



## A new species and new records of syringophilid mites (Acari: Prostigmata: Syringophilidae) from birds of Jordan

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### Abstract

The first records of quill mites (Syringophilidae) from Jordan (Middle East) are presented. A new species, *Picobia pycnonoti* **sp. nov.** from the White-spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthopygos* (Ehrenberg) (Passeriformes: Pycnonotidae) is described and illustrated. Additionally, eight bird species are reported as new hosts for syringophilid mites.

**Key words:** Quill mites, Syringophilidae, ectoparasites, taxonomy, Jorda

### Introduction

Members of the family Syringophilidae (Acari: Prostigmata: Cheyletoidea) are small to medium sized mites (500–1200 µm), that inhabit the quills of various types of feathers (primaries, secondaries, coverts, tail-feathers and body feathers). In these microhabitats they live, reproduce and feed on soft tissue by using their long styletiform chelicerae to pierce through the fibrous wall of the calamus into the tissue of the host (Kethley 1970). The family Syringophilidae is divided into two subfamilies: Syringophilinae Lavoipierre and Picobinae Johnston et Kethley. Both subfamilies include about 140 species recorded from birds of 18 orders (Bochkov *et al.* 2004; Skoracki & Sikora 2004a, b).

In this paper we provide the first records of syringophilids of Jordan. The acarofauna of the Syringophilidae parasitizing birds of this part of the world was, until now, completely unknown. In this paper a new species, *Picobia pycnonoti* **sp. nov.** from the White-spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthopygos* (Ehrenberg) (Passeriformes: Pycnonotidae) is described. In addition, eight bird species are reported as new hosts for particular quill mite species.

### Material and methods

The material was collected from birds caught during the spring season 03–20 March 2002 at Al-Dhleil Station near the Hashemite University (Zarqa, Jordan).

Mites were mounted on microslides in a polyvinyl lactophenol medium and examined with Nomarsky interference-contrast-phase of an Olympus BH2 microscope. The nomenclature of idiosomal setae is based on that of Fain (1979) in the version adapted for the family Syringophilidae (Bochkov & Mironov 1998). The terminologies for morphology and leg chaetotaxy follows that of Grandjean (1944) and Kethley (1970). Bird taxonomy follows Howard & Moore (1991). All measurements are given in micrometers (µm). Mite material