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A New Species of *Eomenopon* (Phthiraptera: Menoponidae) from the Swift Parrot, *Lathamus discolor*, of Tasmania

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ABSTRACT: A new species of chewing louse, *Eomenopon greeni*, is described and illustrated from its type host, *Lathamus discolor* (White), from Tasmania.

Fifteen species of the menoponid genus *Eomenopon* Harrison are presently recognized; their descriptions have been provided in a series of papers by Price (1966, 1969, 1972) and Price and Emerson (1982). It is our purpose here to describe a new species of this genus from a series of lice recently obtained from the Swift Parrot, *Lathamus discolor* (White) (Aves: Psittaciformes), in Tasmania. For brevity, we will not repeat here the characters given by Price (1966) for the lice of this genus or the *spinimentum*-group of species to which this new species belongs.

Eomenopon ***greeni*** Price and Palma, new species
(Figs. 1–4)

Eomenopon sp.; Green and Palma, 1991:6.

TYPE HOST: *Lathamus discolor* (White).

FEMALE: As in Fig. 1. Metanotum with total of 13–14 lateroanterior setae. Marginal tergal setae: I, 24–25; II, 24–26; III, 22–26; IV, 24–28; V, 24–26; VI, 22; VII, 21–22; VIII, 19; anteriorly with sparse scattered minute alveoli. Pleurites without significant internal thickenings. Last segment with each side having sequence of 2 medium, 1 very long, and 1 medium setae. Each ctenidium on sternite III with 13–14 spiniform setae; each side of sternite IV with well developed ctenidium of 8–13 such setae. Marginal sternal setae, exclusive of ctenidia setae on III–IV: I, 11; II, 22–24; III, 18–21; IV, 24; V, 26–33; VI, 24–27; VII, 12–15. Anterior sternal setae: I, 0; II, 18–24; III, 18–26; IV, 17–21; V, 13–23; VI, 14–18; VII, 14–15. Fused sternites VIII–IX with 22–31 medium to long anterior setae, without gap between 2 long and outer shorter setae on each lateroposterior portion; with 7–10 medium setae on isolated posterior plate on each side. Ventral anal fringe of 5–6 short setae on each side and total of 18–26 longer median setae between them; dorsal anal fringe with 41–52 setae. Internal structure of genital chamber (Fig. 2) much wider than long, 0.17 mm wide, with well defined border.

MALE: Much as for female, except as follows. Metanotum with total of 12–16 lateroanterior setae. Marginal tergal setae: I, 23; II, 24–25; III, 23–24; IV, 24–25; V, 24–26; VI, 24; VII, 20–22; VIII, 17–18. Each ctenidium on sternite III with 9–15 setae, on sternite IV with 8–9 setae; V of one specimen with ctenidium of 3–4 setae on each side, other with none. Marginal sternal setae, exclusive of ctenidia setae on III–V: I, 8–10; II, 25; III, 19–22; IV, 21–24; V, 26–29; VI, 25;

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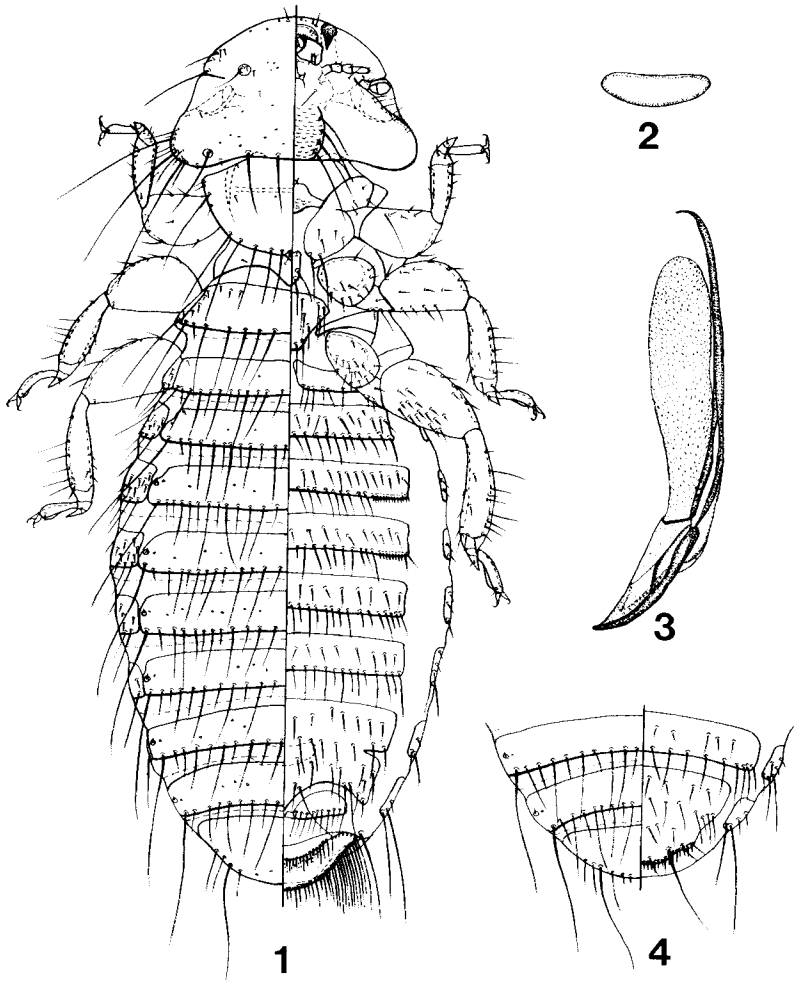

Figs. 1–4. *Eomenopon greeni*. 1. Female. 2. Female internal genital chamber structure. 3. Male genitalia. 4. Male terminalia.

VII, 17–18; VIII, 15–16. Anterior sternal setae: II, 15–16; III, 16–17; IV, 14–18; V, 13–16; VI, 12–15; VII, 11–12; VIII, 8–9. Terminalia as in Fig. 4; subgenital plate with 29–32 marginal, 15–17 anterior setae. Genitalia as in Fig. 3; total length of genitalia, 0.66–0.71 mm; vestiture of genital sac of uniform unpigmented spinules.

DIMENSIONS (IN MM): Preocular width, female 0.43–0.44, male 0.42–0.43; temple width, female 0.55–0.58, male 0.53–0.55; head length, female 0.31–0.33, male 0.31–0.32; prothorax width, female 0.42–0.44, male 0.40; metathorax width, female 0.53–0.54, male 0.49–0.50; total length, female 1.95–2.02, male 1.67–1.69.

REMARKS: *Eomenopon greeni*, as a member of the *spinimentum*-group of 11 previously described species, is readily separable from the 4 species of the *clissoldi*-group by the group characters given by Price (1966).

If one attempts to identify *E. greeni* in the key provided by Price (1966) that includes 8 species of the *spinimentum*-group, the key becomes inoperable at the level of couplets 7 and 8 due to *E. greeni* having a small number of tergal setae for both sexes, a small size and different structure of both the female genital chamber structure and male genitalia, and the overall small dimensions of both sexes. There are likewise numerous important differences between *E. greeni* and the 3 species of *Eomenopon* of the *spinimentum*-group described subsequently by Price (1969) and Price and Emerson (1982).

The combination of features unique to *E. greeni* are: both sexes with small numbers of lateroanterior metanotal setae, tergal and sternal setae, and setae associated with the terminalia, the well developed ctenidia on sternite IV, and the small dimensions; the shape and small size of the female genital chamber structure; and the male genitalia very short, with only unpigmented spinules on the genital sac.

The conservative approach of American ornithologists such as Peters (1937), Morony et al. (1975), and most recently Sibley and Monroe (1990), who include *Lathamus discolor* in the Psittacidae along with the majority of the species in the order, serves to mask the uniqueness of this parrot species. The Australians apparently have been more impressed with the unusual attributes of *L. discolor* (see Forbes, 1879), with Condon (1975) going so far as to place this parrot in its own subfamily Lathaminae in the limited family Platycercidae. This latter action appears consistent with the unusual features of *E. greeni* compared to other species of *Eomenopon*.

MATERIAL: Holotype female, ex *L. discolor*, Mt. Nelson, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, XII.1984, T. Scarborough; 1 female paratype, same data; 2 male paratypes, ex *L. discolor*, Hobart and Waddamana, Tasmania, Australia, 14.I.1985 and 18.XII.1984, respectively. All specimens in the Queen Victoria Museum, Tasmania.

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