



## Chewing lice of the genus *Philopterus* (Phthiraptera: Philopteridae) from drongos (Passeriformes: Dicruridae)

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### Abstract

The chewing lice of the genus *Philopterus* parasitic on drongos (Dicruridae) are reviewed. Both sexes of the two species previously known from dicrurid hosts—*P. trabecula* (Piaget, 1880) and *P. kalkalichi* Ansari, 1955—are redescribed and illustrated. A new species, *Philopterus petrescuae* Adam is described from *Dicrurus hottentottus* from Indonesia. A lectotype for *P. trabecula* is designated. A record of *Philopterus crassipes* (Burmeister, 1838) from *Dicrurus remifer* (Temminck) is discussed and considered to be the result of stragglings or contamination.

**Key words:** Phthiraptera, lice, *Philopterus*, Dicruridae, drongos, redescriptions, new species, lectotype, India, Thailand, Taiwan, Indonesia

### Introduction

Price *et al.* (2003: 341) listed only two species of chewing louse of the genus *Philopterus* Nitzsch, 1818 from drongos (Passeriformes: Dicruridae). The original description of the species *Philopterus trabecula* Piaget (1880) was based on twelve females from *Dicrurus “retifer”*. Since the epithet “*retifer*” is not a valid name or synonym for any species of drongo (Mayr & Greenway 1960, 1962), we believe it to be a misspelling of “*remifer*” and that the correct type host of *P. trabecula* is the lesser racket-tailed drongo *Dicrurus remifer* (Temminck) (see Hopkins & Clay 1952: 288; Price *et al.* 2003: 342). Unfortunately, there remain only two slides with two of the twelve females reported by Piaget (1880: 662), now deposited at the Natural History Museum in London (NHML) (Thompson 1938: 611). The second species, *Philopterus kalkalichi* Ansari, 1955, was described three times as a new species (Ansari 1955, 1956a, 1958) from the black drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* Vieillot. Many descriptions of new species by Ansari (1955, 1956a, 1956b, 1958) are confusing and misleading (e.g. Palma & Price 2006), and his type material is probably lost. A third species of *Philopterus* from *Dicrurus hottentottus* collected in Indonesia is identified as new to science.

The aims of this paper are (1) to redescribe and illustrate both sexes of *Philopterus trabecula* and *P. kalkalichi* and to confirm these louse species as valid taxa, (2) to describe and illustrate *P. petrescuae* n. sp. from *Dicrurus hottentottus*, and (3) to designate a lectotype for *P. trabecula*.