

A new species of *Brueelia* Kéler, 1936 (Phthiraptera: Ischnocera: Philopteridae) from the blue-black grassquit (Aves: Passeriformes: Emberizidae) in Brazil

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Abstract

A new species of *Brueelia* Kéler, 1936 is described and illustrated, based on lice collected from the blue-black grassquit, *Volatinia jacarina* (Linnaeus, 1766), in Brazil. This is the first species of Philopteridae recorded from this Neotropical passeriform species.

Key words: chewing lice, *Brueelia*, Phthiraptera, Philopteridae, Passeriformes, *Volatinia*, blue-black grassquit, new species

Introduction

The genus *Brueelia* Kéler, 1936 comprises species parasitic on members of the avian orders Passeriformes, Coraciiformes, Piciformes and Trogoniformes. With 280 species recognised as valid (Price *et al.* 2003: 152), *Brueelia* is among the most speciose genera in the family Philopteridae. The large number of species may be the reason for the lack of a complete systematic revision of this genus. Partial revisions have been published for various groups of hosts. *Brueelia* are known from only 25 species (8.9%) of the host family Emberizidae, one of the most speciose within the Passeriformes (Price *et al.* 2003: 342), including ten species from Nearctic and Neotropical hosts described as new species by Cicchino & Castro (1980) and Cicchino (1982, 1983). In this paper, we describe as new an additional species of *Brueelia* based on material collected from an emberizid host, *Volatinia jacarina* (Linnaeus, 1766) the blue-black grassquit, in Brazil.