

***Austromenopon pelagicum* Timmermann, 1963 (Phthiraptera: Menoponidae) from British Storm Petrels *Hydrobates pelagicus* in Shetland, Scotland**

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In their study of non-haematophagous ectoparasite populations of Procellariiform birds in Shetland, Fowler & Miller (1984) reported four species of feather lice on British Storm Petrels *Hydrobates pelagicus*. One of these, *Austromenopon* sp., could not be identified beyond genus because the original description of a species of *Austromenopon* from *Hydrobates pelagicus* was based on a single male, and the four specimens in the 1981 Shetland collection were females. A further 26 specimens were collected in July 1984 which includes males and females. Therefore, it has been possible to identify this species as *Austromenopon pelagicum* Timmermann, 1963. The specimens are retained as slide mounts in the National Museum of New Zealand.

In a revision of the genus *Austromenopon*, Price & Clay (1972) described a new species, *Austromenopon oceanodromae*, based on three females only, each from different *Oceanodroma* species. Female specimens of *Austromenopon pelagicum* fit the description of *A. oceanodromae*. However, to elucidate the status of the latter species, it is necessary to obtain males from its type host, *Oceanodroma hornbyi*, so that a critical comparison of both sexes can be made. Such a comparison may show that *A. oceanodromae* is a junior synonym of *A. pelagicum*; in the meantime both names remain valid.

REFERENCES

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