



### The Crop Contents of Male, Female, and Immature *Hohrstiella lata*<sup>1</sup>

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The work of Waterson (1926), Wilson (1933), and Crutchfield and Hixson (1943) has established that most ischnocerans are feather feeders, and the majority of Amblycera depend on some blood as food. This study was undertaken to determine if any differences in the feeding habits of adult male, female, and immature *Hohrstiella lata* (Piaget) exist.

During a survey of the ectoparasites of the pigeon *Columba livia*, the crop contents of 76 ♂, 258 ♀, and 462 immature *H. lata* were noted (Table 1). Food consumption was categorized as blood, feathers, blood and

feathers, and no blood or feathers following microscopic examination (100×) of the crop contents. Pigeons age classification of nestling, juvenile, or adult was determined by location of capture for nestlings, and bursa presence or absence for juveniles and adults.

Blood, either alone or with feathers, was found in 31.6%, 55.8%, and 29.9%, respectively, of the male, female, and immature lice.

The crop contents of lice collected from juvenile and adult pigeons fell into the food consumption categories about equally. Two few *H. lata* were collected from nestlings to permit evaluation of their feeding habits.

#### REFERENCES CITED

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- Wilson, F. H. 1933. A louse feeding on the blood of its host. *Science* 77 (2003): 490.

<sup>1</sup> Mallophaga: Amblycera. Received for publication Jan. 16, 1970.

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Table 1.—Comparison of the crop contents of male, female, and immature *H. lata* occurring on 14 nestling, 36 juvenile, and 72 adult pigeons.

Pigeon age group		Male				Female				Immature			
		B <sup>a</sup>	F	BF	NBF	B	F	BF	NBF	B	F	BF	NBF
Nestlings	No.					1							1
	%					50.0							100
Juveniles	No.	9	4		12	30	7	7	23	22	28	16	59
	%	36.0	16.0		48.0	44.8	10.4	10.4	34.3	17.6	22.4	12.8	47.2
Adults	No.	3	7		3	30	8	4	18	24	41	7	33
	%	23.1	53.8		23.1	50.0	13.3	6.7	30.0	22.9	39.1	6.7	31.4
Total	No.	12	11		15	61	15	11	42	46	69	23	93
	%	31.6	28.9		39.5	47.3	11.6	8.5	32.6	19.9	29.9	10.0	40.3

<sup>a</sup> B = blood; F = feathers; BF = blood and feathers; NBF = no blood or feathers.

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