

**A NEW SPECIES OF PODARGOECUS (MALLOPHAGA:
PHILOPTERIDAE) FROM TASMANIA¹**

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ABSTRACT—The new species, *Podargoecus tasmaniensis*, is described and illustrated from specimens taken off *Aegothales cristatus* (J. White) (Caprimulgi-formes:Aegothelidae) from Tasmania.

The mallophagan genus *Podargoecus* and the two included species were described by Emerson and Price (1966). At that time these workers postulated that *Podargoecus* occurred only on hosts of the avian genus *Podargus* Vieillot (Caprimulgiformes: Podargidae). However, Dr. Theresa Clay, British Museum (Natural History), recently sent me a series of lice taken from *Aegothales cristatus* (J. White) (Caprimulgiformes: Aegothelidae). These lice have proven to represent an undescribed species of *Podargoecus* and I thank Dr. Clay for enabling me to describe and illustrate this new species.

Podargoecus tasmaniensis Price, new species
fig. 1-3

Male: As in fig. 1. Head large, wide, with prominent flatly rounded anterior hyaline margin; dorsal anterior plate as wide as long, shaped as shown. Pronotum with short lateroposterior seta on each side. Metanotum divided medially, posterior margin on each side with 2 clusters of paired very long setae, some extending nearly to end of abdomen. Tergal plates of abdominal segments II-IX divided medially, those on II-IV each with blunt lateroposterior projection. With 4-6 abdominal tergoventral setae on II-V, 2 on VI-VIII; each side of tergite IX with about 5 short marginal setae. Abdomen terminating with narrow median rounded projection. Genitalia as in fig. 2; with thick large curved parameres each bearing minute subapical seta; median structure between parameres slightly concave, with thickened semicircular portion bearing 4 clear circular alveoli or sensilla.

Female: Essentially as for male, except for terminalia (fig. 3) and tendency for several more tergoventral setae on most segments. Tergite IX not divided, all setae on posterior margin long to very long. Pair of small plates posterior to tergite IX. Subgenital plate weakly developed, with all setae short to minute.

Dimensions (in mm): Head width, male 0.45-0.46, female 0.50-0.52; head length, male 0.49-0.51, female 0.54-0.57; prothorax width, male 0.27-0.28, female 0.28-0.31; metathorax width, male 0.38-0.39, female 0.41-0.45; total length, male 1.43-1.44, female 1.77-1.85; male genitalia, width 0.08-0.09, length 0.17-0.18.

Type-host: *Aegothales cristatus* (J. White).

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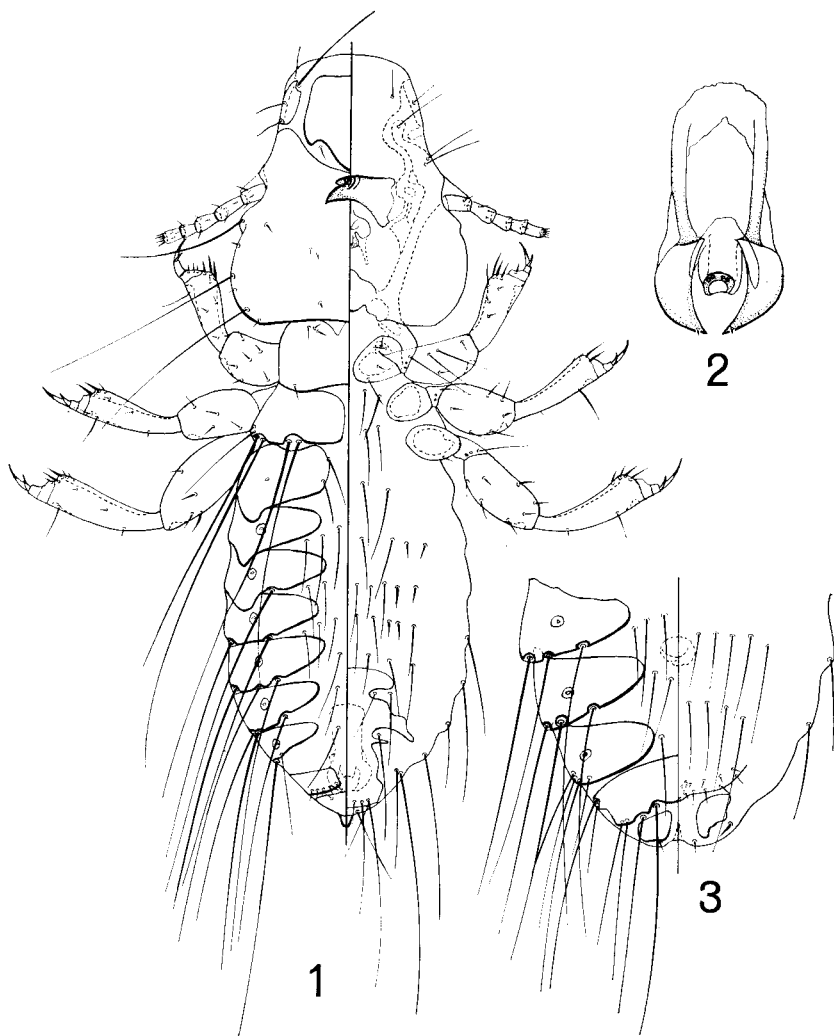


Fig. 1-3. *Podargoeus tasmaniensis*. 1, male. 2, male genitalia. 3, female terminalia.

Type-material: Holotype δ , Granton, Tasmania, Jan., 1963, B. C. Mollison; in the collection of the Queen Victoria Museum, Tasmania. Paratypes: 3 δ δ , 4 ♀ ♀ , same data as holotype.

Discussion: This species is closer to *Podargoeus papuensis* Emerson and Price than to *P. strigoides* Emerson and Price. The latter species is known only from a male, but has a much wider head that

is anteriorly rounded, more tergal and sternal abdominal setae, tergites II-V with a pointed lateroposterior projection, as well as other dimensional and chaetotaxy differences. *Podargoeus papuensis*, although having head structure, genitalic details, and many other features close to *P. tasmaniensis*, differs significantly from *P. tasmaniensis* by having (1) many dimensions much larger, (2) a long lateroposterior pronotal seta extending completely across metanotum, (3) evenly distributed setae on posterior metanotal margin, not distinctly clustered in pairs, (4) tergo-central setae more intimately associated with posterior margin of tergal plates, (5) male with very long seta among short setae on each side of tergite IX, (6) male abdomen not terminating in narrow projection, and (7) female tergite IX with short seta on each side among very long setae.

The discovery of a species of *Podargoeus* from a caprimulgiform family other than Podargidae indicates a wider distribution than previously anticipated. Unfortunately there have not been enough Mallophaga collections from this host order to speculate on just how broad this distribution may eventually prove to be.

REFERENCE

- Emerson, K. C. and R. D. Price. 1966. A new genus and two new species of *Ischnocera* occurring on frogmouths (Podargidae). Proc. Entomol. Soc. Wash. 68:224-227.