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Brief Notes on the Mallophaga. I

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1. THE IDENTITY OF *Saemundssonia peristicta* (Kellogg & Kuwana) (PHILOPTERIDAE)

In the course of a revision of the *Saemundssonia* species occurring on Terns, it has been possible to examine the types of *Saemundssonia peristicta* (Kellogg and Kuwana), through the courtesy of Dr. G. F. Ferris of Stanford University.

As in most of Kellogg's Galapagos Islands material, this species was recorded from a number of hosts, none of which is the true host. *Sterna fuliginosa* (= *S. fuscata crissalis* (Lawrence)) may be eliminated as the type host (listed by Hopkins and Clay, 1952: 334), since this is not the actual species of *Saemundssonia* found on the above host. The species of *Saemundssonia* found on this host is closely related to *S. meridiana* Timmermann and *S. snyderi* (Kellogg and Paine) and will be described in a subsequent paper. *Dendroica aureata* and *Nesomimus carringtoni* may also be eliminated, as *Saemundssonia* species are never found on Passerine hosts. Careful study of the type series shows that *S. peristicta* belongs to the group of *Saemundssonia* found on the Waders.

In the lot of material from Dr. Ferris, there were a male and a female of this species labelled "*Docophorus peristictus* K. & K., from *Rhyacophilus solitarius,* Guadelope Id., Galapagos Is., S.I.K. '99" which were not mentioned in the original description (Kellogg & Kuwana, 1902: 462). There can be no doubt that from the labelling and appearance of the slide, that it was examined by the authors; but for some reason, was not recorded in their paper. However, *Rhyacophilus solitarius* (= *Tringa solitaria* Wilson) cannot be considered as the true host, as Dr. Snodgrass did not collect this host species as shown by an examination of the paper by Snodgrass and Heller (1905) on the birds collected by the Hopkins-Stanford Galapagos Expedition. It might be argued that Snodgrass and Heller actually did collect this host but did not record it in their paper. The fact that Hellmayr and Conover (1948: 121) questioned the validity of the occurrence of *Tringa solitaria* in the Galapagos would tend to deny this contention.

The species of Waders which were actually collected on the Hopkins-Stanford Expedition were as follows: *Squatarola squatarola* (Linné), *Charadrius hiaticula semipalmatus* Bonaparte, *Actitis macularia* (Linné) and *Arenaria interpres morinella* (Linné). The first mentioned species may be eliminated as the host, as *peristicta* bears no resemblance to the *Saemundssonia* found on this host. A comparison of Timmermann's redescrip-

tion (1951: 393) of *S. platygaster* (Denny) with *peristicta* shows that almost with certainty, *peristicta* (Kellogg and Kuwana) may be considered as a synonym of *S. platygaster* (Denny) and was probably found on *Charadrius hiaticula.* Timmermann also records it from the above *Arenaria* species which might be the true host. Similarly, a comparison of the females with a single female specimen from *Actitis macularia* shows no differences which seem to be significant. Measurements of the type series (in mm.) of *S. peristicta* (Kellogg and Kuwana) are as follows:

	Length of head	Width of head	Cephalic Index	Length of parameres	Total length
2 males	0.56	0.65–0.68	1.16–1.22	0.27–0.28	1.70–1.73
4 females	0.61–0.63	0.77–0.84	1.25–1.34	———	2.00–2.23

2. The Host of *Lymeon gastrodes* (Cummings) (Trichodectidae)

Conclusive evidence for the presence of *Lymeon gastroides* (Cummings) on the two-toed sloth (*Chloepus didactylus* (Linné)) is now available. Through the courtesy of Dr. Alfred E. Emerson of the University of Chicago, the author received five specimens of the above species (including one male) which Dr. Emerson personally collected from a two-toed sloth at Kartabo, British Guiana, in 1924. He stated that the Mallophaga were so firmly attached to the hair that he had to clip off the hairs in order to preserve the specimens. Three specimens have been kept as such in alcohol and two have been mounted. During the mounting process, a considerable amount of sloth hair was removed from the abdomens of the two lice. The material is identical with Werneck's description (1950: 196, figs. 301–05), and nothing can be added to his able diagnosis.

Since the occurrence of *Lymeon* on the sloth is now confirmed, it would be worthwhile to repeat Hopkins' (1949: 543) statement, "The uncomfortably close resemblance between *Lymeon* and *Procavicola* is possibly accounted for by the stock which gave rise to the Edentata and that which was ancestral to the Pro-

caviidae having originated from the proto-Insectivora close together."

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