



***Niethammerella* Eichler, a senior synonym of *Kaysius* Price & Clayton (Phthiraptera: Amblycera: Menoponidae)**

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Eichler (1954: 52) briefly described the new genus *Niethammerella* to include two morphologically similar species of lice: *Machaerilaemus cotingae* Carriker, 1949 and *M. tityrus* (Carriker, 1903), designating the former as the type species. Carriker (1949: 298) had already commented that *M. cotingae* and *M. tityrus* "... may warrant the erection of a special genus for their reception." and that prompted Eichler (1954) to erect *Niethammerella*. The bird hosts of these two louse species belong to different, though closely related passerine families, that of *M. cotingae* to the Cotingidae, and *M. tityrus* to the Tyrannidae.

Ledger (1980: 46) regarded *Niethammerella* as a junior synonym of *Machaerilaemus* Harrison, 1915, without giving any justification for his action, or a reference to a previous publication. However, in their review of the genus *Machaerilaemus*, Price, Hellenthal and Dalgleish (2002) neither list *Niethammerella* as a synonym of *Machaerilaemus* nor mention it anywhere in the paper.

Price and Clayton (1989) described the new genus *Kaysius* to include one species, *K. emersoni* Price and Clayton, 1989, parasitic on a member of the suboscine passerine family Dendrocolaptidae. While revising the species of the genus *Machaerilaemus*, Price and Dalgleish (2002: 993) realised that *M. cotingae* and *M. tityrus* actually belonged to *Kaysius*, but did not realise that a genus had already been created to accommodate them, i.e. *Niethammerella* Eichler, 1954. Therefore, Price and Dalgleish (2002) redescribed those two species and placed them in *Kaysius* together with *K. emersoni*.

Price, Hellenthal and Palma (2003: 113) listed *Kaysius* as a valid genus, including the same three species that Price and Dalgleish (2002) had included in it, and regarded *Niethammerella* as a junior synonym of *Machaerilaemus*, following Ledger (1980) (Price, Hellenthal and Palma 2003: 133). Unfortunately, Price, Hellenthal and Palma (2003) did not realise that, on page 113 of their Checklist, they included *M. cotingae* under *Kaysius* as described in 1989 while, on page 133, *M. cotingae* is correctly given as the type species of *Niethammerella* as described in 1954, which is listed as a junior synonym of *Machaerilaemus*.

Neither Price and Dalgleish (2002) nor Price, Hellenthal and Palma (2003) were aware of the nomenclatorial anomaly they created regarding the status of the genera *Niethammerella* and *Kaysius*. The purpose of this note is to correct that anomaly by placing the genus *Kaysius* as a junior synonym of the genus *Niethammerella*. Thus *Niethammerella* is now known from hosts of three families within the Suboscines, of the Passeriformes.

The following list includes all references and synonyms relevant to the genera and species discussed above:

Genus *Niethammerella* Eichler, 1954

Niethammerella Eichler, 1954: 52. Type species: *Machaerilaemus cotingae* Carriker, 1949.

Machaerilaemus Harrison, 1915; Ledger, 1980: 46. – **In part.**

Kaysius Price and Clayton, 1989: 29. Type species: *Kaysius emersoni* Price and Clayton, 1989. – **New synonymy.**

Kaysius Price and Clayton, 1989; Price, Hellenthal and Palma, 2003: 113.

Machaerilaemus Harrison, 1915; Price, Hellenthal and Palma, 2003: 133. – **In part.**

***Niethammerella cotingae* (Carriker, 1949)**

Machaerilaemus cotingae Carriker, 1949: 298, figs 1-2. Type host: *Cephalopterus ornatus* Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire.

Niethammerella cotingae (Carriker, 1949); Eichler, 1954: 52.

Kaysius cotingae (Carriker, 1949); Price and Dalgleish, 2002: 996, fig. 5.

Kaysius cotingae (Carriker, 1949); Price, Hellenthal and Palma, 2003: 113.

***Niethammerella tityrus* (Carriker, 1903)**

Menopon tityrus Carriker, 1903: 182, pl. VII, fig. 4. Type host: *Tityra semifasciata costaricensis* Ridgway (as *Tityra personata* Jardine and Selby).

Machaerilaemus tityrus (Carriker, 1903); Carriker, 1949: 297.

Niethammerella tityrus (Carriker, 1903); Eichler, 1954: 52.

Kaysius tityrus (Carriker, 1903); Price and Dalglish, 2002: 994, figs 1-4.

Kaysius tityrus (Carriker, 1903); Price, Hellenthal and Palma, 2003: 113.

***Niethammerella emersoni* (Price and Clayton, 1989)—New combination**

Kaysius emersoni Price and Clayton, 1989: 31, figs 1-8. Type host: *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* (Vieillot).

Kaysius emersoni Price and Clayton, 1989; Price and Dalglish, 2002: 994, fig. 6.

Kaysius emersoni Price and Clayton, 1989; Price, Hellenthal and Palma, 2003: 113, fig. 78.

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