



Three new species of *Formicaphagus* Carriker, 1957 (Phthiraptera, Ischnocera, Philopteridae), parasitic on Thamnophilidae and Conopophagidae (Aves, Passeriformes)

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Abstract

Three new species of *Formicaphagus* Carriker, 1957 parasitic on the avian families Thamnophilidae and Conopophagidae are described and illustrated. They and their type hosts are: *F. mariae* n. sp. from *Conopophaga lineata* (Wied-Neuwied, 1831); *F. thamnophili* n.sp. from *Thamnophilus r. ruficapillus* Vieillot, 1816; and *F. severus* n.sp. from *Mackenziaena severa* (Lichtenstein, 1823). These chewing lice are the first lice described from these host species. These new species are distinguished from the previously described 11 species chiefly by having postspiracular setae from tergite III (from II in some individuals of the former species), the shape of the head and dorsal anterior plate, chaetotaxy and body measurements.

Key words: Chewing lice, *Formicaphagus*, Argentina, Brazil

Introduction

Formicaphagus Carriker, 1957 as reviewed by Price & Clayton (1996) contains 11 species, six of which are parasitic on Antbirds (Thamnophilidae), three on Ant-thrushes (Formicariidae), and two on Gnateaters (Conopophagidae). An additional species was added by Sychra [in Sychra *et al.* (2006)], parasitic on Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacra tyrannina* (P. L. Sclater, 1855), Thamnophilidae). Three additional new species are here proposed, collected from the Rufous Gnateater (*Conopophaga lineata* (Wied-Neuwied, 1831), Conopophagidae) from Brazil, the Rufous-capped Antshrike (*Thamnophilus r. ruficapillus* Vieillot, 1816, Thamnophilidae) from Argentina, and the Tufted Antshrike (*Mackenziaena severa* (Lichtenstein, 1823), Thamnophilidae) from Argentina. These lice are the first described from these host species.

Material and methods

Birds were captured with mist-nets. Each netted bird was euthanized and immediately wrapped with absorbent paper, put in individual plastic bags containing *ca.* 2 cm ethyl acetate to kill lice *in situ*, and then frozen using dry ice. In the laboratory each thawed bird was carefully searched for lice feather-by-feather. Lice were mounted on slides following conventional procedures, staining some of them with Yellowish Eosin to reveal