# *Neopsittaconirmus vendulae*, a new species of louse (Phthiraptera: Philopteridae) from the Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus* (Psittaciformes: Cacatuidae)

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## Abstract

A new species of *Neopsittaconirmus* Conci is described from lice collected from captive cockatiels *Nymphicus hollandicus,* in Australia, Czech Republic, and Germany. This is the first record of lice from this host. These captive birds probably originated from limited populations which were randomly selected from wild populations and then bred and transported by cage-bird breeders. Keys are provided for identification of the 27 species of *Neopsittaconirmus*.

**Key words:** chewing lice, Philopteridae, *Neopsittaconirmus*, cockatiel, *Nymphicus hollandicus*, Cacatuidae

## Introduction

The genus *Neopsittaconirmus* Conci is one of seven ischnoceran genera of chewing lice found on members of the avian order Psittaciformes (Price *et al.* 2003: 23). Guimarães (1974) reviewed the species of *Neopsittaconirmus* recognizing 26 valid species and regarding four other species as *incertae sedis* or *species inquirenda*. Two of the latter species were redescribed and one new species was described by Price & Emerson (1978, 1985), all of them parasitic on cockatoos (Cacatuidae). At present, this genus comprises 31 species (Price *et al.*, 2003: 200) known from 41 species of parrots from the Old World, including eight species belonging to the family Cacatuidae.

The cockatiel, *Nymphicus hollandicus* (Kerr), is an abundant wild parrot in Australia and at the same time it is one of the most popular parrot species kept in aviaries throughout the world. The cockatiel is one of few species of parrots, including the widespread budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus* (Shaw), which have self-reproducing captive populations that no longer need to be augmented with wild living birds (Juniper & Parr