



New species and new records of chewing lice (Phthiraptera: Amblycera and Ischnocera) from bulbuls (Passeriformes: Pycnonotidae) in Vietnam

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Abstract

Seven species of chewing lice (Insecta: Phthiraptera) were found on five species of bulbuls (Passeriformes: Pycnonotidae) in northern Vietnam. Three new species of the genera *Brueelia* and *Philopteroides* are described; they and their type hosts are: *Brueelia flavala* ex *Hemixos flavala* Blyth, 1845 *B. cucphuongensis* ex *Pycnonotus finlaysoni* Strickland, 1844 and *Philopteroides flavala* ex *Hemixos flavala* Blyth, 1845. First records of chewing lice from *Hemixos castanonotus* Swinhoe, 1870 and *Iole propinqua* (Oustalet, 1903), and a new host record for *Myrsidea ochracei* and *Sturnidoecus* sp. are also included.

Key words: Phthiraptera, lice, *Philopteroides*, *Brueelia*, *Myrsidea*, *Sturnidoecus*, new species, bulbuls, new records, Vietnam

Introduction

There are 446 species of passerine birds (Passeriformes) in Vietnam (Lepage 2011), with 151 of them known as hosts of 194 species of chewing lice (Insecta: Phthiraptera) belonging to 11 genera. However, there are only three species of chewing lice strictly recorded from Vietnam (Mey 2004; Sychra *et al.* 2009), with all the other 191 species known from neighbouring countries. Bulbuls (Passeriformes: Pycnonotidae) are 138 species of medium-sized short-necked passerines living in the Old World tropics, i.e. Africa, southern Asia, Madagascar and the islands of western Indian Ocean (Fishpool & Tobias 2005). Sixteen of 21 bulbul species occurring in Vietnam are known as hosts of 17 species in six genera of chewing lice (Price *et al.* 2003; Hellenthal & Price 2003; Mey 2004; Sychra *et al.* 2009), but only two among those 17 species of bulbul chewing lice were recorded from Vietnam, with the remaining 15 species recorded from neighboring countries where the same bird species live. Considering Vietnam bulbuls strictly, only two ischnoceran species were known up to now: *Philopteroides cucphuongensis* Mey, 2004 from the Cuc Phuong National Park, and *Brueelia alophoixi* Sychra, 2009 (in Sychra *et al.* 2009) from Bac Kan Province. The aim of this paper is to present new data on chewing lice found on bulbuls from northern Vietnam, including the description of three new species.

Material and methods

Wild passerines including bulbuls were examined in locations areas within the Cuc Phuong National Park in northern Vietnam. The first location is situated in the forest around the tourist centre and ranger station in the centre of the National Park, at 350 m above sea level (20°21' N 105°35' E); the second is in the botanical garden on the