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Menacanthus bonariensis new species (Phthiraptera: Menoponidae), parasitic on the White-bellied Sparrow, *Zonotrichia capensis hypoleuca* (Todd, 1915) (Aves: Passeriformes: Fringillidae) in Buenos Aires Province, Argentina

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ABSTRACT

The new species *Menacanthus bonariensis* is described and illustrated from specimens collected off *Zonotrichia capensis hypoleuca* (Todd, 1915) from coastal areas in the NE of Buenos Aires Province, Argentina. Morphologically the new species is close to *M. robustus* (Kellogg, 1896), but with larger females, longer ocular seta 19 and ventral spinous processes, greater number of setae on certain tergites and sternites, and fewer setae in the subgenital plate. Descriptions of the male, the three nymphal instars and the egg are also included, with comments on prevalence and spatial relationship with other species of lice of the genera *Philopterus* Nitzsch, 1818, *Ricinus* De Geer, 1778 and *Machaerilaemus* Harrison, 1916, which are found on this host in different populations of the geographical area mentioned above.

Key words: *Menacanthus*, *M. bonariensis*, new species, egg morphology, oviposition sites, *Zonotrichia capensis*, Buenos Aires, Argentina

INTRODUCTION

Menacanthus eurysternus is hitherto the only species of *Menacanthus* Neumann, 1912 known to parasitize two out of five finch species currently included in the passerine genus *Zonotrichia*: *Z. leucophrys* (Forster) and *Z., querula* (Nuttall), both in the United States of America (see Price, 1975). It has also been collected from species of the related genera *Passerella* (*P. iliaca* (Merrem)) and *Junco* (*J. hyemalis* (Linnaeus)) in the same country.

A second species, *Menacanthus chrysophaeus* (Nitzsch in Giebel, 1866), parasitizes two out of three of the allied genus *Melospiza* (*M. melodia* (Wilson) and *M. georgiana* (Latham)), and occurs also on *Passerella iliaca* (see Price, 1977).

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