

An overlooked Piaget species of Mallophaga

by

THERESA CLAY

British Museum (Natural History)

Mr. F. G. A. M. SMIT of the Zoological Museum, Tring, has drawn my attention to the following species described by PIAGET in 1887 from material collected on the Sumatra Expedition of 1877—1879. This species has apparently never been referred to since and was not included in HOPKINS & CLAY, 1952 (A Check List of the Genera and Species of Mallophaga).

Colpocephalum platyclypeatum Piaget

Colpocephalum platyclypeatum Piaget, 1887. In VETH, *Midden-Sumatra, Nat. Hist. Fauna* 1, part 1 : 55, fig., 1892, *Midden-Sumatra, Nat. Hist. Fauna* 2, part 12, Verm. Pl. 2, Fig. 7. Host: *Ketupa javanensis* = *Ketupa ketupa ketupa* (Horsfield).

There are no specimens in the British Museum (Natural History) PIAGET collection labelled with this name or host, but through the kindness of Dr. H. C. BLÖTE I have been able to examine a slide from the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie at Leiden. This slide has three specimens of Mallophaga and is labelled "*Colpocephalum platyclypeatum* Piaget, n. sp. Op een uil [= on an owl] Sumatra expeditie 1877. Cat. no. 354, Mus. Leiden". These specimens are without doubt the type material of *C. platyclypeatum* and comprise three females (one teneral) of a *Kurodaia* belonging to the species group commonly found on the Strigiformes. No other species of *Kurodaia* has been described from the genus *Ketupa* and no other specimens from *Ketupa* have been seen. Without further material from the type host including males, it is not possible to say whether or not this name is a synonym of an earlier described species.

Ketupa javanensis is the only species of owl mentioned in SNELLEMAN's account of the birds collected by the 1877 Sumatra Expedition (In VETH, *Midden-Sumatra, Nat. Hist. Fauna* 1, part 1 : 30—52). Dr. JUNGE has kindly confirmed that this bird is now known as *Ketupa ketupa ketupa* (Horsfield)

Lectotype: Female in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden (remounted on the original slide and labelled lectotype); paratypes: two females (remounted on separate slides).