

Finally, I should like to express my gratitude to Dr. Jos. Bequaert for much kind help in connection with my studies on the Hippoboscidae.

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MALLOPHAGA ON A BIRD'S EGG.

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Through the kindness of Mr. H. St. J. Donisthorpe and the authorities of the Hope Department, University Museum, Oxford, I have recently had the opportunity of examining two Mallophaga collected by Mr. Donisthorpe off an egg of a Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus* (L.)), Scotland, Tiree Island, 28.iv.1912 (1913; 1231). The specimens represent two species: *Actornithophilus* sp.,¹ 1 ♀, and *Menopon lutescens* Nitzsch, 1 ♀.

Records of lice having been found in situations other than on the hosts appear to be very few.² A cursory glance through the literature has revealed the following: (1) Evans (1912) records the species *Menopon lutescens* Nitzsch from the nest of a Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus* (L.)), Scotland, Aberlady, v.1906; (2) Waterston (1923) records the species *Actornithophilus milleri* (Kellogg & Kuwana) taken from a nest of *Anous stolidus stolidus* (Linn.) at St. Paul's Rocks by Capt. G. H. Wilkins during the voyage of the

¹ Probably *ochraceus* Nitzsch, but in the absence of a male I cannot be sure.

² I have not included here the numerous instances which have been recorded of lice being found attached to Hippoboscidae and Culicidae and the single instance recorded by Cummings (1913) of the finding of a fragmentary specimen of a Philopterid on a bee.

'Quest'; (3) Ewing (1930) records a single female of *Dennyus dubius* (Kellogg) from the nest of *Chaetura pelagica* (Linn.) at Maywood, Virginia, U.S.A., 22.vii.1926; (4) Theobald in his book 'Parasitic Diseases of Poultry' (1896) mentions having seen specimens of two Menopons on numerous occasions in the nesting-boxes of chickens; (5) Desselberger (1933)³ mentions in his account of the biology, etc., of the Mallophaga in Streseman's Aves, the occurrence of Mallophaga in the nests of birds. To these records I am able to add yet another: Mr. G. H. E. Hopkins collected numerous examples of *Heterodoxus longitarsus* (Piaget) (a kangaroo parasite which has become an almost cosmopolitan parasite of the dog, having been recorded from Australia, Africa (Belgian Congo, S. Africa), South, Central and North America), at Nakaru, Kenya Colony, 7.ii.1928, on some sacking upon which dogs were known to rest at intervals.

It is of interest to note that all the species of Mallophaga involved in the above records are members of the super-family Amblycera, which are definitely more active than the members of the super-family Ischnocera and are known to leave the bodies of their hosts after the death of the latter. These records also throw some light on a possible means of transference of the various species of lice from one host specimen to another. It is understandable that there are only few records of Mallophaga being found in situations apart from their hosts since they are extremely difficult to detect in an environment such as a bird's nest, but it is quite likely that they do often stray off their hosts on to the nesting material, especially during the period of incubation of the eggs, when the temperature of the nest reaches that of the body of its host.

I have made careful searches in the nests of numerous Martins (*Delichon u. urbica* L.) and Swallows (*Hirundo r. rustica* L.) which had only recently been vacated by the birds, but have never found any lice.

Since drawing up the above notes I have received through the kindness of Capt. W. W. A. Phillips three specimens of Mallophaga representing a species of the genus *Dennyus* which were collected from the nest of a Palm Swift (*Tachornis batassiensis batassiensis* (Gray)) at Mousakande, Gammaduwa, 16.x.1935, Ceylon. Capt. Phillips' notes regarding their capture are as follows: 'Lice among feathers, of which the nest is composed, in the edge of the nest. The nest contained one fresh egg and was on the underside of a palm-leaf of a tall coconut-palm.'

³ I am indebted to Herrn Wolfdietrich Eichler for this reference.

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