

A NEW SPECIES OF *MYRSIDEA* (MALLOPHAGA: INSECTA)

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INTRODUCTION

One species of *Myrsidea* Waterston (Menoponidae) is known from the Malurinae (Muscicapidae), namely *M. pectinata* Clay, 1965 parasitic on *Malurus alboscapulatus* Meyer from New Guinea. The present species is represented by specimens parasitic on two species of *Malurus*, from Australia. This is part V of "Contributions Towards a Revision of *Myrsidea*."

Myrsidea strangeri sp. n.

(Pl. I, figs. 1-4; text—figs. 1-4)

Type host: *Malurus splendens* Quoy & Gaimard.

This species is similar to *M. pectinata* from which it is distinguished by details of the abdominal chaetotaxy, especially the size of the single seta arising from the postero-lateral corner of sternite II (text-figs. 3-4), and by the characters of the male genital sclerite. In the following description those characters found throughout the genus and discussed in Clay, 1966 are omitted.

Male and Female. As shown in figures. This species resembles *pectinata* in the dorsal U- or V-shaped unpigmented area of the head; the number and position of the head setae and the reduction of the hypopharyngeal sclerites.

Thorax as described for *pectinata*; numbers of metanotal and metasternal setae fall within the range of those of *pectinata*, except that the female of *strangeri* has fewer central metanotal setae: 2-4 each side (excluding the long one at each end). Outer dorsal setae of first tibia: 4; number of setae in ventral brush on third femur falls within the range of those of *pectinata*.

Abdomen as in text-figs. 1-2. Male with more numerous tergal setae than *pectinata*; in the female the tergal setae are longer. In both sexes the single seta at each postero-lateral corner of sternite II is short (text-fig. 4). Anterior pleurites with stout flattened setae as in *pectinata* (Clay, 1965, fig. 4). Male genitalia similar to those of *pectinata* with the exception of the genital sclerite (Pl. I, fig. 4). The measurements of the small number of individuals available are similar to those of *pectinata* but may prove to average somewhat larger.

Material examined: 6♂, 5♀ from *Malurus splendens*, Dwellingup, W. Australia, 1968 (R. H. Stranger. 680414). 6♂, 2♀ from *Malurus cyaneus* Gmelin, Flinders Island, Tasmania, 21.iii.1966 (R. H. Green).

Holotype ♂ in the Division of the Entomology Museum, C.S.I.R.O., Canberra, Australia, from *Malurus splendens*. Paratypes: 5♂, 5♀ from the same host individual.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCES

- CLAY, T. 1965. Contributions towards a revision of *Myrsidea* Waterston II. *Proc. R. Ent. Soc. Lond.* (B), 34: 117-122.
CLAY, T. 1966. Contributions towards a revision of *Myrsidea*. I. *Bull. Br. Mus. Nat. Hist. Entom.* 17: 327-395.

Fig. 1. Male. x 49.

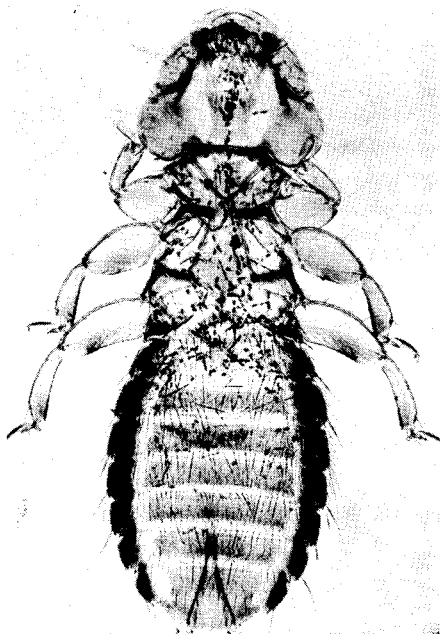


Fig. 2. Male, head. x 103.

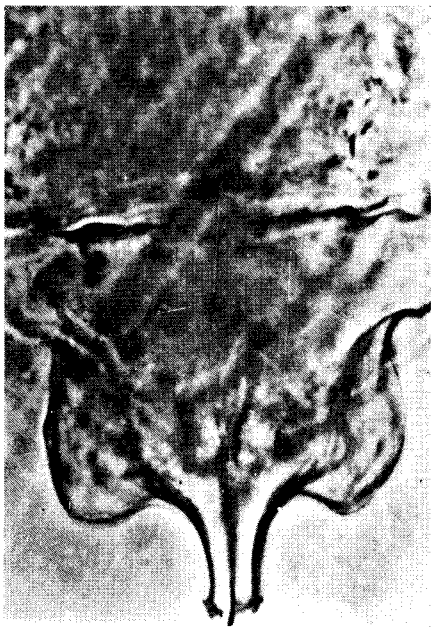


Fig. 3. Terminal segments, female abdomen. x 111

Fig. 4. Male, genital sclerite. x 774.

PLATE I *Myrsidea strangeri* sp. n.

TEXT-FIGURES 1-4

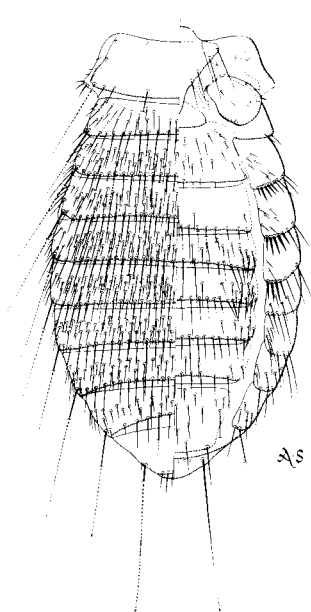


Fig. 1.—*Myrsidea strangeri* ♂
x 58

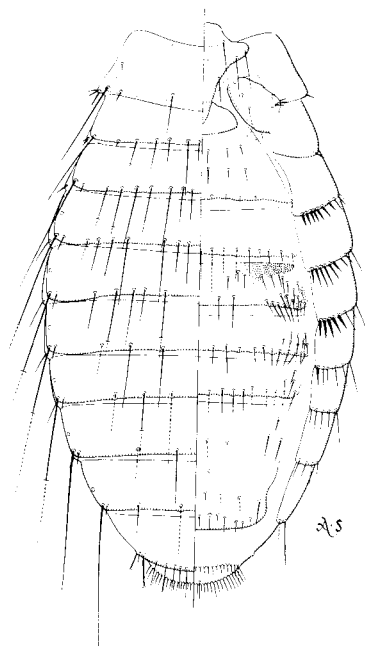
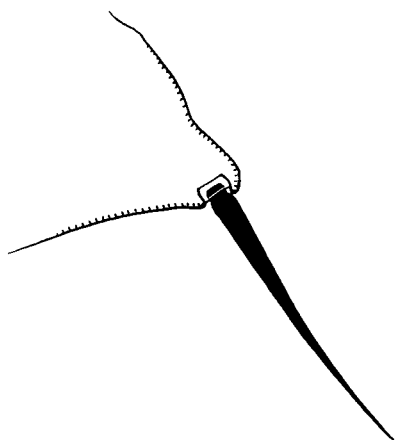


Fig. 2.—*Myrsidea strangeri* ♀
x 58



Figs. 3-4.—Postero-lateral spiniform seta on sternite II. x 455
Fig. 3 (left), *M. pectinata*

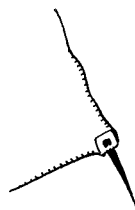


Fig. 4 (right), *M. strangeri*