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## Chewing lice of genus *Myrsidea* (Phthiraptera: Menoponidae) from Turdidae (Passeriformes) of Costa Rica, with descriptions of seven new species

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### Abstract

A total of 166 individuals from 10 bird species belonging to the family Turdidae were examined for chewing lice in Costa Rica during 2004, 2009 and 2010. A total of 12 species of the louse genus *Myrsidea* were collected from 54 birds, including four previously named, seven new undescribed species, and one identified as *Myrsidea* sp. Names, descriptions and illustrations are given for the seven new species of *Myrsidea*. They and their type hosts are: *Myrsidea assimilis* **sp. nov.** ex *Turdus assimilis* (Cabanis, 1850), *M. cerrodelamuertensis* **sp. nov.** ex *Catharus gracilirostris* (Salvin, 1865), *M. hrabaki* **sp. nov.** ex *Myadestes melanops* (Salvin, 1865), *M. obsoleti* **sp. nov.** ex *Turdus obsoletus* (Lawrence, 1862), *M. quinchoi* **sp. nov.** ex *Catharus frantzii* (Cabanis, 1861), *M. tapanti* **sp. nov.** ex *Catharus fuscater* (Lafresnaye, 1845), and *M. tapetapersi* **sp. nov.** ex *Turdus nigrescens* (Cabanis, 1861). Records of four named and one unidentified species of *Myrsidea* from other Costa Rican thrushes are also given and discussed.

**Key words:** Amblycera, *Myrsidea*, new species, new host-lice associations, population dynamics, Turdidae, *Catharus*, *Myadestes*, *Turdus*, Costa Rica

### Introduction

In the Neotropical Region, there are at present 15 recognized species of the genus *Myrsidea* Waterston, 1915 (Clay 1966) from 16 passerine host species of the family Turdidae, as defined in Clements *et al.* (2011). Ten of them occur on 10 bird species belonging to the genus *Turdus*, and the other 5 species occur on 6 species of thrushes belonging to the genus *Catharus* (Price *et al.* 2003). Subsequently, Bueter *et al.* (2009) reported one undetermined species of *Myrsidea* from *Hylocichla mustelina* (Gmelin, 1789).

The aim of this paper is to follow up on our previous work (Kounek *et al.* 2011a, b) and present new data on the taxonomy and distribution of chewing lice of the genus *Myrsidea* found on passerines of the family Turdidae in Costa Rica, including the description of seven new species.

### Material and methods

We conducted fieldwork during 2004, 2009 and 2010 at seven study sites in Costa Rica. For detailed locations and methods of our chewing louse research, see Sychra *et al.* (2006) and Kounek *et al.* (2011a).

The taxonomy of the birds follows Clements *et al.* (2011). Identification of the chewing lice was based on Clay (1966), which also provided the diagnostic characters that define the genus *Myrsidea* from the Turdidae. Because these characters are common to all the *Myrsidea* species mentioned below, they will not be repeated in the species descriptions. Some of the samples studied for this paper, belonging to previously described species, differ from their original descriptions or redescriptions by setal counts and dimensions. In these cases, we present our data