

A NEW SPECIES OF *NOSOPON* (MALLOPHAGA: MENOPONIDAE)
FROM AFRICA¹

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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Nosopon atyeoi*, is described and illustrated for material from the type-host *Necrosyrtes monachus pileatus* from Africa.

Key Words: Mallophaga, Menoponidae, *Nosopon*, chewing louse

Six species of the menoponid genus *Nosopon* Hopkins are currently recognized. A key for the identification of five of these is provided by Price (1976); the sixth species was subsequently described by Tendeiro (1979). We have recently obtained a series of *Nosopon* off the Hooded Vulture, *Necrosyrtes monachus pileatus* (Burchell) (Falconiformes: Accipitridae) from Africa. These lice represent a new species and it is our purpose to describe and illustrate it here.

Nosopon atyeoi, new species
(Figs. 1-5)

Male (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 processes (VSP: Fig. 1) 0.04-0.05 mm long, widely separated; gular setae 5 + 5. Pronotum with total of 16-17 marginal setae, 12-14 of these long to very long, 2-4 short. Metanotum with 10 very long marginal setae, 2 short medioanterior setae; mesosternal plate with 5-6 setae in addition to very short anterior pair, metasternal plate with 9-10. Marginal abdominal tergal setae: I-VII, 12; VIII, 7-8. Without anterior tergal setae. Postspiracular setae very long on I-VIII. Sternal setae: I, 7-10; II, 18-22; III, 26-32; IV, 31-32; V, 32-34; VI, 29-33; VII, 25-29; VIII, 25-27. Terminalia as in Fig. 5; each side of last tergite with 2 very long, 3 shorter setae; sternites VII-VIII not fused; portion of subgenital plate posterior to VIII with 24-28 setae. Genitalia as in Fig. 3, with complexity of sclerites and small spiculate sac. Dimensions (in mm): temple width, 0.43-0.45; head length, 0.24-0.25; prothorax width, 0.35-0.36; metathorax width, 0.39-0.40; total length, 1.33-1.38; genitalia width, 0.16, length, 0.64-0.66.

Female. Head, thorax, and dorsal abdomen essentially as for male. More abdominal sternal setae: I, 10; II, 21-29; III, 30-34; IV-VI, 34-40; VII, 33-38. Ventral terminalia as in Fig. 2; sternites VII-VIII apparently fused; portion of

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subgenital plate posterior to VII evenly rounded, with 11-14 marginal, 25-29 anterior setae. Pair of seta-bearing plates immediately posterior to subgenital plate (SBP: Fig. 2), each with 3 long, 3-4 minute setae. Anus with 9-12 relatively thick ventral fringe setae, 38-42 finer dorsal fringe setae. With complex genital chamber structures (Fig. 4); posteriorly with straight margin flanked by well-developed outwardly directed spinous projection; medially with large elliptical ring; anteriorly with dome-like piece bearing latero-posterior irregular spinous portion. Dimensions (in mm): temple width, 0.45-0.47; head length, 0.26-0.27; prothorax width, 0.36-0.38; metathorax width, 0.42-0.43; total length, 1.46-1.50.

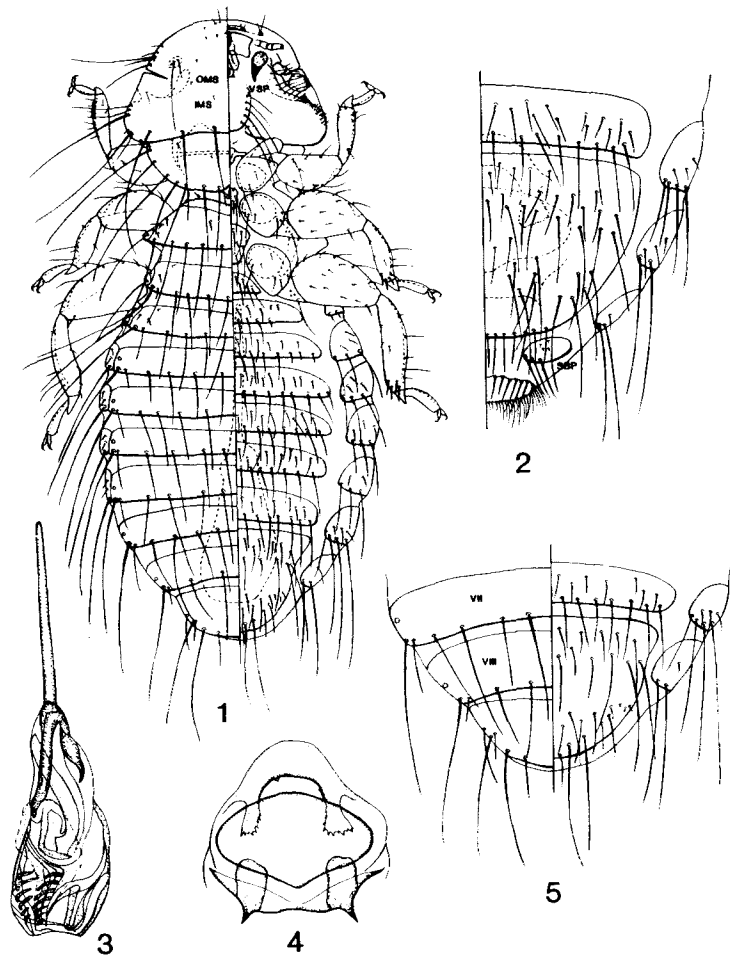
Material. Holotype ♂, ex *Necrosyrtes monachus pileatus* (Burchell) (Field Museum Natural History skin #85,899), Maun, Botswana, 3.VI.1930, Vernay & Lang; will be deposited in the collection of the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. Paratypes, ex *N. m. pileatus*: 5 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀, same data as holotype; 2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀, Field Museum Natural History skin #112,161, Kapsabet, Rift Valley Prov., Kenya, 29.V.1898, F. J. Jackson. Paratypes will be deposited in the Field Museum of Natural History, U. S. National Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, and Oklahoma State University.

Remarks. Of the 6 currently-recognized species of *Nosopon*, 2 have the head lacking the pair of large ventral spinous postpalpal processes, thereby differing from *N. atyeoi*. When compared to the remaining 4 species, all of which possess the ventral spinous head processes, *N. atyeoi* is unique by virtue of its combination of: (1) male genitalia with such a complexity of sclerites and small spinous sac; (2) female with genital chamber structures shaped as in Fig. 4, especially with the prominent outwardly directed spinous processes on the posterior margin; (3) each of abdominal tergites I-VII with 12 marginal setae; (4) small dimensions; (5) female with such a large number of dorsal anal fringe setae; (6) female with 3 long setae on each plate posterior to subgenital plate; and (7) the lateral displacement of the ventral spinous head processes to position more posterior to palpal base than mandible.

This species is named for Dr. Warren T. Atyeo, Department of Entomology, University of Georgia, in recognition of his longtime friendship with us and his generous cooperation in our Mallophaga studies, including providing us with the specimens for this study. Support for these collections was provided by the National Science Foundation (DEB-7924299 and INT-8106019) and CONACYT (DADC).

LITERATURE CITED

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Tendeiro, J. 1979. Sobre uma coleção de Malófagos (Insecta, Phthiraptera) de Timor Leste. *Garcia de Orta, Sér. Zool.* 8: 39-70.



Figs. 1-5. — *Nosopon atyeoi* n. sp.: 1. — ♂; 2. — ventral ♀ terminalia; 3. — ♂ genitalia; 4. — ♀ genital chamber structures; 5. — ♂ terminalia.