

Chewing lice (Phthiraptera) from typical antbirds and ground antbirds (Passeriformes: *Thamnophilidae*, *Formicariidae*) from Costa Rica, with descriptions of three new species of the genera *Formicaphagus* and *Myrsidea*

OLDŘICH SYCHRA¹, IVAN LITERÁK¹, MIROSLAV ČAPEK² & MARTIN HAVLÍČEK³

¹Department of Biology and Wildlife Diseases, Faculty of Veterinary Hygiene and Ecology, University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Palackého 1–3, 612 42 Brno, Czech Republic

²Department of Avian Ecology, Institute of Vertebrate Biology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Kvitná 8, 603 65 Brno, Czech Republic

³Veterinary Teaching Hospital, School of Veterinary Science and Animal Production, University of Queensland, St Lucia, Queensland 4072, Australia

Abstract

Descriptions and illustrations are given for one new species of *Formicaphagus* Carriker, 1957 and two new species of *Myrsidea* Waterston, 1915 from typical antbirds and ground antbirds from Costa Rica. They and their type hosts are: *Formicaphagus tyrannina* ex *Cercomacra tyrannina* (*Thamnophilidae*), *Myrsidea mcleannani* ex *Phaenostictus mcleannani* (*Thamnophilidae*) and *Myrsidea klimesi* ex *Formicarius analis* (*Formicariidae*). These are the first records of *Myrsidea* from members of the passerine families *Thamnophilidae* and *Formicariidae*. Records of two other known louse species, one of *Formicaphagus* and one of *Machaerilaemus* Harrison, 1915, both from *thamnophilid* hosts, are also discussed.

Key words: Chewing lice, Phthiraptera, *Formicaphagus*, *Machaerilaemus*, *Myrsidea*, Passeriformes, *Thamnophilidae*, *Formicariidae*, Costa Rica

Introduction

Typical antbirds (*Thamnophilidae*) and ground antbirds (*Formicariidae*) are bird families comprised of relatively high numbers of species. Thirty of the 272 known species of these two families occur in Costa Rica (Stiles and Skutch 1989). Despite this fact, data concerning their chewing lice are scarce and incomplete. Only five species of chewing lice have been reported from five *thamnophilid* and *formicariid* hosts from Costa Rica (Price & Clayton 1994, 1995, 1997; Price *et al.* 2002).