



Systematic revision of the feather mite genus *Protolichus* Trouessart, 1884 (Astigmata, Pterolichidae)

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Abstract

Based on the type materials deposited in the Trouessart collection (Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France), the six formerly known species of the feather mite genus *Protolichus* Mégnin et Trouessart, 1884 (Pterolichidae: Pterolichinae) are redescribed: *Protolichus brachiatus* Trouessart, 1884, *P. magnificus* Favette et Trouessart, 1904, *P. strangulatus* Favette et Trouessart, 1904 (*brachiatus* group), *P. casuarinus* Trouessart, 1884, *P. crassior* Trouessart, 1884, and *P. gratus* Favette et Trouessart, 1904 (*crassior* group). One new species of the *brachiatus* group found in the examined materials is described: *Protolichus sigillator* **sp. n.** from *Chalcopsitta scintillata chloroptera* (Salvadori, 1876) (Psittacidae: Loriinae). A new expanded diagnosis for the genus *Protolichus* is provided and a key to all known species is constructed for the first time. Known host associations of *Protolichus* species with parrots of the Old World are critically revised. Mites of this genus are apparently restricted to lorries and lorikeets (Loriinae) distributed in the Australian and Indo Malayan regions, particularly to representatives of the genera *Chalcopsitta*, *Charmosyna*, *Lorius*, *Pseudeos*, and *Trichoglossus*, while other formerly recorded hosts, including those from other subfamilies of parrots, seem to be results of accidental contaminations.

Key words: Pterolichoidea, Psittaciformes, host-mite relationships, key