

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF PARROT LOUSE FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

By M. A. CARRIKER, Jr.

THE Mallophaga treated in this paper were sent to me by Miss Theresa Clay for study, with the remark that they seemed to represent a new genus, and that, if I agreed, she wished me to describe it. Her surmise has proved to be entirely correct, and I take pleasure in describing the new genus and naming the type species in honour of the collector, Dr. F. Zumpt of the South African Institute for Medical Research, Johannesburg.

All measurements are in millimetres and all drawings were prepared by the author.

Mimémaménopon,* gen. nov.

Type species: *M. zumpti* new species.

Diagnosis.—Medium-sized Menoponidae, parasitic on certain species of the family Psittacidae, but at present known only from *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus*.

Similar in general appearance to *Heteromenopon* Carriker† and *Franciscoloa* Conci‡, but differs decidedly from both in its chaetotaxy and in the presence of a pair of curving spines on the sternal face of head.

In both of the above-mentioned genera there are present on hind femora and sternite III combs of very minute spines, which are entirely absent in the new genus, being replaced by a few heavy, scattered spines on the hind femora and by a series of about ten short, thick spines on the posterior margin, at outer ends, of sternite III. There are a few such spines on II and IV.

The head spines are not in the same location as those of *Menacanthus* and are easily overlooked. A narrow band of chitin connects the inner margins of the antennal fossæ, passing under the posterior prongs of the pharyngeal sclerite. The spines extend backward from the slight protuberances to which is fused the transverse band, curving laterally. The pharyngeal sclerite is of the same type as in *Menacanthus* and *Heteromenopon*, but the antennæ differs somewhat (fig. 4).

The pleurites are narrow dorsally, wider ventrally; tergites are entire, slightly separated from pleurites and with wide hyaline interspaces. Sternites also entire across abdomen but more widely separated from pleurites and slightly narrower than tergites. Legs of medium size, hirsute, with swollen femora and slender tibiæ and with minute claws.

Abdominal chaetotaxy complicated and abundant, consisting of series of closely set setæ along posterior margins of both tergites and sternites, as well as on sternal portion of pleurites; short, scattered setæ, set in

* A combination of the Greek word μίμημα (in imitation) and the old generic term *Menopon*.

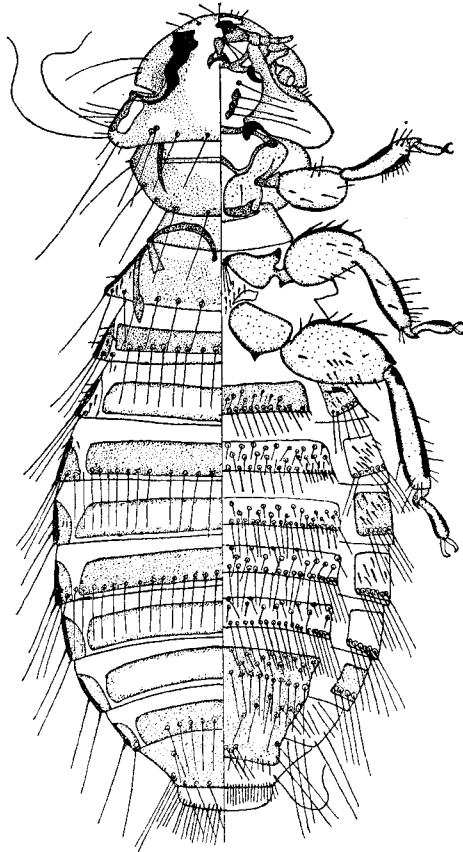
† *Rev. Bras. Ent.*, 2, 1954, 70.

‡ *Boll. Soc. Ent. Ital.*, 74, No. 4, 1942, 35

pustules across anterior half of sternites ; dorsal and ventral fringes of fine setæ, closely set, across the tip of abdomen in female.

Sexes alike with exception of size and apical segments of abdomen. Male genitalia with long basal plate, tapering rapidly to the slender apical portion ; parameres very short, about half the length of the

Fig. 1.



Mimémaménopon zumpti sp. n. ♀.

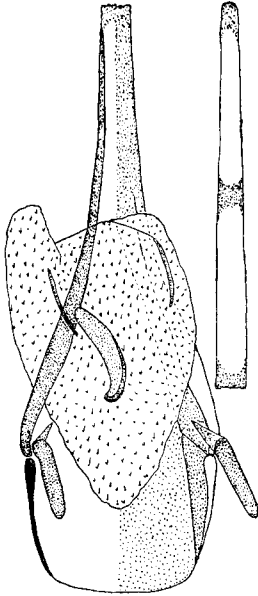
endomerale sac, straight, parallel-sided and rounded tips ; endomerale sac with lateral carinæ only ; the large sac, extruded during copulation, is thickly covered with minute spicules.

Mimémaménopon zumpti sp. nov. (Figs. 1-4.)

Types, male and female adults, from *Poicephalus c. cryptoxanthus* (Peters), collected by F. Zumpt at Mabelikwa, N. Transvaal, Africa, January 16th, 1957.

Diagnosis.—The above generic characterization and the accompanying figures quite thoroughly describe this species, but a few details may be added. The body is faintly pigmented, with markings of dark brown and pitchy black, sharply defined. A pitchy brown spot on each side of occiput and an irregularly shaped pitchy band extending from near anterior margin of head backward along inner edge of antennary fossæ; the carinæ which support the coxæ are narrow and deeply coloured (fig. 1); prothorax much wider than long, with six strong, pustulated setæ on each half of posterior margin.

Fig. 2.



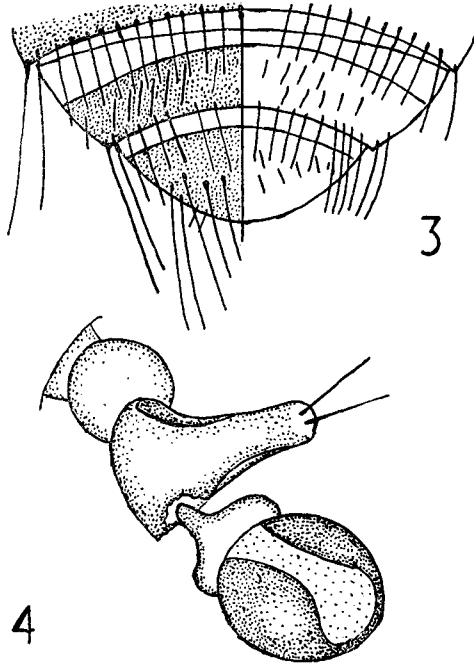
Mimémaménopon zumpti sp. n. ♂ genitalia.

The mesothoracic portion of the pterothorax is very short, with dividing line faintly visible and with a single long seta on posterior margin in middle of each lateral half. The pterothorax resembles closely the first abdominal segment in shape. Meso- and metasternum sparsely set with setæ, those of mesosternum being much the longer. The seta at the postero-lateral angles of abdomen are but little longer than those on posterior margin of tergites, but there are two longer, pustulated setæ set just within the angle. The paratergals are narrow dorsally and deeply pigmented along outer margin, but faintly coloured ventrally. The tergites and sternites have been described under the genus, as well as the male genitalia.

The species is represented by the female holotype, male allotype (both in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.)) and 3 ♂♂ and 2 ♀♀ paratypes.

1 ♂ and 1 ♀ paratypes have been presented to the author and will eventually be deposited in the U.S. National Museum, together with the collection of the author.

Figs. 3-4.



Mimemaménopon zumpti sp. n. 3. Tip of ♂ abdomen. 4. ♀ antenna.

Measurements of the types :

	♂		♀	
	length	width	length	width
Body	1.82	—	2.23	—
Head { frons	—	0.468	—	0.50
{ temples	0.36	0.586	0.395	0.65
{ occiput	0.34	—	0.358	—
Prothorax	0.24	0.477	0.282	0.53
Pterothorax	0.217	0.575	0.26	0.66
Abdomen	1.107	0.814	1.40	0.976
Basal plate	0.608	0.141		
Parameres	0.068	0.021		
Endomerale sac	0.09	0.132		

Note.—I wish to again emphasize the fact that up to the present no genus of Menoponidae parasitic on the Psittacidae has been found which is common to both Neotropical and Old World parrots.