

***Neosyringophilopsis*, a new genus of the subfamily Syringophilinae (Acari: Syringophilidae)**

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Abstract

A new genus, *Neosyringophilopsis* is described. This new genus is closely related to *Syringophilopsis* Kethley and is distinguished by the presence of the following characters: the propodosomal shield is divided longitudinally, setae *IG* of legs IV are absent, epimeres I are not fused to epimeres II. This new genus includes five recognized species: *N. troglodytis* (Fritsch) comb. nov., *N. aegithali* (Bochkov et al.) comb. nov., *N. phylloscopi* (Bochkov et al.) comb. nov., *N. garrulaxi* (Bochkov et al.) comb. nov., *N. locustellus* (Skoracki) comb. nov., and one new species *N. acanthizus* sp. nov.

Key words: Acari, Syringophilidae, *Neosyringophilopsis*, quill mites, taxonomy

Introduction

The family Syringophilidae Lavoipierre, 1953 is divided into two subfamilies Syringophilinae Lavoipierre, 1953 and Picobiinae Johnston et Kethley, 1975. At present, subfam. Syringophilinae includes more than 130 species of 31 genera recorded from birds of 17 orders (Bochkov et al. 2004; Skoracki & Sikora 2004a, b). All species of quill mites live and reproduce in quills of remiges, rectrices, coverts and body feathers. They feed on the soft tissue fluids of birds by piercing the quill wall with their styletiform chelicerae (Kethley 1970, Casto 1974).

The quill mite genus described in this paper—*Neosyringophilopsis* gen. nov.—includes one new species—*N. acanthizus* sp. nov.—and five recognized species: *N. troglodytis* (Fritsch), *N. aegithali* (Bochkov et al.), *N. phylloscopi* (Bochkov et al.), *N. garrulaxi* (Bochkov et al.) and *N. locustellus* (Skoracki) which earlier belonged to the “*fringilla*” species group of the genus *Syringophilopsis* (Bochkov & Galloway 2004). All six species have characteristics that do not correspond with key-characteristics of the genus *Syringophilopsis* (see differential diagnosis).