



***Tyranniphlopterus polioptilus* new species (Phthiraptera: Ischnocera: Philopteridae) parasitic on the Masked Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila dumicola* (Passeriformes, Polioptilidae) in Argentina**

ARMANDO C. CICCHINO

Laboratorio de Artrópodos, Departamento de Biología, Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata, Funes 3300, 7600 Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina. Research Career of the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET).
E-mail: cicchino@copetel.com.ar

Abstract

Tyranniphlopterus polioptilus **sp. nov.** is described and illustrated from specimens collected off *Polioptila dumicola dumicola* (Vieillot, 1816) from two localities in the coastal area NE of Buenos Aires Province, Argentina. Morphologically the new species is similar to *T. titicacae* (Eichler & Freund, 1956) and several other undescribed species from the Tyrannidae, differing from all of them by proportions of the head and dorsal anterior plate, most body measurements, number of dorsal and ventral setae in both sexes, and number and arrangements of vulvar setae in females. Descriptions of the male, female, the three nymphal instars and the egg are also included. A list is presented of all known species of *Tyranniphlopterus*, arranged by host taxa.

Key words: egg morphology, oviposition sites, distribution

Introduction

The genus *Tyranniphlopterus* Mey, 2004 comprises 14 described species. Seven species are known to parasitize members of the Tyrannidae, five from the Cotingidae, one from the Pipridae – all suboscine New World hosts – and one from Platysteiridae in the Old World (Uganda). As there are no records of this genus from oscine birds in the New World, it is the purpose of this paper to describe a new species parasitic on the Masked Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila dumicola dumicola*, from Argentina, commenting briefly on its morphological affinities with allied species, together with a theoretical explanation of its presence on the Polioptilinae. This is the first ischnoceran known from this avian subfamily. The amblyceran *Ricinus polioptilus* Carriker, 1964 is the only other known louse parasitic on the Tropical Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila plumbea* (Gmelin, 1788). A list of all known species in *Tyranniphlopterus*, arranged by host taxa, is also included.

Materials and methods

A total of 17 specimens of *P. d. dumicola* were searched for lice between 1981 and 1991 from three sampling sites of Argentina and Uruguay: the NE coast of Buenos Aires Province (La Plata –La Plata District –, General Mansilla – Magdalena District (35° 05' SL, 57° 45' W) and Laguna Bellaca –Almirante Brown District (34° 58' SL, 58° 24' W)), the E coast of Corrientes Province (Río Mocoretá –Monte Caseros District (30° 38' SL, 57°69' W)), and the W coast of Uruguay (San Gregorio – Artigas Department (30° 33' SL, 57° 52' W)).