A New Species of *Ardeicola* (Mallophaga: Philopteridae) from Thailand¹

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ABSTRACT

*Ardeicola ixobrychae*, n. sp., from *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* (Gmelin), the Cinnamon Least Bittern, is described and illustrated.

In the following description, all measurements given are in millimeters. Ranges for measurements in the type-series are noted parenthetically.

The holotype and allotype are deposited in the United States National Museum of Natural History. The British Museum (Natural History), K. C. Emerson, Arlington, Va., and the author possess paratypes. I express my appreciation to Dr. Emerson for providing the superbly mounted specimens for study and for reviewing the manuscript.

*Ardeicola ixobrychae*, n. sp.

(Fig. 1-3)

Holotype δ.—Head triangular; rounded clypeal margin with crescentic papillae ventrally; clypeus partially divided dorsally forming acute angle to apical ⅓; lateral margins of preantennal region straight, converging anteriorly; length of preantennal area greater than postantennal; eyes prominent; temporal lobes rounded; each antennal segment shorter than preceding segment, basal segment largest, slightly expanded, 3rd segment with slight lateral projection at apex; setal arrangement as in Fig. 1.

Prothorax wider than long; lateral margin with a slight emargination at basal ⅓; dorsal posterolateral margin with a small seta, spiracle well developed; dorsoposterior margin with a pair of medium-length setae; endocarinae well developed.

Pterothorax wider than long; lateral margins diverging from base to apex; posterior margin of tergite nearly straight, membranous area from posterior projection of lateral carina extending beyond posterolateral angle and giving impression of an emarginate dorsoposterior margin of pterothorax; posterolateral angle with 1 long and 1 short marginal seta, and 3 long submarginal setae; mesocarina “hook” shaped, metacarina digitate; 2 medium-length setae near mesocarina, 1 medium-length seta near apex of metacarina.

Abdomen fusiform, widest at segment IV; tergites entire except for median separation at basal ⅓ of tergite I; tergite I with anterior margin extended to form an acute angle that is partially hidden by pterothorax; anterior margin of tergites II-V distinctly emarginate medially, tergite VI with weak emargination; anterior margin of tergites V-VII appearing undulate; posterior margin of tergites I-VII becoming progressively more crescent shaped; tergite of terminal abdominal segment well developed, anterior margin weakly curved. Sternites as in Fig. 1, most prominent on segments III-VI; sternites of terminal segment fused with sternites of segment VII. Dorsal postermarginal setae longest medially, shortest near margin of segments. Postermarginal setae: I, 4; II-VI, 6; VII, 4 and an additional long seta near each posterolateral angle. Tergite VIII with 8

¹Research support and publication costs provided through State-appropriated funds for organized research and NSF institutional grant funds to Southwest Texas State University. Received for publication Sept. 10, 1969.
Abdominal tergites I-VII divided medially, anterior margin of VIII not as concave as in male (may be weakly arched in some specimens); dorsal posteromarginal setae: I, 4; II-VII, 6; VIII with 2 anterior, 2 mediolateral, and 2 posterior median setae. Sternites II-VIII elongate. Ventral setae: I, 4; II-IV, 2; V-VI, 6; VIII, 2. Segment VIII with 5 pairs of short setae along midline; vulva, 10; lateral margin, 5; apical median submargin, 2. Setae of posterolateral angle: I, 0; II, 1; III, 2; IV, 3; V-VII, 4.

Total length 2.80 (2.60–2.79). Premarginal carina length at base 0.36 (0.34–0.36), width 0.34 (0.32–0.34); head length 0.67 (0.63–0.67); temple width 0.43 (0.41–0.43); prothorax length 0.18 (0.18–0.20), width 0.31 (0.29–0.31); pterothorax length 0.27 (0.24–0.26), width 0.38 (0.36–0.41); abdomen length 1.71 (1.56–1.72), width 0.48 (0.42–0.50).

Type-Host.—Ixobrychus cinnamoneus (Gmelin), the Cinnamon Least Bittern.

Type-Material.—Holotype ♂, allotype ♀ from I. cinnamoneus; Bangkok, Thailand, 16 Oct. 1968; Stark, Col., no. 380; USNM Cat. no. 70770. Seven ♀, six ♂ paratypes, same data as holotype.

Diagnosis.—On the basis of structure of the male genitalia and general chaetotaxy, the Ardeicola from the Ardeidae (Aves) form a rather homogeneous group, with the exception of A. expallida Blagoveshtensky (Tuff 1967). Two species, A. crassula Carriker and A. celeris Tuff, are most closely related to A. ixobrychae.

Males of A. ixobrychae are readily separated from related species by the shape and diverging form of the parameres; arched posterior margin of the genital endomere; the sinuous, entire, and distinctly emarginate anterior margin of the abdominal tergites; shape of the sternites, and fused sternites of segments VII and VIII. The form of the abdominal tergites, sternites, genital sclerite, and abdominal chaetotaxy of the females separates A. ixobrychae from other species. A comparison of A. ixobrychae with Carriker’s (1960) description and illustration of A. crassula shows these species to be distinct.

The clearing and staining procedures in mounting have obscured much of the detail of tergal pigmentation. Unfortunately, the pattern of pigmentation could not be used accurately as an additional diagnostic characteristic.

REFERENCES CITED
