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Checklist of the chewing lice (Insecta: Phthiraptera) from wild birds in Bulgaria

MIHAELA ILIEVA



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Abstract

The checklist includes 282 chewing lice species belonging to 63 genera, 4 families and 2 suborders recorded in Bulgaria until 2008. Their hosts represent 194 bird species belonging to 48 families and 18 orders. Synonyms used in the Bulgarian literature are included.

Key words: parasites, Phthiraptera, chewing lice, birds, Bulgaria, new host records, Laemobothriidae, Menoponidae, Ricinidae, Philopteridae

Introduction

The chewing lice were extensively studied in Bulgaria during the period 1955-1974 by Dr. Krastio Touleshkov. In his first paper on this group, he dealt with the chewing lice parasitising domestic animals (Touleshkov 1955) and evaluated various insecticides for their control. His faunistic works on wild birds covered a variety of systematic groups of hosts and geographical regions of Bulgaria (Touleshkov 1957, 1958, 1961a, 1962, 1964a, 1974). In these studies, he included additional remarks on biology and ecology of the chewing lice. Subsequent ecological investigations were carried out in the 1960s when he studied four corvid species and the common starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) (Touleshkov 1965, 1970). In these hosts, Touleshkov registered two peaks in the intensity and prevalence of the chewing lice, i.e. in the late spring and in late autumn. In the course of his studies, Touleshkov recorded more than 250 species of chewing lice parasitising birds.

Another study on the chewing lice from Bulgarian wild birds was carried out by Balát (1958). It covered mostly passerine birds.

Recently, the present author has published additional data on the chewing lice on Bulgarian birds, mostly passerines collected during migrations (Ilieva 2005).

The present checklist includes 282 chewing lice species belonging to 63 genera, 4 families and 2 suborders recorded in Bulgaria until 2008. Their hosts represent 194 bird species belonging to 48 families and 18 orders. The systematics of the lice follows the world checklist of Price *et al.* (2003). The synonyms used in the Bulgarian literature are included; the spelling of the synonymous names is exactly as given in the publications cited, even if not correct in several cases. The new host records, compared with the host-parasite list by Price *et al.* (2003) and Palma & Price (2006), are marked by asterisk (*). Twelve cases of louse-host associations probably represent stragglers. They are marked by two asterisks (**) in the host-parasite checklist. The nomenclature of the birds follows Howard and Moore, 3rd edition (corrigenda 8) (2008). Numbers in square brackets "["]" represent the referenced reports.

Class Insecta

Order Phthiraptera Haeckel, 1896

Suborder Amblycera Kellogg, 1896

Family Laemobothriidae Mjöberg, 1910

Laemobothrion (Laemobothrion) maximum (Scopoli, 1763)

Report: [1] Touleshkov (1957).

Synonyms: *Laemobothrion circi* Fourcroy (1785) [1]; *Laemobothrion clayi* Tuleshkov [1].

Hosts: *Circaetus gallicus* (Gmelin) [1]; *Circus aeruginosus* (L.) [1].

Distribution in Bulgaria: Chelopechene (Sofia Region) [1].