

A NEW SPECIES OF NOSOPON (MALLOPHAGA: MENOPONIDAE) FROM AUSTRALIA¹

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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Nosopon australiensis*, is described and illustrated for material from the type-host *Uroaëtus* (= *Aquila*) *audax* from Australia. A key is given to the 5 recognized species of *Nosopon*.

There are 4 species of the menoponid genus *Nosopon* Hopkins currently recognized (see Tendeiro, 1959; Price and Beer, 1963), with 2 of these—*N. chanabensis* (Ansari) and *N. casteli* Tendeiro—having a pair of ventral spinous postpalpal head processes, and the other 2—*N. lucidum* (Rudow) and *N. clayae* Price and Beer—lacking such processes. Dr. Theresa Clay, British Museum (Natural History), recently sent me a series of *Nosopon* bearing the ventral head processes but otherwise differing in a number of ways from the first 2 species above. I thank Dr. Clay for enabling me to describe and illustrate this new species.

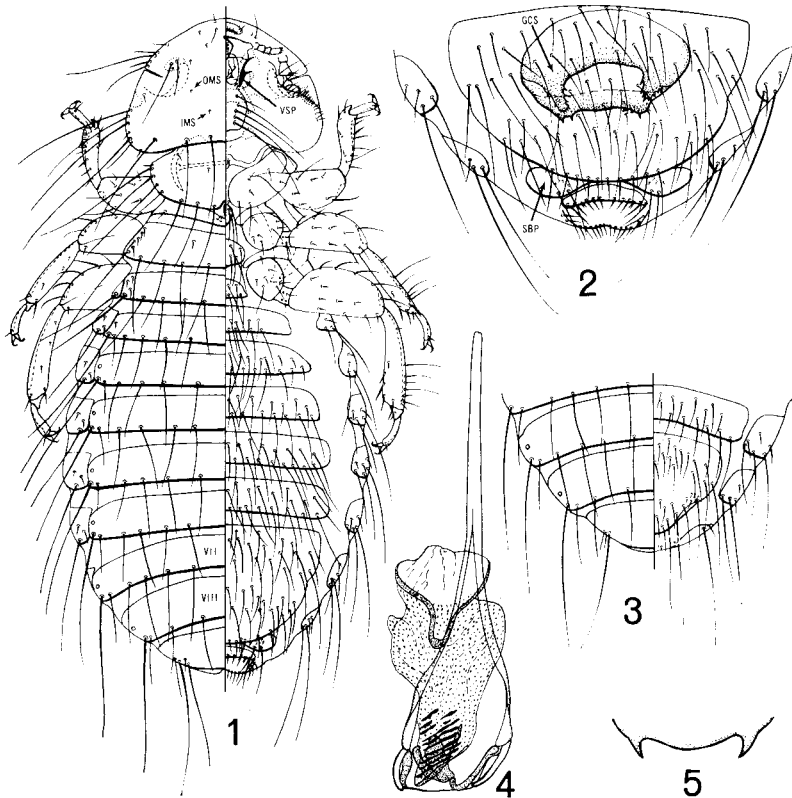
Nosopon australiensis n. sp.

(Figs. 1-4)

Female: As in Fig. 1. Anterior head margin evenly rounded; mid-dorsal head setae minute, with outer pair much anterior to inner pair (OMS, IMS: Fig. 1); ventral spinous postpalpal process (VSP: Fig. 1) 0.07-0.08 mm long; gular setae 5 + 5. Pronotum marginally with 12 long to very long setae, 3-4 shorter ones. Metanotum marginally with 10 very long setae, medioanteriorly with 2 short setae; mesosternal plate with 8-9 setae, metasternal plate with 7-8. Marginal abdominal tergal setae: I, 10; II-VII, 12 (1 specimen with only 11 on III); VIII, 8-9. Without anterior tergal setae. Postspiracular setae very long on I-VIII. Each side of last tergite with cluster of 2 very long, 1-2 shorter setae, and without inner posterior setae mediad between these groups. Sternal setae: I, 7-12; II, 19-24; III-V, 29-37; VI-VII, 35-40. Sternites VII-VIII apparently fused; portion of subgenital plate posterior to VII evenly rounded, with 10-13 marginal, 29-36 anterior setae. Pair of seta-bearing plates immediately posterior to subgenital

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FIGS. 1-5. 1-4, *Nosopon australiensis*: 1, female; 2, ventral female terminalia; 3, male terminalia; 4, male genitalia; 5, *N. casteli*, posterior margin of female genital chamber sclerite (modified from Tendeiro, 1959).

plate (SBP: Fig. 2), each with 2 long, 3-4 minute setae. Anus with 14-15 ventral, 13-16 dorsal fringe setae. With complex genital chamber sclerite (GCS: Fig. 2) having straight posterior margin flanked by weak multiple spinous projections, and with additional spinous portion on each side anterior to these. Dimensions (in mm): temple width, 0.58-0.59; head length, 0.34-0.37; prothorax width, 0.43-0.45; metathorax width, 0.50-0.54; total length, 1.87-1.88.

Male: Head, thorax, and dorsal abdomen essentially as for female. Fewer abdominal sternal setae; I, 6-8; II, 17-19; III-VII, 26-31; VIII, 23-29. Terminalia as in Fig. 3; sternites VII-VIII not fused. Portion of subgenital plate posterior to VIII with 31-36 setae. Genitalia as in Fig. 4. Dimensions (in mm): temple width, 0.55-0.57; head

length, 0.32–0.35; prothorax width, 0.43; metathorax width, 0.48–0.49; total length, 1.70–1.71; genitalia width, 0.16–0.18, length, 0.72–0.77.

Remarks: *N. australiensis* differs from *N. casteli* by the latter being much smaller in all dimensions, having a distinctly flattened anterior head margin, and by the female genital chamber sclerite with a posterior margin as in Fig. 5. In dimensions and head shape, *N. australiensis* approaches *N. chanabensis*; however, *N. australiensis* is distinctive by having: (1) somewhat larger dimensions; (2) the inner middorsal head setae posterior to the outer, instead of nearly at same level; (3) margin of metanotum with 10 long setae, instead of 8; (4) each of abdominal tergites II–VII with 12 marginal setae, instead of 10; (5) last tergite without pair of medium inner posterior setae; (6) seta-bearing plates posterior to female subgenital plate each with only 2 long setae, instead of 3–4; and (7) female genital chamber sclerite of different structure.

Type-host: *Uroaëtus* (= *Aquila*) *audax* (Latham).

Type-material: Holotype ♀, *Aquila audax*, Young, N. S. W., Australia, 3 July 1965, M. G. Ridpath; in Australian National Insect Collection. Paratypes: 2 ♀♀, 3 ♂♂, same data as holotype.

KEY TO SPECIES OF *Nosopon*

1. Head with pair of large ventral spinous postpalpal processes (VSP: Fig. 1) 2
 Head without pair of such processes 4
2. Temple width more than 0.54 mm; last tergite without pair of conspicuous medium inner posterior setae; abdominal tergites II–VII each with 12 marginal setae and ♀ genital chamber sclerite (GCS: Fig. 2) without strong lateroposterior spinous process *australiensis*
 Temple width less than 0.54 mm; last tergite with pair of conspicuous medium inner posterior setae; abdominal tergites II–VII each with only 10 marginal setae and/or ♀ genital chamber sclerite (Fig. 5) with strong lateroposterior spinous process 3
3. ♀ genital chamber sclerite with convex posterior margin flanked by strong lateroposterior spinous processes (Fig. 5); ♂ unknown *casteli*
 ♀ genital chamber sclerite with essentially straight posterior margin flanked lateroposteriorly by weaker spinous processes *chanabensis*
4. Abdominal tergites II–VII each with 10 marginal setae and none with anterior setae *lucidum*
 Abdominal tergites II–VII each with 12 marginal setae and at least several with anterior setae *clayae*

LITERATURE CITED

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