A Note on the Identity of Acidoproctus hopkinsi mexicanus Carriker, 1954 (Mallophaga: Philopteridae)

Author(s): M. A. Carriker, Jr.

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A NOTE ON THE IDENTITY OF *ACIDOPROCTUS HOPKINSI MEXICANUS* CARRIKER, 1954 (Mallophaga: Philopteridae)

M. A. CARRIKER, JR.
Apt. Nat. 36, Santa Marta, Colombia, S. A.

This subspecies of Mallophaga was described [Fla. Ent., 37(4):191, figs. 8-9] from two males and one female taken on a tree duck, *Dendrocygna a. autumnalis* (L.), collected in San Luis Potosí, Mexico. The material was in poor condition, but I failed to note that they were not fully adults until in December, 1958, I received four males and two females of an *Acidoproctus* from J. S. Wiseman of Austin, Texas. The specimens furnished by Mr. Wiseman were taken on *Dendrocygna a. autumnalis* collected in Cameron County, Texas, and are undoubtedly adults of the immature specimens described by me as *A. hopkinsi mexicanus* from Mexico. The Texas *Dendrocygna* was described by Dr. H. Freidmann as *D. a. fulgens* which name has been placed under the synonymy of *D. a. autumnalis* (L.) by Conover.

Unfortunately the Texas material was allowed to remain too long in the clearing solution and is not in the best condition for comparison, the two females being much distorted and useless except for the heads and the genital sternite of one specimen. This sclerite appears to have been compressed laterally.

The types of *A. h. mexicanus* are deposited in the Museum of the University of Louisiana at Baton Rouge. The male paratype in my possession is in very unsatisfactory condition. The description of *A. h. mexicanus* was based chiefly on the shape of the frontal emargination of the head which differs from *hopkinsi* in having the anterior ends bent inward and touching, thus closing the opening of the emargination. Apparently this closing of the emargination was due to immaturity since the six adults received from Mr. Wiseman all have the emargination open as shown in the accompanying figure.

In *mexicanus* the frontal emargination is slightly deeper and has the opening more narrowed than in *hopkinsi* and much narrower than the posterior portion (Fig. 1). There are differences in the pre-antennary as well as in the post-ocular and occipital carinae. The curving inner ends of tergites IV-VI differ somewhat in shape, and the small, apical abdominal segment of the male of *mexicanus* is smaller.

The male genitalia differ in several important details. The parameres of *mexicanus* (Fig. 2) are shorter and wider than those of *hopkinsi,* with their tips bent sharply inward at a right angle; there are two setae on their tips instead of one as in *hopkinsi;* the basal portion of each endomere is oval, not elongated as in *hopkinsi,* and the distal portion wide and truncate, with apparently a short, thick protruding penis.

There are eleven thick spines on each side of the female genital sternite of *mexicanus* (Fig. 3) instead of nine as in *hopkinsi* (Fig. 4), and the structure of the lateral attachment is quite different, there being six short curving setae on each side instead of three as in *hopkinsi.*

I find that there is considerable variation in the measurements of the four males studied. Due to their distortion in clearing, complete measurements are not possible, but the following averages of the three *best* specimens are necessary, since these measurements are considerably greater than those given in the original description for the subspecies. Head: 3.65×.72; frons: .42. Prothorax: .36×.41; pterothorax: .47×.64. The measurements of the genitalia are very close to those given in the original description.

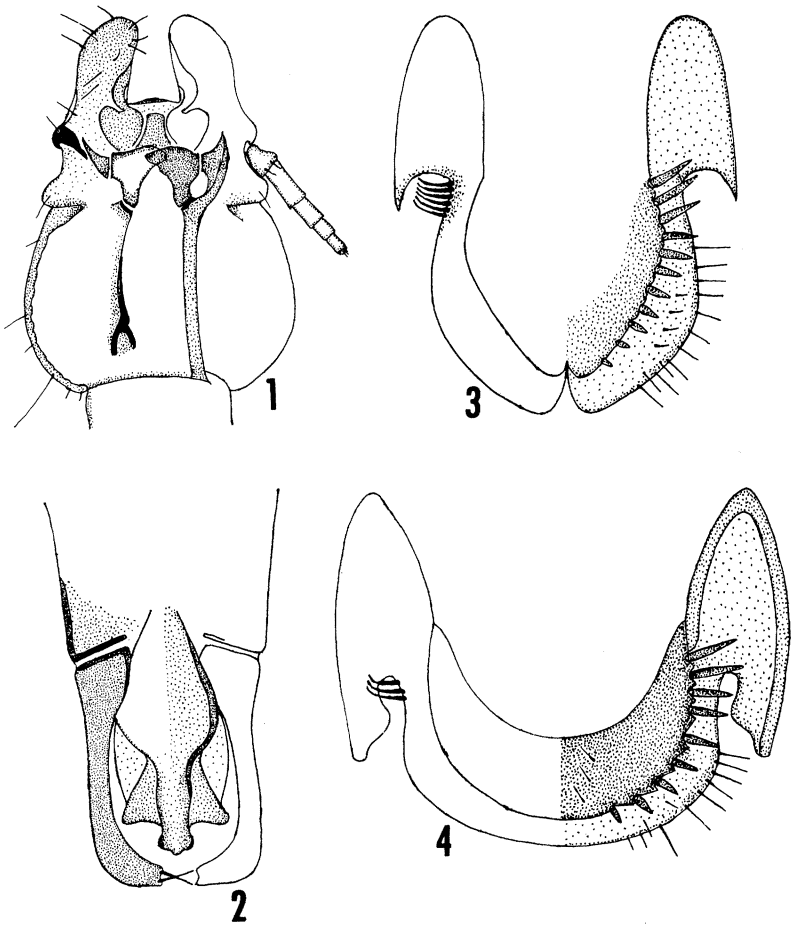

Fig. 1. *Acidoproctus hopkinsi mexicanus* Carriker, 1954, head of male. Fig. 2. *A. h. mexicanus,* male genitalia. Fig. 3. *A. h. mexicanus,* female genital plate. Fig. 4. *A. hopkinsi,* female genital plate.