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New species and records of quill mites of the family Syringophilidae (Acari: Prostigmata) from the passerines (Aves: Passeriformes) from the Russian Far East

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Abstract

Two new species, *Syringophilopsis pari* **sp. nov.** from *Poecile palustris* Linnaeus (Paridae) and *Torotrogla volgini* **sp. nov.** from *Emberiza elegans* Temminck (Emberizidae) are described. Additionally, new host species are reported for three syringophilid species: *Emberiza tristrami* Swinhoe and *E. rutila* Pallas for *Betasyringophiloidus schoeniclus* (Skoracki); *Sitta europaea* Linnaeus (Sittidae) for *Syringophilopsis sittae* Skoracki *et al.*, and *Zosterops erythropleurus* Swinhoe (Zosteropidae) for *Neaulonastus zosterops* Skoracki *et al.* All avian hosts were captured in the Primorsky Krai, Russia. The syringophilid fauna presently recorded from Russia is summarized.

Key words: Acari, Syringophilidae, quill mites, ectoparasites, Passeriformes, Russia, Far East

Introduction

Mites of the family Syringophilidae (Acari: Prostigmata: Cheyletoidea) are obligatory ectoparasites of birds inhabiting quills of the flight and covert feathers (Kethley 1970). These mites show a high degree of host-specificity, where most of species are monoxenous or narrowly oligoxenous parasites constituting about 86% of the world fauna of syringophilids. Presently, the family includes about 280 species in 54 genera recorded from representatives of 21 bird orders and found in all zoogeographical regions, except Antarctica (Skoracki *et al.* 2012). The first taxonomic study of syringophilids in the former USSR was provided by Dubinin (1957). Extensive investigations of the biodiversity of syringophilid mites in Russia have started only in the middle of 1990s by Dr. Andre V. Bochkov (Zoological Institute of The Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint Petersburg) with his coauthors, who described many new quill mite taxa from this country (Bochkov & Mironov 1998, 1999; Bochkov 2001; Bochkov & Apanaskevich 2001; Bochkov & Chystiakov 2001; Bochkov *et al.* 2001). Later on, Skoracki (2011) added several new records of quill mites to the Russian fauna. To date, the Russian fauna of syringophilids comprises 28 species in 15 genera from 118 species and 32 genera currently known from the Palaearctic region (Table 1).

In the present paper, two new syringophilid species belonging to the genus *Syringophilopsis* Kethley, 1970 and *Torotrogla* Kethley, 1970 are described. New host records for three quill mite species new for the Russian fauna, *Betasyringophiloidus schoeniclus* (Skoracki, 2002), *Syringophilopsis sittae* Skoracki, Hendricks and Spicer, 2011, and *Neaulonastus zosterops* Skoracki, Antczak and Riegert, 2009 are also reported. Additionally, all previous records of quill mites from passeriform birds in Russia are summated.