Nosopon clayae sp. n. (Mallophaga: Menoponidae) from Pernis apivorus*

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ABSTRACT

Nosopon clayae sp. n. is described from the type host, Pernis apivorus (Linn.), the honey buzzard, from Sweden.

While studying the menoponid lice from raptors, we obtained a collection of four females and four males of an undescribed species of Nosopon Hopkins, 1950, from a honey buzzard, Pernis apivorus (Linn.). These lice were received from Dr. Theresa Clay, British Museum (Natural History), to whom they had been sent by Dr. H. Stenram, Zoological Institute, Lund, Sweden.

Nosopon clayae sp. n.

Female: Chaetotaxy and structure as in Figure 1. Minute middorsal head setae; occipital setae long. Prothorax marginally with three short and five long setae on each side. Metasternal plate with 6 to 8 setae. Abdomen with tergocentral setae all long and essentially similar: 7 to 8 on I, 8 on II to VII, and 5 to 6 on VIII. Single row of sparsely distributed anterior tergal setae: 0 to 1 on I, 3 to 5 on II, 3 to 7 on III, 5 to 6 on IV, 4 to 5 on V, 1 to 5 on VI, 0 to 1 on VII, and 0 on VIII. Postspinacular setae very long on all segments. Stermites II to VII with marginal and 1 to 2 irregular anterior rows of medium setae. Vulva with 16 to 17 evenly spaced marginal setae. Anal fringe with 11 to 13 ventral and 14 to 16 dorsal regularly spaced setae, all much the same size except for 1 or 2 longer and stouter lateroventral setae. Measurements (in millimeters): preocular width, 0.48 to 0.50; temple width, 0.60 to 0.62; head length, 0.33 to 0.35; prothorax width, 0.40 to 0.42; metathorax width, 0.47 to 0.51; total length, 1.73 to 1.98.

Male: Chaetotaxy and structure, with exception of ventral terminal abdominal segments, similar to that of female. Tergocentral setae: 8 on I to VI, 7 to 8 on VII, and 4 to 6 on VIII. Anterior tergal setae: 0 to 1 on I, 1 to 3 on II, 2 to 3 on III and IV, 0 to 2 on V, 0 to 1 on VI, and 0 on VII and VIII.

Genitalia (Fig. 2) relatively simple, without evident penis, genital sac, or associated genital sclerites. Measurements (in millimeters): preocular width, 0.44 to 0.45; temple width, 0.54 to 0.56; head length, 0.31; prothorax width, 0.35 to 0.40;

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metathorax width, 0.42 to 0.44; total length, 1.80 to 1.99; genitalia length, 0.57 to 0.60.

*Type host:* *Pernis apivorus* (Linn.).


*Type specimens:* Holotype female, allotype male, one female and one male paratype deposited in the Zoological Institute, Lund, Sweden; one female and one male paratype deposited in both the British Museum (Natural History) and the University of Minnesota.

**DISCUSSION**

Tendeiro (1959), in a review of the species of the genus *Nosopon*, recognizes three species, which fall into two morphologically distinctive categories. The first, composed of *N. chana-bensis* (Ansari) and *N. castelli* Tendeiro, is characterized by a ventral spinous sclerotized process arising near the base of each palp; in addition, the female possesses a characteristic plate associated with the genital chamber. The second, composed only of *N. lucidum* (Rudow), lacks both the ventral processes near the palpal bases as well as the plate associated with the female genital chamber. Based upon these features, *N. clayae* belongs to this second category and is easily distinguished from the members of the first group.

Both sexes of *N. clayae* may be separated from *N. lucidum* by having anterior tergal setae on at least several abdominal segments and 8 tergocentral setae on segments II to VII. The latter species has no anterior tergal abdominal setae and only 6 tergocentral setae on II to VII. Additionally, females of *N. clayae* have regularly spaced marginal vulval setae and have 11 to 13 ventral anal setae which, aside from 1 or 2 longer lateral setae, are of about equal length; contrasted to this, females of *N. lucidum* have 7 or 8 relatively long marginal vulval setae on each side without any median setae and have a ventral anal fringe composed of 4 short median setae flanked on each side by 6 or 7 longer setae.

**LITERATURE CITED**