

The Mallophaga and Anoplura and their host-relations.

By Dr. J. Waterston, British Museum, London.

Summary: Dr. W. spoke on the relations between the Mallophaga and Anoplura and their hosts. These insects are all permanent, obligate and wingless parasites feeding on feather, hair or blood. Their distribution on the host's body and within host groups was discussed, various kinds of „stragglings“ were referred to, and the following conclusions were emphasized:

1. the constancy of the relation between parasite and host;
2. the necessity of recognizing that with this constancy there are different kinds of host relationship, a parasite being restricted to a family, or a tribe, or a genus of hosts;
3. the Mallophaga have undergone a retarded evolution, with the result that they now form a valuable index to their host's phylogeny.

