



Meitingsunes, a new genus of quill mites (Acari: Cheyletoidea: Syringophilidae)

ELIZA GLOWSKA & MACIEJ SKORACKI

Adam Mickiewicz University, Department of Animal Morphology, Faculty of Biology, Umultowska 89, 61–614 Poznan, Poland. E-mail: glowska@amu.edu.pl

Abstract

A new genus of syringophilid mites *Meitingsunes* **gen. nov.** (Acari: Cheyletoidea: Syringophilidae) inhabiting quills of columbiform birds is established. The new genus is closely related to *Peristerophila* Kethley but distinguished from it by the smooth hypostomal apex and divergent apodemes I not fused to apodemes II. This new genus includes one new species, *M. aldwelli* **sp. nov.** described from quills of *Geotrygon frenata* (Tschudi) from Colombia, and two named species moved from *Peristerophila*: *M. tympanistria* (Skoracki et Dabert, 2002) **comb. nov.** and *M. zenadourae* (Clark, 1964) **comb. nov.** [type species].

Key words: Acari, Syringophilidae, quill mites, ectoparasites, *Meitingsunes*

Introduction

Mites of all 43 known syringophilid genera (Acari: Syringophilidae) are obligatory ectoparasites living inside the quills of various types of bird feathers (Skoracki & OConnor 2010). In this family, the generic complex *Peristerophila* was established for syringophilid genera diagnosing by the absence of propodonotal setae *vi* and leg setae *vsII* and *dFII* (Bochkov & Perez 2002; Skoracki 2005). This complex includes five genera: *Castosyringophilus* Bochkov et Perez, *Neoperisterophila* Skoracki, *Peristerophila* Kethley, *Psittaciphilus* Fain *et al.*, and *Terratosyringophilus* Bochkov et Perez. Species of all above mentioned genera are associated with birds belonging to the orders Passeriformes, Columbiformes, Falconiformes and Psittaciformes.

In this paper we describe a new genus *Meitingsunes* **gen. nov.** belonging to this generic complex. The genus uniting a new species *Meitingsunes aldwelli* **sp. nov.** from *Geotrygon frenata* (Columbiformes: Columbidae) from Colombia and two known species *M. tympanistria* (Skoracki et Dabert, 2002) and *M. zenadourae* (Clark, 1964) moved here from the genus *Peristerophila*.

Material and methods

Material used in this study is obtained from different sources and housed in the collection of the Department of Animal Morphology, A. Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland. Drawings were made with an Olympus BH2 microscope with DIC optics and camera lucida. All measurements, including scale bars in the figures are given in micrometers (μm). The idiosomal setation follows Grandjean (1939) as adapted for Prostigmata by Kethley (1990). The system of nomenclature for leg chaetotaxy follows that proposed by Grandjean (1944). The application of these chaetotaxic schemes to Syringophilidae was recently provided by Bochkov *et al.* (2008). The Latin names of the birds follow Clements (2007).

Specimen depositories and reference numbers are cited using the following abbreviations:

AMU Department of Animal Morphology, A. Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland;
AMU-SYR M. Skoracki reference number;