

ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF ECTOSYMBIONTS FROM THE OVENBIRD (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) ON VACA KEY, FLORIDA

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Birds are perhaps the best studied group of animals, yet the community of symbiotic organisms associated with birds is still relatively poorly studied (Bush et al. 2016). I previously reported unidentified feather mites, *Amerodectes* sp. and *Proctophyllodes* sp. (Proctophyllodidae), from an Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*), on Vaca Key, Florida (Hribar 2013). On 14 September 2021 another ovenbird was found dead at the same location as the previous specimen. I processed the carcass and prepared ectofauna for study as described earlier (Hribar and Miller 2011).

I recovered 10 mites and 1 louse and sent the specimens to specialists for identification (see ACKNOWLEDGMENTS). Three species of feather mites were identified: 2 males, 1 female, and 1 tritonymph of *Proctophyllodes brevisquadratus* Atyeo and Braasch, 1966 (Proctophyllodidae: Proctophyllodinae); 1 male, 2 females, and 2 tritonymphs of *Amerodectes seiurus* Mironov and Chandler, 2017 (Proctophyllodidae: Pterodectinae); and 1 male of *Trouessartia seiurus* Mironov and Chandler, 2020 (Trouessartiidae). The louse was unidentifiable because of damage to the specimen and loss of structures necessary for identification. There is no mention of a louse recovered from Ovenbirds in Florida in the exhaustive review by Forrester and Spalding (2003). However, *Menacanthus aurocapillus* Carriker (Phthiraptera: Menoponidae) is known from Ovenbirds in Maryland (Carriker 1958) and Newfoundland, Canada (Threlfall and Wheeler 1986). Unidentified species of *Brueelia* (Phthiraptera: Philopteridae) and *Myrsidea* (Phthiraptera: Menoponidae) were collected from Ovenbirds in Illinois by Bueter et al. (2009).

Of the three mites species collected, *A. seiurus* and *T. seiurus* are recently described species; *T. seiurus* was previously known only from the Ovenbird in Georgia (Mironov and Chandler 2020), whereas *A. seiurus* is known from Arkansas, Georgia, Missouri, and Tennessee from the Ovenbird and also from another parulid, the Kentucky Warbler (*Geothlypis formosa*; Mironov and Chandler 2017, Matthews et al. 2018). The host associations of *P. brevisquadratus* are more

intriguing. This species was found on Ovenbirds (Atyeo and Braasch 1966, Atyeo and Winchell 1984), but it is also reported from seven other parulid species, and one species each in Regulidae and Vireonidae (Atyeo and Braasch 1966). Feather mites often present a complicated set of evolutionary and ecological conundrums. Morphologically almost indistinguishable by routine identification techniques (light optics) but genetically different mites inhabiting different host species are treated as a morphologically identical mite species inhabiting multiple host species (Doña et al. 2019). Matthews et al. (2018) conducted a genetic study of feather mites inhabiting 14 parulid species and found mites that were identified genetically as *Proctophyllodes quadratus* Atyeo and Braasch but conformed morphologically to *P. breviquadratus*. Until more molecular study of *P. breviquadratus* populations from different hosts is done, it should be considered to be one species that exploits a number of host species.

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