

Observations on the quill mites (Acari: Syringophilidae) from charadriiform birds

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Abstract

We provide a list of all 19 named species of the family Syringophilidae (Acari: Prostigmata) parasitizing charadriiform birds (Charadriiformes) together with new records and keys to these species. We describe a new species *Niglarobia cursoriae* sp. nov. from *Cursorius temminckii* Swainson (Glareolidae) and redescribe *Creagonycha totana* (Oudemans, 1904) from *Tringa totanus* L. (Scolopacidae). *Niglarobia cursoriae* sp. nov. differs from the closely related species *N. rhinoptili* Fain *et al.*, 2000 in the following characters: in females of *N. cursoriae* sp. nov. hysterosomal shield is present and fused with pygidial shield; the length ratio of setae *g:pg1:pg2* is 1:5:3.8. In females of *N. rhinoptili* the hysterosomal shield is absent; and the length ratio of setae *g:pg1:pg2* is 1:3:2. All known syringophilid records from charadriiform birds are summarized in tabular form.

Key words: Syringophilidae, quill mites, Charadriiformes, ectoparasites

Introduction

Syringophilid mites are obligatory ectoparasites inhabiting the feather quills of birds. At present more than 140 described quill mite species are known from birds belonging to 16 orders (Bochkov *et al.* 2004; Skoracki & Sikora 2004). Among them, the order Charadriiformes possesses a rich and unique fauna represented by 19 species assigned to six genera: *Niglarobia* Kethley, *Creagonycha* Kethley, *Charadriphilus* Bochkov *et Chistyakov* (= *Charadriaulobia* Bochkov, Fain *et* Skoracki, 2004 syn. nov.), *Kethleyana* Kivganov, *Philoxanthornea* Kethley, and *Selenonycha* Kethley. However, our knowledge of the Syringophilidae parasitizing charadriiform birds is still incomplete. From 18