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A NEW SUBSPECIES OF ACUTIFRONS GUIMARAES 1942 (MALLOPHAGA: PHILOPTERIDAE) PARASITIC ON MICRASTUR RUFICOLLIS RUFICOLLIS (VIEILLOT) (AVES: FALCONIDAE)

Una nueva subespecie de *Acutifrons Guimaraes* 1942 (Mallophaga: Philopteridae) parásita de *Micrastur ruficollis ruficollis* (Vieillot) (Aves: Falconidae).

Armando C. CICCHINO \* & Kary C. EMERSON \*\*

It is our purpose to describe a new subspecies belonging to the genus *Acutifrons* Guimaraes 1942 (Philopteridae), off *Micrastur ruficollis ruficollis* (Vieillot), a falcon which is not common in Argentina and southern Bolivia. To date, the eleven described forms (species and subspecies) of *Acutifrons* are strictly monoxenic, and restricted to New World hosts belonging to the families Falconidae and Accipitridae, order Falconiformes. Unfortunately, their distribution among these hosts is not well understood.

All measurements are in millimeters, taken from the mounted specimen. The description of this new subspecies has been possible through the courtesy of Lic. Enrique V. González Olaza, Department of Zoology, Instituto Miguel Lillo (Tucumán, Argentina).

*Acutifrons vierai ruficollidis*  
new subspecies

Male: external features as in figure 1. Close to *A. vierai colombianus* Carriker 1956, differing

as follows: preantennal portion of head sharply pointed, narrower at level of dsms (nomenclature of cephalic setae after Clay, 1951), temples narrower, lateral arms of the mesosomal plate (figure 4) much shorter, and ventral sclerite (penis) (figure 5) differently shaped. Metanotum with 5 + 5 posterior setae. Abdominal chaetotaxy (countings exclude the long postspicular setae on III-VIII): tergal: II 7 + 6, III-IV 6 + 7, V 5 + 6, VI 6 + 5, VII 5 + 5, VIII 4 + 4, IX 1 + 1; sternal: II 8, III 7, IV-V 9, VI 7, VII 4, VIII 2. Measurements: HL 0.590, POW 0.380, OW 0.495, PL 0.160, PW 0.310, PTL 0.130, PTW 0.330, AL 0.690, AW 0.650, TL 1.510. Mesosomal plate: total length 0.062, maximum width 0.051, minimum width 0.025. Ventral sclerite (penis): total length 0.063, maximum width 0.060.

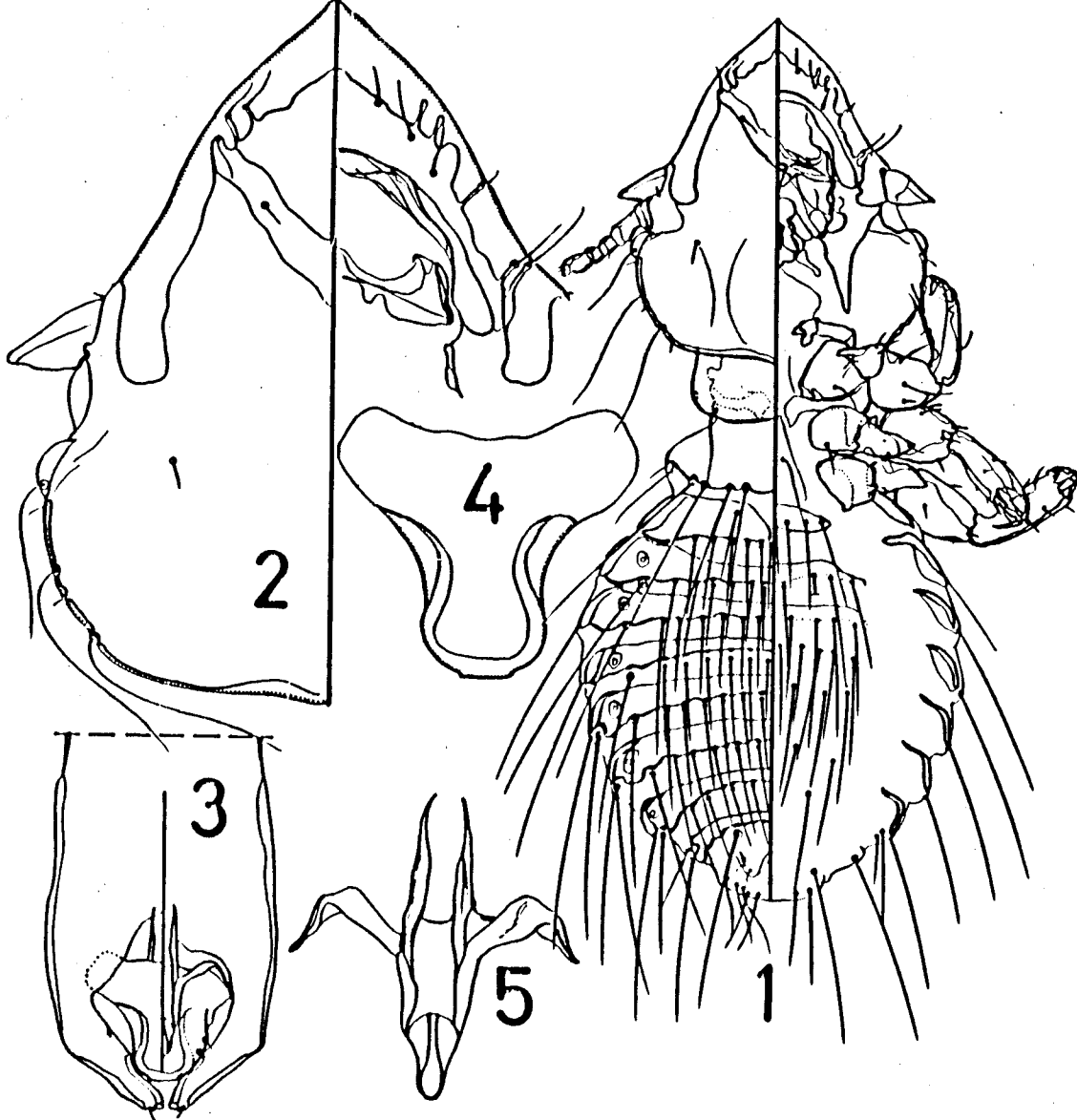
Female: unknown.

Type host: *Micrastur ruficollis ruficollis* (Vieillot).

Material examined: HOLOTYPE ♂, Carahuasi, Carrasco, BOLIVIA (no other data). In collection of Instituto Miguel Lillo, Tucumán, Argentina.

\* División Entomología, Museo de La Plata. Paseo del Bosque, 1900 La Plata. Argentina.

\*\* 560 Boulder Drive, Sanibel Island. Florida 33957, Florida. Estados Unidos de América.



Remarks: the sharply pointed forehead and short lateral arms of the mesosomal plate readily distinguish *A. v. ruficollidis* n. ssp. from the remaining subspecies of *A. viera*. We follow Cicchino's (1979) criterion in treating all the forms close to *A. viera* with subspecific rank because of their minimal morphological divergences. But we must note that it is highly probable that all them be true genetic species isolated in space and that have undergone little somatic anagenesis.

Range of the host (after Brown & Amadon, 1968): Brazil south of Amazonia, Argentina, Paraguay, sub-tropical woods of eastern Peru and Bolivia.

#### Literature cited

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