TWO NEW SPECIES OF EOMENOPON HARRISON
(Mallophaga: Menoponidae) FROM NEW
GUINEA LORIKEETS

By Roger D. Price

Abstract: Recent collections of Eomenopon from 3 species of New Guinea lorikeets of
the genus Charmosyna have resulted in descriptions of 2 new species — E. mirzai from
C. wilhelminae and E. pulchellae from C. pulchella — and in additional records of E.
clissoldi from C. papou.

The mallophagan genus Eomenopon Harrison is now recognized to include 12 species,
all found on parrots (Psittaciformes) distributed from the Philippines through New
Guinea, Solomon Islands, and New Hebrides, to Australia (Price 1966, 1969). Of these
lice, 10 are members of the spinimentum-group and 2 of the clissoldi-group, with each
of the latter group having as its type-host a species of New Guinea lorikeet of the
genus Charmosyna. Through the kindness of Dr K. C. Emerson, Arlington, Virginia, I
recently received 2 series of Eomenopon each taken off specimens of a Charmosyna spe-
cies from which I have not previously seen material. Both are believed to represent
new species of the clissoldi-group and are herewith described and illustrated. The
characters given by Price (1966) for lice of this group, as well as for lice of the entire
genus, will not be repeated.

Eomenopon mirzai Price, new species

Type-host: Charmosyna wilhelminae (A. B. Meyer).

♀. Gross features as given by Price (1966: fig. 3) for E. spinimentum (Neumann). Metanotum
with 19–21 lateroanterior setae. Marginal tergal setae: I, 35–36; II, 39; III, 38–43; IV, 39–45; V, 42–
45; VI, 40–42; VII, 39–44; VIII, 31–37. Tergites I–II with 0–2 short spiniform setae anterior to post-
spiracular seta each side. Last segment with total of 15–16 long to very long marginal to submar-
ginal setae (fig. 2). Each ctenidium on sternite III with 11–13 spiniform setae; sternite IV
without such setae either side. Marginal sternal setae, exclusive of ctenidia setae on III: I,
II, 22–24; III, 21–27; IV, 20; V, 19–20; VI, 16–17; VII, 11–13. Ventral terminalia as in fig. 2;
fused sternites VIII–IX with 30 medium to very long anterior setae, without marginal setae lateral
to paired very long setae each lateroposterior corner; with 33–35 fine medioposterior marginal
setae, all occurring in area delimited by very long lateroposterior setae. Ventral anal fringe of
33–36 setae, including 5 or so shorter setae laterally each side; dorsal anal fringe of 54 setae.

1. Paper No. 7705, Scientific Journal Series, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, St.
Paul, Minnesota 55101, U. S. A.
2. Partial results of field work supported by a grant to Bishop Museum (GB-20087) from the
National Science Foundation.
3. Dept. of Entomology, Fisheries, and Wildlife, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.
Fig. 1-3. 1-2, *Eomenopon mirzai* n. sp.: 1, ♂ genitalia (X110); 2, ♂ terminalia (X120). 3, *E. pulchellae* n. sp., ♀ genital sac (X110).

Genital chamber structure as in Price (1966: fig. 25), but 0.23-0.24 mm wide.


Dimensions (in mm): Preocular width, ♀ 0.43, ♂ 0.41-0.42; temple width, 0.61-0.62; head length, 0.31-0.33; prothorax width, 0.46-0.47; metathorax width, ♀ 0.60-0.61, ♂ 0.58-0.59; total length, 2.21-2.32.

Both sexes of E. mirzai are readily separable from E. clissoldi Price and E. placentis Price, the only other previously-known members of this species-group, by having tergites I-VIII with consistently more marginal setae. The ♀ of E. mirzai has more setae across the posterior margin of the last segment, more setae in the dorsal anal fringe, and more and finer medioposterior setae on fused sternites VIII-IX, these setae not placed as far laterally as with other species. The ♂ has a distinctly different type of genital sac, lacking the prominent large elongate denticles on the basal portion (Price 1969: fig. 1, 3) and having the unique sharply delineated pigmented median area, a feature not seen in any other known Eomenopon species. The absence of any indication of ctenidia on sternite IV further differentiates E. mirzai from E. placentis.

Eomenopon pulchellae Price, new species

Fig. 3.

Type-host: Charmosyna pulchella G. R. Gray.

♀. Essentially as for ♀ E. clissoldi as described by Price (1966), except for possibly slightly smaller dimensions.

♂. Likewise, as for ♂ E. clissoldi, except for smaller dimensions and for genitalic differences. Genitalia much as in fig. 1, but genital sac as in fig. 3, with vestiture of evenly distributed weakly developed denticles.

Dimensions (in mm): Preocular width, 0.40-0.41; temple width, ♀ 0.55-0.57, ♂ 0.54; head length, 0.30-0.31; prothorax width, ♀ 0.41-0.42, ♂ 0.40; metathorax width, ♀ 0.54, ♂ 0.47; total length, ♀ 2.03-2.11, ♂ 1.95.


Eomenopon pulchellae, by having both sexes close to E. clissoldi, is separable from both E. mirzai and E. placentis in many of the same features that separate E. clissoldi. The ♂ of E. pulchellae is unique among the species of the clissoldi-group by having a genital sac with evenly distributed denticles of fairly uniform size, lacking the prominent large elongate denticles of E. clissoldi and E. placentis and lacking the sharply delineated median area of E. mirzai. The ♀ of E. pulchellae has its dimensions either at or slightly below the lower limits for E. clissoldi; the ♂ of E. pulchellae is consistently smaller than E. clissoldi.

Along with the collections yielding the material of the above new species, there were also 3 additional collections of E. clissoldi from specimens of Charmosyna papou (Scopoli) taken by A. B. Mirza in New Guinea: BBM-98127, Moimo, NW of Garaina, Morobe District, 14.XII.1969; BBM-98465 and 98466, Lake Louise, NW of Telefomin, West Sepik District, 18.II.1970.
REFERENCES
