A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF MALLOPHAGA FROM A NEW GUINEA BUSH FOWL

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Abstract: The new genus Megapodiella is established for the new species, M. naka-tae, collected off Aepypodius arfakianus in New Guinea.

Personnel of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum recently collected a series of Mallophaga in New Guinea. This series, in our opinion, represents a new genus and species and it is our purpose here to describe and illustrate these lice.

Megapodiella Emerson & Price, new genus

Head slightly longer than wide. Forehead circumfasciate with median protrusion more pronounced than in Capraella, Cuculicola, or Oxyliqueurus, and with prominent “V”-shaped dorsal suture. Trabeculae triangular-shaped. Antennae filiform and essentially similar for both sexes. Temples rounded and expanded beyond head width at antennae. Chaetotaxy of head sparse, with only short and medium setae.

Prothorax short, with medium seta at each lateroposterior angle. Pterothoracic tegal plate divided, with patches of very long setae on posterior margin. Legs of normal size.

Prominent abdominal tergal plates, with those on II-VIII divided, triangular-shaped, and tapered toward midline, and that on IX continuous. Short row of medioposterior setae on abdominal tergites II-VIII, with IV-V also having longer marginal seta posterior to each spiracle. Sparse ventral chaetotaxy on abdominal segments; sternites not prominent.

Posterior margin of vulva broadly rounded with numerous short to medium setae. ♀ genitalia, as shown in fig. 2, are unique.

Type-species: Megapodiella nakatae Emerson & Price, n. sp.

Remarks: This genus has some characters found in the genera Lagopoecus, Galliphilopterus, Oxyliqueurus, Capraella, and Cuculicola. The shape of the forehead is similar to that found in Capraella and in some species of Oxyliqueurus and Cuculicola; however, the dorsal “V”-shaped suture of the forehead is unique. The head is unusual in being disproportionately large in comparison to the abdomen. The abdomen is similar to that found in some species of Lagopoecus and Galliphilopterus. The abdominal chaetotaxy, dorsally and ventrally, differs greatly from that found in Galliphilopterus. The abdominal tergal plates are tapered medially in Megapodiella and rectangular in Lagopoecus. The chaetotaxy of the vulva and posterior margin of the ♀ terminal abdominal segment is much more dense in Megapodiella than in Lagopoecus. The ♂ genitalia are of a unique type.

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Megapodiella nakatae Emerson & Price, new species  Fig. 1-3.

♂. External morphology and detailed chaetotaxy as shown in fig. 1. Genitalia as shown in fig. 2. Total length 2.20 mm.

♀. External morphology and detailed chaetotaxy as shown in fig. 3. Total length 2.61 mm.

Type-host: Aepypodius arfakianus (Salvadori).

Type-material: Holotype ♂ (Bishop 9508), allotype ♀, and 17 paratypes were collected off the type-host on Mt. Kemp, Morobe District, New Guinea on November 30, 1969. Holotype, allotype, and 6 paratypes are in the Entomology Collection of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum. Paratypes have been retained by the authors, and others have been distributed to the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) and the U. S. National Museum. This species is named for the late Miss Setsuko Nakata who was of great assistance to the authors in their research on Mallophaga.

Discussion: The host is a member of the galliform family Megapodiidae, commonly called mound-builders, found in the Australasian Region. The few collections of Mallophaga, made to date, from the Megapodiidae have all yielded interesting forms quite different from those found on other galliform hosts.

We have also seen one ♀ specimen of this genus, which will not be described until a larger series is obtained, collected off Leipoa ocellata ocellata Gould in Western Australia. Therefore, it is anticipated that future collections from the Megapodiidae will yield additional species of Megapodiella.

The type-host for each species of Mallophaga now known from the Megapodiidae is shown below.

Megapodius nicobariensis nicobariensis Blyth
Goniodes minor confusio Clay, 1940

Megapodius nicobariensis gilbertii G. R. Gray
Goniodes major (Piaget, 1880)
Kelerimenopon minus (Piaget, 1880)
Oxylepeurus appendiculatus (Piaget, 1880)

Megapodius reinwardtii reinwardtii Dumont
Colpocephalum majesticum Harrison, 1916
Goniodes biordinatus Clay, 1940
Goniodes minor minor (Piaget, 1880)
Lipeurus sinuatius Taschenberg, 1882
Oxylepeurus inaequalis (Piaget, 1880)

Megapodius freycinet freycinet Gaimard
Colpocephalum freycineti Price & Beer, 1964
Goniodes discogaster (Taschenberg, 1882)
Lipeurus latifasciatus Piaget, 1890

Eulipoa wallacei (G. R. Gray)
Goniodes ocrea Piaget, 1880
Alectura lathami lathami J. E. Gray

Colpocephalum alecturae Price & Beer, 1964
Colpocephalum lathami Price & Beer, 1964
Goniodes fissus (Rudow, 1869)
Goniodes macrocephalus (Taschenberg, 1882)
Lipeurus crassus Rudow, 1869

Fig. 1-2. Megapodiella nakatae, n. sp.: 1, ♂; 2, ♀ genitalia.
Fig. 3. *Megapodiella nakatae*, n. sp., ♀.
Oxylipeurus ischnocephalus (Taschenberg, 1882)

Talegalla cuvieri Lesson

Colpocephalum talegallae Price & Beer, 1964
Goniodes crassipes (Piaget, 1888)
Kelerimenon eiliatum (Piaget, 1890)

Talegalla fuscirostris Salvadori

Kelerimenon fuscirostris Price & Emerson, 1966
Lipeurus meyeri Taschenberg, 1882

Aeypodius arfakianus (Salvadori)

Colpocephalum arfakiani Price & Beer, 1964
Colpocephalum wilhelmi Price & Beer, 1964
Kelerimenon aeypodi Price & Emerson, 1966
Kelerimenon clayae Price & Emerson, 1966
Megapodiella nakatae Emerson & Price, n. sp.
Oxylipeurus aeypodium Clay, 1938

Macrolep Tulcan maleo S. Müller

Colpocephalum maleonis Price & Beer, 1964
Goniocotes pallidiflavus Piaget, 1890
Lipeurus tsade Piaget, 1890