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Three new species of chewing lice of the genus *Emersoniella* Tendeiro, 1965 (Insecta: Phthiraptera: Ischnocera: Philopteridae) from Papua New Guinean kingfishers and kookaburras (Aves: Coraciiformes: Alcedinidae)

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Abstract

Three new species of the ischnoceran louse genus *Emersoniella* (Phthiraptera) are described from four species of New Guinean kingfishers and kookaburras (Coraciiformes: Alcedinidae: Halcyoninae). They are: *Emersoniella crassicarina* n. sp. ex *Dacelo gaudichaud* Quoy & Gaimard (rufous-bellied kookaburra) and *Dacelo leachii intermedia* Salvadori (blue-winged kookaburra); *E. reninoda* n. sp. ex *Melidora macrorrhina macrorrhina* Lesson (hook-billed kingfisher); and *E. persei* n. sp. ex *Tanysepta danae* Sharpe (brown-headed paradise-kingfisher). In addition, we illustrate *Emersoniella regis* Emerson & Price, *Emersoniella halcyonis* Tendeiro, and the male genitalia of *Emersoniella galateae* Emerson & Price, as well as provide a complete host-lice checklist, and an updated key to all seven species of this genus.

Key words: *Emersoniella*, Phthiraptera, Ischnocera, Philopteridae, key, Aves, Coraciiformes, Alcedinidae, Halcyoninae, new species, Papua New Guinea

Introduction

Giebel (1866: 369) first published the name “*N. bracteatus* N. Burm. II. 431”, which is now known as *Emersoniella bracteata* (Nitzsch [in Giebel], 1866), a louse from the laughing kookaburra “*Dacelo gigantea*” [= *Dacelo novaeguineae* (Hermann, 1783)]. The “N. Burm.” included by Giebel (1866) referred this species to both Nitzsch (1818) and Burmeister (1838: 431). However, Nitzsch (1818) did not mention any such species, and the only reference to it made by Burmeister (1838) is that Nitzsch had found a species of louse similar to *Nirmus marginalis* [= *Brueelia marginata* (Burmeister, 1838)] on the host “*Dacelo gigantea*”. Giebel (1866) noted that the species had no distinct characteristics, apart from the large, red-brown preantennal nodi, a character later found to be very typical in species of *Emersoniella*.

Hopkins & Clay (1952: 241) listed this species under *Nirmus*, noting that it was unique from other genera of lice known from kingfishers. No other species referable to the genus *Emersoniella* was known until Tendeiro (1965: 69) described the new genus *Emersoniella* and the new species *E. halcyonis* Tendeiro, 1965. In 1971, Clay obtained fresh material of lice from *Dacelo gigas* (= *Dacelo novaeguineae*) and formally placed *Nirmus bracteatus* in *Emersoniella*.

Two additional species have since been described: *Emersoniella galateae* Emerson & Price, 1978, and *Emersoniella regis* Emerson & Price, 1978. With only four known species, *Emersoniella* thus constitutes one of the smallest genera of Ischnocera (Price *et al.* 2003: 177). In this paper, we: (1) describe three new species of *Emersoniella*; (2) provide more detailed illustrations of *Emersoniella regis* based on paratypes; (3) illustrate *Emersoniella halcyonis* based on material from the type host; (4) include a complete host-lice checklist for the genus; and (5) provide an updated key to all seven *Emersoniella* species.

Host-louse list for *Emersoniella* Tendeiro, 1965

Host species	<i>Emersoniella</i> species
<i>Actenoides concretus</i> (Temminck, 1825)	<i>Emersoniella halcyonis</i> Tendeiro, 1965
<i>Actenoides hombroni</i> Bonaparte, 1850	<i>Emersoniella halcyonis</i> Tendeiro, 1965
<i>Clytoceyx rex rex</i> Sharpe, 1880	<i>Emersoniella regis</i> Emerson & Price, 1978
<i>Dacelo gaudichaud</i> Quoy and Gaimard, 1824	<i>Emersoniella crassicarina</i> new species
<i>Dacelo leachii intermedia</i> Salvadori, 1876	<i>Emersoniella crassicarina</i> new species
<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i> (Hermann, 1783)	<i>Emersoniella bracteata</i> (Nitzsch [in Giebel], 1866)
<i>Melidora macrorrhina macrorrhina</i> Lesson, 1827	<i>Emersoniella reninoda</i> new species
<i>Tanysiptera danae</i> Sharpe, 1880	<i>Emersoniella persei</i> new species
<i>Tanysiptera galatea meyeri</i> Salvadori, 1889	<i>Emersoniella galateae</i> Emerson & Price, 1978
<i>Tanysiptera nympa</i> Gray, 1840	<i>Emersoniella</i> sp.
<i>Todiramphus leucopygius</i> (Verreaux, 1858)	<i>Emersoniella</i> sp.

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