NEW MALLOPHAGA FROM THE BLACK CURASSOW
(GALLIFORMES: CRACIDAE) IN VENEZUELA

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ABSTRACT

The new species Amyrsidea (Cracimenopon) steineri and Oxyliceurus spangieri are described and illustrated for material taken from the Black Curassow, Crax alector, in Venezuela.

Key Words: Mallophaga, Amyrsidea, Oxyliceurus, Galliformes, Crax.


INTRODUCTION

Chewing lice (Mallophaga) of the menoponid genus Amyrsidea Ewing and the philopterid genus Oxyliceurus Mjöberg are widely distributed among the gallinaceous birds (Galliformes). Scharf and Emerson (1984) revised the Amyrsidea of the subgenus Cracimenopon Carriker, treating the 14 louse species that represent the only Amyrsidea known from the avian family Cracidae. Clay (1938) revised the Oxyliceurus and Carriker (1944) described some additional species from hosts in the Cracidae.

We have received 2 series of lice recently taken from Crax alector Linnaeus, the Black Curassow, one representing a new species of Amyrsidea and the other a new species of Oxyliceurus. It is our purpose here to describe and illustrate these new species. For brevity, in the following descriptions we will not repeat the generic or subgeneric characters since those have been given by Scharf and Price (1977) and Scharf and Emerson (1984) for Amyrsidea and by Clay (1938) for Oxyliceurus. All measurements are given in millimeters.

Amyrsidea (Cracimenopon) steineri, new species
(Figs. 1 - 3)

Female

As in Fig. 3. Middorsal head setae minute, in straight line across head. Margin of pronotum with short corner seta on each side and 14 long setae. Metanotum with 12 long marginal setae. Mesosternal and metasternal plates each with 10 - 12 setae. Abdominal tergite I greatly enlarged, extending across nearly two-fifths of abdomen; tergites II - IV markedly narrowed medially; remaining tergites normal. No tergites divided. Marginal tergal setae: I - II, 14 - 17; III, 23 - 25; IV 34 - 35; V, 39 - 45; VI, 36 - 41; VII, 28 - 31; VIII, 15 - 18. No anterior tergal setae. Last

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segment with 2 very long marginal setae and 2 setae anterior to these on each side, and total of 14 - 16 inner posterior setae. Sternal setae: II, 37 - 45; III, 55 - 62; IV - V, 76 - 87; VI, 62 - 73; VII, 31 - 42. Subgenital plate with 24 - 26 evenly-distributed marginal setae and 19 - 20 anterior setae. Anal fringe with 59 - 68 setae both dorsally and ventrally. Dimensions: preocular width, 0.42 - 0.43; temple width, 0.62 - 0.64; head length, 0.38 - 0.39; prothorax width, 0.46 - 0.47; metathorax width, 0.72 - 0.73; total length, 2.09 - 2.17.

**Male**

As in Fig. 1. Essentially as for female, except as follows. All abdominal tergites of similar size. Marginal tergal setae: 1, 16; II - III, 15 - 18; IV, 20 - 24; V, 24 - 27; VI, 21 - 27; VII, 19 - 22; VIII, 12 - 13. Shape and chaetotaxy of last segment as shown. Sternal setae: II, 32 - 38; III, 50 - 55; IV - V, 67 - 78; VI, 57 - 63; VII, 41 -
44; VIII (fused with IX), 16 - 25; remainder of subgenital plate, 13 - 16. Genitalia as in Fig. 2. Dimensions: precocular width, 0.38 - 0.39; temple width, 0.55 - 0.58; head length, 0.36 - 0.37; prothorax width, 0.40 - 0.43; metathorax width, 0.50 - 0.54; total length, 1.83 - 1.94; genitalia width 0.15 - 0.17, length 0.30 - 0.32.

Material

Remarks
By the female having a markedly enlarged first abdominal tergite and no tergites divided, A. steineri differs from all other known members of the subgenus Cracinemopon; it will not successfully identify with any species in the key to females provided by Scharf and Emerson (1984) due to the absence of divided tergites. Males of Cracinemopon are much more difficult to identify, with all couples in the key for males in Scharf and Emerson (1984) utilizing genitalia features that are so subject to interpretative variation. The male genitalia of A. steineri appear most similar to those of A. rogersi Scharf and Emerson from Crax f. fasciolata Spix; however, the latter has both sexes much smaller and the female with a smaller first abdominal tergite and tripartite tergites on V - VII, as well as other differences.

In the material examined section for A. pauxis Carriker, Scharf and Emerson (1984) list one male and one female off "Craz nigro L., Venezuela [San Felipe, E. Yaracuy]" and 5 males and 2 females off "C. alector L. (= Craz nigro), Surinam." Specimens of A. steineri are easily separated from A. pauxis by the former having both sexes with only 12 long marginal metanotal setae and the female with a differently-shaped first abdominal tergite, without any divided abdominal tergites, and tergites I - II with a distinct gap in the row between the corner setae and the remaining ones. The separation of these species is further supported by other differences. The significance of 2 Amyrisidea species on the same host taxon may be a reflection of the wide geographic separation, with over 600 miles between the locality of A. steineri and both of those of the Crax bearing A. pauxis.

This species is named for Mr. Warren E. Steiner, U. S. National Museum of Natural History, the collector.

Oxylipeurus spangleri, new species
(Figs. 5 - 7)

Female
As in Fig. 5. Head with anterior margin evenly rounded. Antenna filiform. Pteronotum with pair of short anterior setae and group of 4 very long setae on each side. Abdominal tergites II - VIII each divided medially; II without marginal setae; III with only short lateroposterior setae; IV - V with short lateroposterior setae and very long seta posterior to spiracle; VI with 2 short lateroposterior setae and very long seta posterior to spiracle; VII with 2 very long setae and short lateroposterior setae; VIII with very long and medium lateroposterior setae; II - VIII
Figs. 4 - 7. *Oxylipereus rhynchoti* (Carriker). 4. Female thoracic sternal plate, same scale as Fig. 5. *Oxylipereus spangleri* n. sp. 5. Female dorsal-ventral view. 6. Male genitalia. 7. Male dorsal-ventral view.

with pair of medium setae between tergites. Terminal segments dorsally on each side with 2 very long setae and plates as shown. Sternites II - VI each with pair of marginal medium setae and pair of sensilla; ventral terminalia with sclerites and chaetotaxy as shown. Dimensions: preantennal width, 0.48 - 0.50; temple width, 0.49 - 0.51; head length, 0.61 - 0.65; prothorax width, 0.35 - 0.36; pterothorax width, 0.57 - 0.60; total length, 2.74 - 3.11.
Male

As in Fig. 7. Much as for female, except as follows. Antenna with enlarged first segment and distally produced third segment. Tergites VI - VII with lateroposterior setae both very long; VIII with additional very long lateroposterior seta. Terminal segments dorsally on each side with pair of lateroanterior very long setae and row of 5 - 6 very long setae posterior to these. Ventral terminalia with sclerites and chaetotaxy as shown; medioposterior lobe-like projection bearing 4 minute setae. Genitalia as in Fig. 6. Dimensions: preantennal width, 0.44 - 0.46; temple width, 0.46 - 0.47; head length, 0.61 - 0.63; prothorax width, 0.33 - 0.34; pterothorax width, 0.50 - 0.52; total length, 2.76 - 2.84; genitalia width 0.11 - 0.12, length 0.41 - 0.42.

Material


Remarks

Species of Orylipeurus have now been recorded from 5 of the 12 species of Curassows. Male lice are larger than females for O. craxae c. c. Carriker and O. c. annulatus Carriker, both found on Crax albii Fraser, and for O. globiceps Carriker found on Crax rubra Linnaeus; these 3 thereby differ from O. spangleri in this feature as well as in the gross shape of the male genitalia and in the shape and chaetotaxy of the terminalia of both sexes. The female of O. rhyncothi (Carriker) found on Crax mitu (Linnaeus) is larger than the male; however, the female has its thoracic sternal plate a distinctly different shape from that of O. spangleri (Fig. 4 vs. Fig. 5) and the lateroposterior projections of the terminal abdominal segment much longer; the males of the 2 species differ in the shape and chaetotaxy of the ventral terminalia. Carriker (1944) erroneously illustrates O. rhyncothi with 4 median medium setae on the dorsal abdomen, while there are only 2 on our specimens.

Orylipeurus concolor (Rudow) was described from specimens collected off a museum skin of Crax globulosa Spix. This louse species has not been found since the original description was published. We believe that the host was not a Curassow, because this louse has 3 large prominent setae on each temple, while all verified collections from Curassows have only one large prominent seta on each temple.

This species is named for Dr. Paul J. Spangler, U. S. National Museum of Natural History, one of the collectors.
LITERATURE CITED


