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## 25. MALLOPHAGA (INSECTA). PART I

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Mallophaga were collected from a number of Rennell Island birds by both the Danish and British Expeditions and below is given a list of their preliminary identifications. The systematics of the group is not yet sufficiently ordered to allow, in many cases, for the identification or description of new species without a revision of the genus concerned. One new species is described by Dr. TANDAN in a following communication (No. 26).

The Mallophaga being obligate ectoparasites spending their whole life-cycle on one host have a distribution which is dependent on that of the bird which is their host, and the exact geographical locality from which they have been collected is of relatively little importance. Their host distribution may, however, throw some light on the systematic position of their host and this has been the case with the hitherto unknown mallophagan parasites of *Threskiornis molucca pygmaeus* (see further below). BRADLEY & WOLFF, 1956 have been followed for the names of the birds.

### LIST OF MALLOPHAGA

#### FAMILY MENOPONIDAE

##### *Colpocephalum angulaticeps* Piaget, 1880

Host: *Fregata a. ariel* (Gray). Lake Te-Nggano, 20. Nov. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).

Number of specimens: 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

This host is the type host of the species.

##### *Colpocephalum* sp.

Host: *Threskiornis molucca pygmaeus* Mayr. Te-Avamanggu, 17. Oct. 1951; Lavanggu, 2. Nov. 1951 (Dan. Exp.) – Hutuna, 23. Oct. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).

Number of specimens: 4 ♂, 14 ♀, 9 nymphs.

This may prove to be a new species when a much needed revision of *Colpocephalum* from the Ciconiformes is undertaken.

**Actornithophilus ochraceus** (Nitzsch), 1818

Host: *Pluvialis dominica fulva* (Gmelin). Hutuna, 8. Nov. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).

Number of specimens: 13 ♂, 14 ♀, 4 nymphs.

This species was originally described from specimens from *Pluvialis apricaria* and has been taken from a number of other related waders.

**Actornithophilus piceus** (Denny), 1842

Host: *Sterna anaethetus novaehollandiae* Stephens. Lake Te-Nggano, 3. Nov. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).

Number of specimens: 1 ♂.

It is doubtful if the populations of this species from the different terns can be separated taxonomically (see TIMMERMANN, 1954: 838).

**Plegadiphilus threskiornis** Bedford, 1939

Host: *Threskiornis molucca pygmaeus* Mayr. Te-Avamanggu, 17. Oct. 1951; Lavanggu, 2. Nov. 1951 (Dan. Exp.). – Hutuna, 23. Oct. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).

Number of specimens: 16 ♂, 32 ♀, 9 nymphs.

It has not been possible to find any differences between these specimens and those from the type host, *Threskiornis a. aethiopicus* (Latham).

**Holomenopon** sp.

Host: *Anas superciliosa pelewensis* Hartlaub & Finsch. Lake Te-Nggano, 23. Oct. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).

Number of specimens: 9 ♂, 15 ♀, 4 nymphs.

This does not belong to the species group usually found on *Anas* and related genera but is near the *tumidum* group known from *Plectropterus* and *Alopochen*. However, as *Holomenopon* is a relatively rare genus on *Anas* the present distribution records are of little significance. This will probably prove to be a new species.

**Dennyus ? orientalis** Buttiker, 1954

Host: *Collocalia esculenta desiderata* Mayr. Lavanggu, 15. Oct. 1951 (Dan. Exp.).

Numbers of specimens: 1 ♀.

The original description of *orientalis*, based on a specimen from *Collocalia esculenta*, is not sufficiently detailed for identification of the single Rennell Island female.

**Myrsidea spp.**

Host: *Rhipidura rennelli* Mayr. Hutuna, 29. Oct. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).

Number of specimens: 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

Host: *Aplonis c. cantoroides* (Gray). Hutuna, 22. Oct. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).

Number of specimens: 2 ♂, 1 ♀.

Host: *Woodfordia superciliosa* North. Hutuna, 23. Oct. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).

Number of specimens: 1 ♀.

Host: *Myiagra caledonica occidentalis* Mayr. Tingoa, 11. Nov. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).

Number of specimens: 2 nymphs.

These specimens cannot at present be determined.

**Ricinus sp.**

Host: *Clytorhynchus hamlini* (Mayr.). Hutuna, 26. Oct. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).

Number of specimens: 3 ♂, 4 ♀, 4 nymphs.

These specimens cannot at present be identified.

**FAMILY PHILOPTERIDAE**

***Pectinopygus sulae* (Rudow), 1869**

Host: *Sula sula rubripes* Gould. Lake Te-Nggano, 20. Nov. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).

Number of specimens 17 ♂, 10 ♀, 8 nymphs.

The interpretation of RUDOW's name has been discussed elsewhere (CLAY & HOPKINS, 1955: 65); Rennell Island specimens agree with the neotype erected by CLAY & HOPKINS.

***Pectinopygus subsetosus* (Piaget), 1880**

Host: *Phalacrocorax melanoleucus brevicauda* Mayr. Lake Te-Nggano, 21. Oct. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).

Number of specimens: 3 ♂, 3 ♀.

This host is the type host of the species.

***Pectinopygus gracilicornis* (Piaget), 1880**

Host: *Fregata a. ariel* (Gray). Lake Te-Nggano, 20. Nov. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).

Number of specimens: 10 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 nymph.

This species was described from specimens from *Fregata aquila* Linn.; those from *F. ariel* do not appear to be separable.

### **Ardeicola sp.**

Host: *Threskiornis molucca pygmaeus* Mayr. Lavanggu, 2. Nov. 1951 (Dan. Exp.).  
Hutuna, 23. Oct. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).  
Number of specimens: 1 ♂, 2 ♀.

Specimens of *Ardeicola* are available from *Threskiornis a. aethiopica* (Latham), *T. melanocephala* (Latham) and *T. m. molucca* (Cuvier); those from each host are a distinct species. The single male from the Rennell Island bird is either the same or very near a single male from *T. m. molucca*, but the latter is in too poor condition for exact comparison. The same situation is found in regard to the *Ibidoecus* species from these birds, thus suggesting that the arrangement in PETERS (1931: 131-3) of separating *Threskiornis molucca* and *aethiopica* specifically is probably correct, and that *pygmaeus* is nearer *molucca* than *aethiopica*.

### **Ibidoecus sp. n.**

Host: *Threskiornis molucca pygmaeus* Mayr. Te-Avamanggu, 17. Oct. 1951; Lavanggu, 2. Nov. 1951 (Dan. Exp.). – Hutuna, 23. Oct. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).  
Number of specimens: 12 ♂, 13 ♀, 27 nymphs.

This species is described by Dr. TANDAN in the following communication (No. 26).

### **Anaticola sp.**

Host: *Anas superciliosa pelewensis* Hartlaub & Finsch. Lake Te-Nggano, 23. Oct. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).  
Number of specimens: 1 ♀, 1 nymph.

These specimens are not identifiable.

### **Anatoecus dentatus** (Scopoli), 1763 and **Anatoecus icterodes** (Nitzsch), 1818

Host: *Anas superciliosa pelewensis* Hartlaub & Finsch. Lake Te-Nggano, 23. Oct. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).  
Numbers of specimens: 15 ♂, 13 ♀, 1 nymph.

The interpretation of these two species has been dealt with elsewhere (CLAY & HOPKINS, 1951: 15). It is not possible to say whether the specimens on *Anas superciliosa* are subspecifically distinct from those of the type hosts of these species until the variation within the populations of *Anatoecus* has been studied.

**Quadriceps sp.**

Host: *Pluvialis dominica fulva* (Gmelin). Hutuna, 8. Nov. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).  
Number of specimens: 2 ♀.

These two females are not identifiable with certainty.

**Quadriceps ptyadis** (Séguy), 1949

Host: *Charadrius l. leschenaultii* Lesson. Lavanggu, 1. Nov. 1951 (Dan. Exp.).  
Numbers of specimens: 1 ♂, 2 ♀.

The original description referred to specimens taken from *Charadrius leschenaultii* and *C. alexandrinus*; TIMMERMANN, 1953: 181 has been followed in restricting the name *ptyadis* to the species from the first host.

**Quadriceps legatus** Timmermann, 1952

Host: *Sterna anaethetus novaehollandiae* Stephens. Lake Te-Nggano, 20. Nov. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).  
Numbers of specimens: 5 ♂, 1 ♀, 2 nymph.

This species was described from specimens taken from *Sterna anaethetus* and is known from no other tern.

**Saemundssonina meridiana** Timmermann, 1950

Host: *Sterna anaethetus novaehollandiae* Stephens. Lake Te-Nggano, 3. Nov. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).  
Numbers of specimens: 3 ♂, 1 ♀.

The species was described from specimens from *Sterna anaethetus* and like *Quadriceps legatus* is not known from any other species of *Sterna*.

**Columbicola sp.**

Host: *Ptilinopus richardsii cyanopterus* Mayr. Hutuna, 1. Nov. 1953; 2. Nov. 1953; 3. Nov. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).  
Number of specimens: 2 ♂, 2 ♀.

This species is almost certainly new.

**Columbicola sp.**

Host: *Macropygia mackinlayi arossi* Tristram. Lavanggu, 29. Oct. 1951 (Dan. Exp.). Hutuna, 29. Oct. 1953 and 30. Oct. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).  
Number of specimens: 7 nymphs.

These nymphs are not identifiable.

**Echinophilopterus sp.**

Host: *Geoffroyus heteroclitus hyacinthinus* Mayr. Tingoa, 11. Nov. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).  
Number of specimens: 1 ♂, 3 ♀.

This is almost certainly a new species.

**Alcedoecus latigenitalis** Eichler, 1944

Host: *Halcyon chloris amoena* Mayr. Hutuna, 27. Oct. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).  
Number of specimens: 3 ♂, 2 ♀.

This species was originally described from specimens taken from *Halcyon chloris* from Sumatra.

**Brüelia sp.**

Host: *Woodfordia superciliosa* North. Hutuna, 23. Oct. 1953 (Brit. Exp.).  
Number of specimens: 1 ♀.

This single female is not determinable.

**LIST OF BIRDS AND THEIR MALLOPHAGA**

Host	Parasite
<i>Sula sula rubripes</i> Gould.	<i>Pectinopygus sulae</i> (Rudow), 1869.
<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucus brevicauda</i> Mayr.	<i>Pectinopygus subsetosus</i> (Piaget), 1880.
<i>Fregata a. ariel</i> (Gray).	{ <i>Colpocephalum angulaticeps</i> Piaget, 1880. <i>Pectinopygus gracilicornis</i> (Piaget), 1880.
<i>Threskiornis molucca pygmaeus</i> Mayr.	{ <i>Colpocephalum</i> sp. <i>Plegadiphilus threskiornis</i> Bedford, 1939. <i>Ardeicola</i> sp. <i>Ibidoecus</i> sp. n. (described below).
<i>Anas superciliosa pelewensis</i> Hartlaub & Finsch.	{ <i>Holomenopon</i> sp. <i>Anatoecus dentatus</i> (Scopoli), 1763. or subsp. <i>Anatoecus icterodes</i> (Nitzsch), 1818. or subsp. <i>Anaticola</i> sp.
<i>Pluvialis dominica fulva</i> (Gmelin).	{ <i>Actornithophilus ochraceus</i> (Nitzsch), 1818. <i>Quadraceps</i> sp.

<i>Charadrius l. leschenaultii</i> Lesson.	<i>Quadriceps ptyadis</i> (Séguy), 1949.
<i>Sterna anaethetus novaehollandiae</i> (Stephens).	{ <i>Actornithophilus piceus</i> (Denny), 1842. <i>Quadriceps legatus</i> Timmermann, 1952. <i>Saemundssonina meridiana</i> Timmermann, 1950.
<i>Ptilinopus richardsii cyanopterus</i> Mayr.	<i>Columbicola</i> sp.
<i>Macropygia mackinlayi arossi</i> Tristram	<i>Columbicola</i> sp.
<i>Geoffroyus heterroclitus hyacinthinus</i> Mayr.	<i>Echinophilopterus</i> sp.
<i>Collocalia esculenta desiderata</i> Mayr.	<i>Dennyus? orientalis</i> Buttiker, 1954.
<i>Halcyon chloris amoena</i> Mayr.	<i>Alcedoecus latigentalis</i> Eichler, 1944.
<i>Rhipidura rennelliana</i> Mayr.	<i>Myrsidea</i> sp.
<i>Clytorhynchus hamlini</i> (Mayr).	<i>Ricinus</i> sp.
<i>Aplonis c. cantoroides</i> (Gray).	<i>Myrsidea</i> sp.
<i>Woodfordia superciliosa</i> North.	{ <i>Myrsidea</i> sp. <i>Brüelia</i> sp.
<i>Myiagra caledonica occidentalis</i> Mayr.	<i>Myrsidea</i> sp.

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