



Description of the male of *Mayriphlopterus nystalicus* Mey, 2004 (Phthiraptera, Ischnocera, Philopteridae)

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Abstract

The male of *Mayriphlopterus nystalicus* is described and illustrated from two species of Brazilian puffbirds. The White-eared Puffbird (*Nystalus chacuru*) is confirmed as a true host for this species of chewing lice. A key for identification and a list of hosts of the six species of the genus *Mayriphlopterus* is provided.

Key words: puffbirds, Bucconidae, Ischnocera, *Mayriphlopterus*, *Philopterus*-complex

Introduction

The genus *Mayriphlopterus* was recently described by Mey (2004) for species which belong to *Philopterus* s.l. found on Bucconidae and Galbulidae. This genus has six known species, four on puffbirds and two on jacamars; of these species two were described by Carriker (1963) (in *Clayiella*). Species of *Mayriphlopterus* are characterized by: (1) absence of functional conus; (2) well developed trabecula; (3) clypeal hyaline membrane without marginal sclerotization; (4) presence of 2–4 pairs of spatulate setae on the clypeal hyaline membrane. The latter character is the most distinctive among the genera of the family Philopteridae.

Mey (2004) revised the *Philopterus*-complexes, with a creation of seven new genera of lice which occupy the head feathers of birds (former docophorid morpho-type), showing that numerous early derivative genera of chewing lice can be found in the basal orders of birds (e.g. Passeriformes, Coraciiformes). However, that author left some gaps in the classification of 10 species of those genera, described only for male (two species) or female (eight species) specimens. Of the four *Mayriphlopterus* species described by Mey (2004), only one was described from both sexes.

We intend the male of one *M. nystalicus* Mey, 2004, provide morphometric characters and chaetotaxy in addition to the original description, and confirm *Nystalus chacuru* as a host. We also provide a key to separate known species of *Mayriphlopterus* and a list of species with their host and geographical distribution.

Material and methods

Lice were collected from live hosts and museum skins, and were mounted on slides in Canada balsam following the technique in Palma (1978). Host classification follows Dickinson (2003) and morphological terminology used for the lice follows that in Mey (2004). Abbreviations of measured characters are: HL – Head length; TW — Temporal width; FW — Frontal width; CI — Cephalic index (HL/TW); POL — Prothorax