* Mironov, 2001 (Acari: Astigmata: Pteronyssidae) from drongos (Passeriformes: Dicruridae) in Africa

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Abstract

Two new species of the feather mite genus *Dicrurobius* Mironov, 2001 are described from drongos (Passeriformes: Dicruridae) in Africa: *Dicrurobius alatus* **sp. n.** from *Dicrurus atripennis* Swainson, 1837 and *D. cameroonensis* **sp. n.** from *Dicrurus adsimilis* (Bechstein, 1794). New data on host associations and distribution of the sole formerly known species, *D. monacrotrichus* (Gaud, 1952), are given. A key to three *Dicrurobius* species known to date is presented.

Key words: Acari, Analgoidea, Pteronyssidae, *Dicrurobius*, new species, Dicruridae, Africa

Introduction

The feather mite genus *Dicrurobius* Mironov, 2001 (Analgoidea: Pteronyssidae) was established for a sole species, *Dicrurobius monacrotrichus* (Gaud, 1952), known from the crested drongo, *Dicrurus forficatus* Linnaeus, 1766 (Passeriformes: Dicruridae) in Madagascar (Gaud, 1952). Within the family Pteronyssidae, which currently includes over 130 species in 22 genera (Faccini & Atyeo, 1981; Gaud & Atyeo, 1996; Mironov, 2001), the genera *Dicrurobius*, *Micropteroherpus* Mironov, 2001, *Pteroherpus* Gaud, 1981, and *Vanginyssus* Mironov, 2001, make up the *Pteroherpus* generic group. This group is clearly characterized by the synapomorphy of dorsal palpal setae *dp*₂ having bifurcate form (Figs. 1a, 2f). In the context of the *Pteroherpus* group, the following combination of diagnostic features characterizes the genus *Dicrurobius*: in males, terminal membranes of opisthosomal lobes have a pair of acute protrusions, coxal fields III are open, and tarsi III have acute apices (Figs. 1a, b, 2d, g); in females, posterior angles of prodorsal shield are long and extend to bases of setae *c*₂, hysteronotal shield covers median area of