

Lousy old coots: chewing lice (Phthiraptera: Amblycera, Ischnocera) infesting American coot, *Fulica americana* (Gruiformes: Rallidae), in Manitoba.

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Forty-five American coots, *Fulica americana* Gmelin, were examined for chewing lice during 1995 – 2016. Five species of lice were collected: *Pseudomenopon pilosum* (Scopoli), *Laemobothrion atrum* (Nitzsch) (Amblycera: Menoponidae and Laemobothriidae, respectively), *Fulicoffula longipila* (Kellogg), *Incidifrons transpositus* (Kellogg) and *Rallicola advenus* (Kellogg) (Ischnocera: Philopteridae). Prevalence of infestation (95% confidence interval, Sterne's exact method) by at least one species of louse was 97.8% (88.17–99.88), while infestation by individual species, from greatest to least prevalence, was *R. advenus* (97.8%, 88.17–99.88), *P. pilosum* (93.3%, 81.46–98.15), *F. longipila* (84.4%, 71.26–92.54), *I. transpositus* (73.3%, 58.90–84.79) and *L. atrum* (17.8%, 8.33–32.04). Overall mean intensity (95% bootstrap confidence limits, 200 replicates) of infestation by chewing lice was 604.7 (484.30–770.59), while mean infestation for each species of louse, greatest to least, was *P. pilosum* (281.7, 206.88–407.17), *R. advenus* (275.7, 220.91–342.43), *F. longipila* (39.6, 30.89–49.71), *I. transpositus* (33.0, 23.21–59.58) and *L. atrum* (5.9, 0.38–14.13). A total of 26,605 lice were collected during this study. Generally speaking, female lice most often outnumber males, and this was the case for *I. transpositus* ($\chi^2=6.1$, $p\leq 0.01$) and *L. atrum* ($\chi^2=5.8$, $p\leq 0.02$). There were no significant differences in sex ratio for *F. longipila* ($\chi^2=1.1$, $p\leq 0.30$) and *R. advenus* ($\chi^2=0.8$, $p\leq 0.39$). Male *P. pilosum* significantly outnumbered females ($\chi^2=98.0$, $p\leq 0.0001$). Ratios of nymphs to females for each species, from highest to lowest: *I. transpositus* (5.1), *P. pilosum* (4.8), *R. advenus* (3.4), *F. longipila* (3.2) and *L. atrum* (1.6).