

INSECTS OF SAMOA

PART VII. FASC. 3

MALLOPHAGA.

BY J. WATERSTON, D.Sc.

(With 2 Text-figures.)

ALTHOUGH comparatively few Mallophaga collected from Samoan birds have been submitted to me by Mr. Buxton for determination,* the peculiar constancy of the relation between these parasites and their hosts renders feasible the drawing up of a longer list than the material actually examined might warrant. The chief difficulties in compiling such a list have lain in tracing host-references through the scattered literature of the subject, and in assessing the value of existing records. It is hoped, however, that the following notes, referring to the Mallophaga of about one-third of the birds on the Samoan list, may prove suggestive to some future worker with ampler facilities for study.

It has seemed best to arrange the species of parasites according to their hosts. In doing this I have omitted records which are evidently casual, since confusion of this sort generally results from contact between hosts in the game bag. It is a well-known fact that "straggling" occurs at the present day quite normally among bird parasites in the Galapagos Is. There is no evidence, however, that the unusual conditions of bird life found in the latter group of islands hold in Samoa, and accordingly, even when a host's range covers both areas, only the normal parasites are mentioned below.

The references to the species are restricted to author and year. For fuller details Harrison's "Genera and Species of the Mallophaga" (*Parasitology*, IX, No. 1, October, 1916) should be consulted.

* The names of these species are printed in heavy type and numbered.



HOST.

TYTO ALBA LULU.

✓ *Colpocephalum subpachygaster* Piaget (1880).

✓ *Philopterus rostratus* Nitzsch (1838).

“*Nirmus*” *angulatus* Piaget (1880), recorded from this host is apparently a straggler from some (?) passerine bird.

“FROM LEGS OF OWL” presumably *T. alba*.

✓ 1. *Colpocephalum subpachygaster* Piag.

♀.

Samoa : Matautu, v.1921 (O'Connor).

VINI AUSTRALIS.

✓ 2. *Eomenopon denticulatum* Harrison (1915).

Samoa : Apia, Vailele, ii.1924.

EUDYNAMIS TAITENSIS.

On cuckoos three genera of Mallophaga occur, *Philopterus*, *Degeeriella* and *Cuculiphilus*.

Cuculiphilus semilunaris Piaget (1880) (doubtfully distinct from *C. fasciatus* Scopoli (1763)) will occur on the Samoan bird. The *Degeeriella* should be a sub-sp. of *D. dilatatofasciatus* Piaget (1880); while the *Philopterus* should be compared with *P. latifrons* Denny (1842).

HALCYON PEALEI.

✓ *Philopterus alatoclypeatus* Piaget (1855) (or sub-sp.).

ZOSTEROPS, SP.

On the genus *Zosterops* a *Philopterus* of the “*communis*” type occurs; *Myrsidea* has also been recorded. Besides these *Menacanthus*, sp. and *Degeeriella*, sp. are to be expected.

APLONIS ATRIFUSCA.

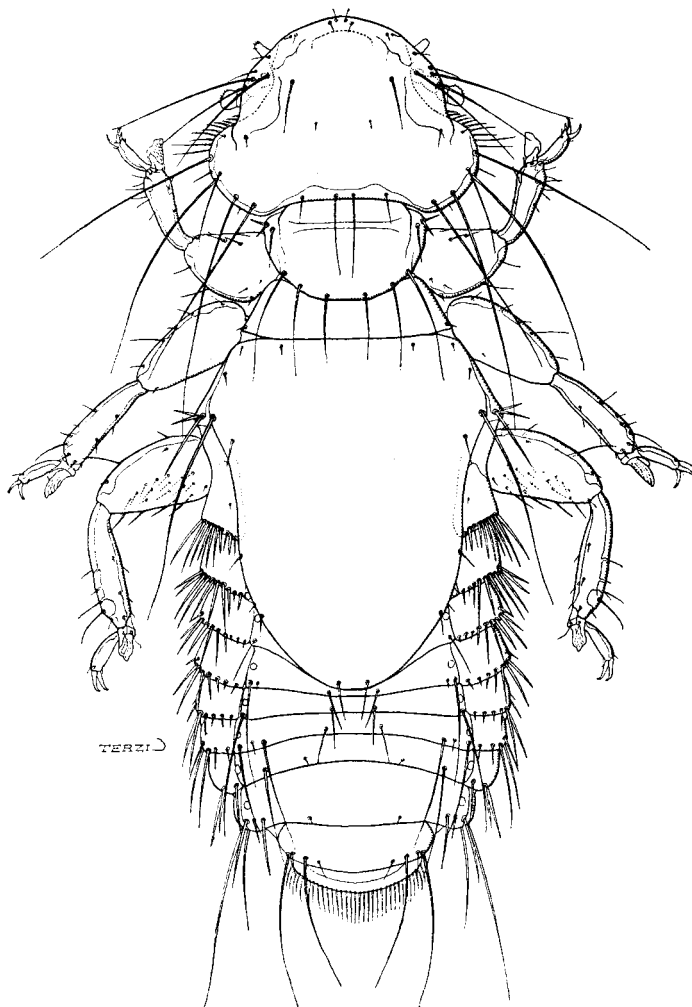
Uchida (1926) records *Myrsidea teraokai* Uchida (1918) from *Aplonis kittitzi* (Caroline Is.; Truk I.), but the Samoan examples differ in important details from the original figures and descriptions.

✓ 3. *Myrsidea buxtoni*, sp. n. (Text-figs. 1 and 2).

♀. Dimensions—

	Length.	Breadth.
Head.	0.36 mm.	0.51 mm.
Prothorax	0.19 mm.	0.33 mm.
Mesothorax	0.09 mm.	0.39 mm.
Metathorax	0.70 mm.	0.58 mm.
Abdomen	0.84 mm.	0.60 mm.
Total	1.65 mm.	

Similar to *Myrsidea teraokai* Uchida (*Annot. Zool. Japonenses*, vol. ix, pt. iv, p. 490, fig. 2, 1918), but larger and even more specialised in the tergites and

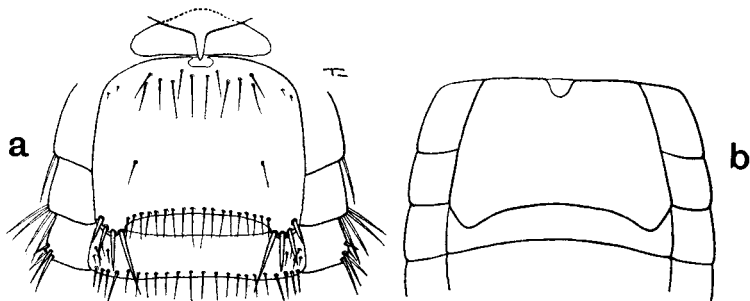


TEXT-FIG. 1.—*Myrsidea buxtoni*, sp. n. ♀.

metathorax. The greatly produced posterior edge of the latter, helmet shaped not rounded triangular as in *M. teraokai*, completely covers tergites 1 and 2 posteromedianly, and its own posterior edge coalesces with that of tergite 3.

In *M. teraokai* tergites 1-3 are only a little less modified than the metathorax, and their hind margins remain subparallel and distinct.

M. buxtoni lacks the long lateral bristles of *M. teraokai*, but tergites 4-7 inclusive have each a long bristle remote from the edge. There are numerous shorter pleural spinose bristles.



TEXT-FIG. 2.—Abdominal sternites (ventral view) of (a) *Myrsidea buxtoni*, sp. n.; (b) *M. teraokai* Uchida.

The second sternite has on each side a postero-lateral lobe bearing an aster of 4 spines, of which the innermost is longest and extends well across the posterior margin of sternite 3.

Samoa : Apia, 4.ii.1924, type ♀ (in British Museum), from *Aplonis atrifusca*.

CARPOPHAGA PACIFICA.

- ✓ *Menopon quinqueguttatum* Rudow (1869).
- ✓ *Colpocephalum unicolor* Rudow (1866).

PORPHYRIO POLIOCEPHALUS.

Callinula

- ✓ *Menopon gracile* Piaget (1880).
- ✓ *Rallicola lugens* Giebel (1874).
- ✓ *Phlopterus continuus* Piaget (1880).

LIMOSA NOVAE-HOLLANDIAE.

Membles

- ✓ *Menopon meyeri* Giebel (1874).
- ✓ ? *Degeeriella lucida* Kellogg and Mann (1912).
- ✓ *Degeeriella cingulata* Nitzsch in Denny (1842).
- ✓ *Phlopterus limosae* Denny (1842).

TOTANUS INCANUS. *R. de Lank*

- ✓ *Menopon lutescens* Nitzsch in Burmeister (1838).
- ✓ *Colpocephalum kilauense* Kellogg and Chapman (1902).
- ✓ *Degeeriella*, sp.
- ✓ *Philoaterus cordiceps* Piaget (1880).

CHARADRIUS DOMINICUS. *P. de Lank*

- ✓ *Menopon lutescens* Nitzsch in Burmeister (1838).

- ✓ 4. *Actornithophilus timidus* Kellogg (1896).

Upolu : Apia, vi.1925.

- ✓ 5. *Degeeriella oraria* Kellogg (1896).

Upolu : Apia, vi.1925.

- ✓ *Philoaterus conicus* Denny (1842).
- ✓ (Syn. *Philoaterus wallacei* Johnston and Harrison (1912); *Docophorus hawaiiensis* Kellogg and Chapman (1902).)

STREPSILAS INTERPRES. *T. de Lank*

- ✓ *Menopon lutescens* Nitzsch in Burmeister (1838).
- ✓ *Colpocephalum pediculoides* Mjöberg (1910).
- ✓ *Actornithophilus bicolor* Piaget (1880).
- ✓ *Degeeriella euprepes* Kellogg and Chapman (1902).
- ✓ *Degeeriella actophilus* Kellogg and Chapman (1899).
- ✓ *Degeeriella zonaria* Nitzsch (1866).
- ✓ *Philoaterus variabilis* Denny (1842).
- ✓ *Philoaterus cordiceps* Piaget (1880).

NUMENIUS FEMORALIS. *B. de Lank*

- ✓ *Menopon crocatum* Nitzsch in Giebel (1866).
- ✓ *Colpocephalum patellatum* Piaget (1888).
- ✓ *Degeeriella phaeopi* Denny (1842).
- ✓ *Dollabella testudinaria* Denny (1842).
- ✓ *Philoaterus humeralis*, sub-sp. *numeniicola* Johnston and Harrison (1912).

DEMIEGRETTA SACRA. *P. de Lank*

- ✓ *Colpocephalum decimfasciatum* Boisduval and Lacordaire (1835).
- ✓ *Colpocephalum nyctarde* Denny (1842)
- ✓ *Myrsidea teraokai* Uchida (1918) is a straggler in this host.

FREGATA AQUILA.

Fregatebird

(Petrel

- ✓ *Menopon aurifasciatum* Kellogg (1899).
- ✓ *Colpocephalum spineum* Kellogg (1899).
- ✓ *Esthiopterum majus* Kellogg (1899).
- ✓ *Esthiopterum gracilicorne* Piaget (1880).

SULA SULA.

Gannet

- ✓ *Menopon*, sp.
- ↓ *Pectinopygus sulae* Rudow (1870).

" GANNET " presumably *S. sula*.

- ✓ 6. *Menopon*, sp.

Samoa : Nuulua I., xi.1924, ♀.

- ✓ 7. *Pectinopygus sulae* Rud.

Samoa : Nuulua I., xi.1924, ♀.

SULA PISCATOR.

Gannet

- ✓ *Menopon*, sp.
- ✓ *Pectinopygus potens* Kellogg and Kuwana (1902).
- ✓ *Esthiopterum annulatum* Piaget (1880).

PHAETHON AETHEREUS.

Full Tern

- ✓ *Menopon singulare* Kellogg and Kuwana (1902).
- ✓ *Menopon becki* Kellogg (1907).
- ✓ *Philopterus uppalensis* Rudow (1870), ? straggler.

STERNA BERGII.

Full Tern

- ✓ *Menopon fuscofasciatum* Piaget (1880).
- ✓ *Actornithophilus crassipes* Piaget (1880).
- ✓ *Actornithophilus piceus* Denny (1842).
- ✓ *Philopterus melanocephalus* Nitzsch in Burmeister (1838).

STERNA FULIGINOSA.

Tern

- ✓ *Menopon fuscofasciatum* Piaget (1880).
- ✓ *Actornithophilus piceus* Denny (1842).
- ✓ *Degeeriella birostris* Giebel (1874).
- ✓ *Degeeriella obtusa* Kellogg and Kuwana (1902).
- ✓ *Philopterus melanocephalus* Nitzsch in Burmeister (1838).

HALOBAENA COERULEA.

- ✓ *Esthiopterum clypeatum* Giebel (1874).

GALLUS DOMESTICUS.

- ✓ 8. *Menopon gallinae* Linné (1758).
 ✓ *Neumannia pallidula* Neumann (1912).
 ✓ *Eomenacanthus stramineus* Nitzsch. in Giebel (1874).
 (Syn. *Menopon biseriatum* Piaget (1880).)
 ✓ *Goniocotes hologaster* Nitzsch in Burmeister (1838).
 ✓ *Goniocotes gigas* Taschenberg (1879).

✓ 9. *Goniodes dissimilis* Nitzsch in Denny (1842).

✓ 10. *Lipeurus caponis* Linné (1758).

- ✓ *Lipeurus burnetti* Packard (1870).

The above are the species regularly found on domestic fowls. Those numbered 8 to 10 have already been reported as having been met with in Apia, in 1925 (Buxton and Hopkins, *Researches in Polynesia and Melanesia*, 1927).

LIST OF TEXT-FIGURES.

Text-fig. 1. *Myrsidea buxtoni*, sp. n. ♀.

- „ 2. Abdominal sternites (ventral view) of (a) *Myrsidea buxtoni*, sp. n.; (b) *M. teraokai* Uchida.