

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION

FIRST REPORT OF *CICONIPHILUS DECIMFASCIATUS* (AMBLYCERA: MENOPONIDAE) IN *CASMERODIUS ALBUS* (AVES: CICONIIFORMES) FROM BRAZIL

A.P.N. Albano, J.G.W. Brum, M.A.A. Coimbra

Universidade Federal de Pelotas, Instituto de Biologia, Departamento de Microbiologia e Parasitologia, CP 354, CEP 96010-900, Pelotas, RS, Brasil. E-mail: jgwbrum@ufpel.tche.br

ABSTRACT

This article reports, for the first time in Brazil, the occurrence of the louse *Ciconiphilus decimfasciatus* parasitizing the great egret (*Casmerodius albus*) from the state of Rio Grande do Sul, southern Brazil.

KEY WORDS: *Ciconiphilus decimfasciatus*, *Casmerodius albus*, louse, great egret, Ciconiiformes, Phthiraptera.

RESUMO

PRIMEIRO RELATO DE *CICONIPHILUS DECIMFASCIATUS* (AMBLYCERA: MENOPONIDAE) EM *CASMERODIUS ALBUS* (AVES: CICONIIFORMES) NO BRASIL. Este trabalho registra, pela primeira vez no Brasil, a ocorrência do piolho *Ciconiphilus decimfasciatus* parasitando garça-branca-grande (*Casmerodius albus*) no Estado do Rio Grande do Sul.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: *Ciconiphilus decimfasciatus*, *Casmerodius albus*, piolho, garça-branca-grande, Ciconiiformes, Phthiraptera.

The genus *Ciconiphilus* Bedford, 1939, contains 14 recognized species of lice, whose known distribution is limited to certain hosts of the orders Ciconiiformes and Anseriformes PRICE & BEER, 1965b). This genus is one of the *Colpocephalum* – a complex of the family Menoponidae, which comprises all genera with ctenidia on the venter of the third femur (CLAY, 1969). The birds of the order Ciconiiformes are represented by 4 families in Brazil and three in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, one of these, the family Ardeidae, comprises the egrets and herons (BENCK, 2001). According to SICK (2001) various species of this family occur in all continents, as *Casmerodius albus*. BRANDS (2005), recognize *Casmerodius* as a valid genus, but INFONATURA (2005) place this genus as a junior synonym of *Ardea*; in this work, we prefer to use *Casmerodius*, more common among South American ornithologists. In November, 2002, was received in the Center for Wildlife Recovery (Núcleo de Reabilitação da Fauna Silvestre/CETAS) of the University Federal of Pelotas (31° 47' L.S. and 52° 25' L.W.) one specimen of great egret (*Casmerodius albus*) for recovery and posterior return to nature. Were collected 38 lice from the body surface which were clarified in Andre's fluid, dehydrated in ethanol, treated with in Creosote and mounted on permanent slides with Canada Balsam. In evaluating the character "venter of third femur with ctenidia", it was

concluded that the lice is from the *Colpocephalum*-complex of Menoponidae; in this complex, only 2 genera parasitize birds of the order Ciconiiformes: *Colpocephalum* and *Ciconiphilus*. Two works, PRICE & BEER (1965a) and PRICE & EMERSON (1967), revised the species of *Colpocephalum* that parasitize the Ciconiiformes, but report that all species (45) of this genus, are parasitic in other families, not on Ardeidae. Another work, PRICE & BEER (1965b), revised the species of the genus *Ciconiphilus* and reported that *C. decimfasciatus*, together with the closely related *C. melanolphi*, represents the only *Ciconiphilus* known from the family Ardeidae. By the examination of the male genitalia (specific character) and other features, it was concluded that the louse is *Ciconiphilus decimfasciatus* (BOISDUVAL & LACORDAIRE, 1835). This parasite has been described parasitizing 24 species of Ardeidae worldwide and in *Casmerodius albus* in USA, Mexico, Nicaragua and Madagascar. This report characterizes the first occurrence of *C. decimfasciatus* on *C. albus* in Brazil and South America.

REFERENCES

- BENCKE, G.A. *Lista de referência das aves do Rio Grande do Sul*. Porto Alegre: Fund. Zoobotânica do Rio Grande do Sul, 2001. 104p. (Pub. Avulsas FZB; 10)

- BRANDS, S.J (comp) 1989-2005 *Systema naturae 2000*. Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Available from: <<http://sn2000.taxonomy.nl>>. Accessed on: 18 May 2005.
- CLAY, T. A key to the genera of the Menoponidae (Amblycera: Mallophaga: Insecta.) *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History) Entomology*, v.24, n.1, p.3-26, 1969
- INFONATURA. *Birds, mammals and amphibians of Latin America* (Web application) 2005. Version 4.0. Arlington, Virginia (USA) Nature Serve. Available from: <<http://natureserve.org/infonatura>>. Accessed on: 18 May 2005.
- PRICE, R.D. & BEER, J.R. A review of *Ciconiphilus* Bedford (Mallophaga: Menoponidae). *Canadian Entomologist*, v.97, n.6, p.657-666, 1965b.
- PRICE, R.D. & BEER, J.R. The *Colpocephalum* (Mallophaga: Menoponidae) of Cicconiiformes. *Annals Entomological Society of America*, v.58, n.1, p.111-131, 1965a.
- PRICE, R.D. & EMERSON, K.C. Two new species of *Colpocephalum* (Mallophaga: Menoponidae) from Neotropical Cicconiiformes. *Annals Entomological Society of America*, v.60, n.1, p.875-878, 1967.
- SICK, H. *Ornitologia brasileira* 3 imp. Rio de Janeiro: Ed. Nova Fronteira, 2001. 912p.: il.

Received on 9/6/05
Accepted on 30/6/05