



Five new species of *Myrsidea* Waterston (Phthiraptera: Menoponidae) from saltators and grosbeaks (Passeriformes: Cardinalidae)

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Abstract

Five new species of *Myrsidea* parasitic on members of the avian family Cardinalidae are described. They and their type hosts are *M. lightae* ex the Buff-throated Saltator, *Saltator maximus* (Statius Müller, 1776), *M. markhafneri* ex the Slate-colored Grosbeak, *S. grossus* (Linnaeus, 1766), *M. pittendrighi* ex the Streaked Saltator, *S. striatipectus* Lafresnaye, 1847, and *M. johnklickai* and *M. sychrai* ex the Blue-black Grosbeak, *Cyanocompsa cyanooides* (Lafresnaye, 1847). Results from sequences of a portion of the mitochondrial COI gene for several specimens of two of these species and other species of *Myrsidea* are presented.

Key words: chewing lice, mitochondria, COI gene, sequencing

Introduction

Five new species of *Myrsidea* Waterston from avian hosts in the passerine family Cardinalidae (saltators and grosbeaks) as delimited by Dickinson (2003) are described and illustrated.

In the following descriptions, all measurements are in millimeters. Abbreviations are TW, temple width; HL, head length; PW, prothorax width; MW, metathorax width; AWIV, abdomen width at segment IV; ANW, female anus width; GL, male genitalia length; and TL, total length.

The holotypes of the new species are deposited as indicated following each description, either in the collection of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (USNM), or the collection of the Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, Illinois (INHS). Paratypes are distributed between these two collections.

Sequences of a portion of the mitochondrial COI gene were obtained for two of the species described herein. These were compared to sequences of other *Myrsidea* to evaluate the genetic distinctiveness of these species and their possible phylogenetic relationships.

Genus *Myrsidea* Waterston

Myrsidea Waterston 1915: 12. Type species: *Myrsidea victrix* Waterston, 1915, by original designation.

A thorough characterization of the morphology of members of the genus *Myrsidea* may be found in Clay (1966). Additional features and illustrations, including a drawing of an entire louse and discussion of charac-