

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF MALLOPHAGA FROM A NEW GUINEA BUSH FOWL

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Abstract: The new genus *Megapodiella* is established for the new species, *M. nakatae*, collected off *Aepyodius arfakianus* in New Guinea.

Personnel of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum recently collected a series of Mallophaga in New Guinea. This series, in our opinion, represents a new genus and species and it is our purpose here to describe and illustrate these lice.

Megapodiella Emerson & Price, new genus

Head slightly longer than wide. Forehead circumfasciate with median protrusion more pronounced than in *Capraiella*, *Cuculicola*, or *Oxylipeurus*, and with prominent "V"-shaped dorsal suture. Trabeculae triangular-shaped. Antennae filiform and essentially similar for both sexes. Temples rounded and expanded beyond head width at antennae. Chaetotaxy of head sparse, with only short and medium setae.

Prothorax short, with medium seta at each lateroposterior angle. Pterothoracic tergal plate divided, with patches of very long setae on posterior margin. Legs of normal size.

Prominent abdominal tergal plates, with those on II-VIII divided, triangular-shaped, and tapered toward midline, and that on IX continuous. Short row of medioposterior setae on abdominal tergites II-VIII, with IV-V also having longer marginal seta posterior to each spiracle. Sparse ventral chaetotaxy on abdominal segments; sternites not prominent.

Posterior margin of vulva broadly rounded with numerous short to medium setae. ♂ genitalia, as shown in fig. 2, are unique.

Type-species: *Megapodiella nakatae* Emerson & Price, n. sp.

Remarks: This genus has some characters found in the genera *Lagopoecus*, *Galliphilopterus*, *Oxylipeurus*, *Capraiella*, and *Cuculicola*. The shape of the forehead is similar to that found in *Capraiella* and in some species of *Oxylipeurus* and *Cuculicola*; however, the dorsal "V"-shaped suture of the forehead is unique. The head is unusual in being disproportionately large in comparison to the abdomen. The abdomen is similar to that found in some species of *Lagopoecus* and *Galliphilopterus*. The abdominal chaetotaxy, dorsally and ventrally, differs greatly from that found in *Galliphilopterus*. The abdominal tergal plates are tapered medially in *Megapodiella* and rectangular in *Lagopoecus*. The chaetotaxy of the vulva and posterior margin of the ♀ terminal abdominal segment is much more dense in *Megapodiella* than in *Lagopoecus*. The ♂ genitalia are of a unique type.

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Megapodiella nakatae Emerson & Price, new species Fig. 1-3.

♂. External morphology and detailed chaetotaxy as shown in fig. 1. Genitalia as shown in fig. 2. Total length 2.20 mm.

♀. External morphology and detailed chaetotaxy as shown in fig. 3. Total length 2.61 mm.

Type-host : *Aepyodius arfakianus* (Salvadori).

Type-material : Holotype ♂ (BISHOP 9508), allotype ♀, and 17 paratypes were collected off the type-host on Mt. Kemp, Morobe District, New Guinea on November 30, 1969. Holotype, allotype, and 6 paratypes are in the Entomology Collection of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum. Paratypes have been retained by the authors, and others have been distributed to the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) and the U. S. National Museum. This species is named for the late Miss Setsuko Nakata who was of great assistance to the authors in their research on Mallophaga.

Discussion : The host is a member of the galliform family Megapodiidae, commonly called mound-builders, found in the Australasian Region. The few collections of Mallophaga, made to date, from the Megapodiidae have all yielded interesting forms quite different from those found on other galliform hosts.

We have also seen one ♀ specimen of this genus, which will not be described until a larger series is obtained, collected off *Leipoa ocellata ocellata* Gould in Western Australia. Therefore, it is anticipated that future collections from the Megapodiidae will yield additional species of *Megapodiella*.

The type-host for each species of Mallophaga now known from the Megapodiidae is shown below.

Megapodius nicobariensis nicobariensis Blyth

Goniodes minor confusio Clay, 1940

Megapodius nicobariensis gilbertii G. R. Gray

Goniodes major (Piaget, 1880)

Kelerimenopon minus (Piaget, 1880)

Oxylpeurus appendiculatus (Piaget, 1880)

Megapodius reinwardti reinwardti Dumont

Colpocephalum majesticum Harrison, 1916

Goniodes biordinatus Clay, 1940

Goniodes minor minor (Piaget, 1880)

Lipeurus sinuatus Taschenberg, 1882

Oxylpeurus inaequalis (Piaget, 1880)

Megapodius freycinet freycinet Gaimard

Colpocephalum freycineti Price & Beer, 1964

Goniodes discogaster (Taschenberg, 1882)

Lipeurus latifasciatus Piaget, 1890

Eulipoa wallacei (G. R. Gray)

Goniodes ocrea Piaget, 1880

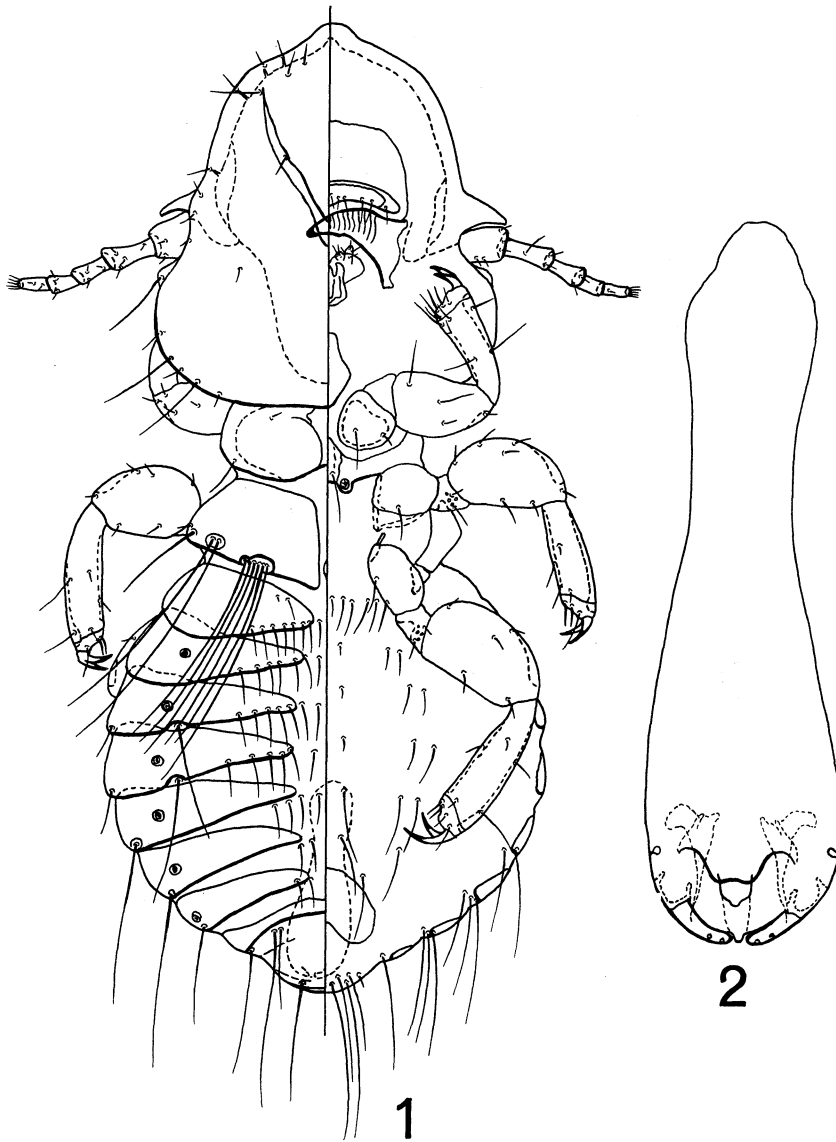


Fig. 1-2. *Megapodiella nakatae*, n. sp. : 1, ♂ ; 2, ♂ genitalia.

Alectura lathami lathami J. E. Gray

Colpocephalum alecturae Price & Beer, 1964

Colpocephalum lathami Price & Beer, 1964

Goniodes fissus (Rudow, 1869)

Goniodes macrocephalus (Taschenberg, 1882)

Lipeurus crassus Rudow, 1869

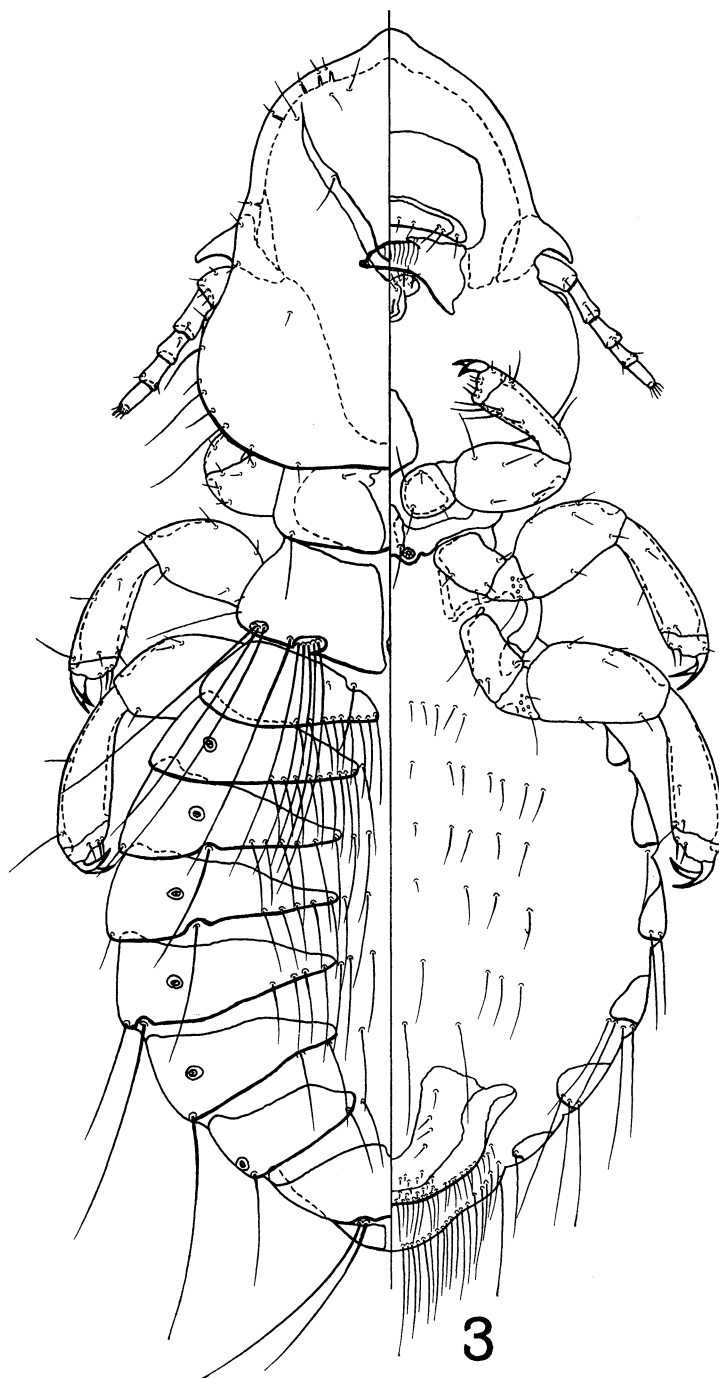


Fig. 3. *Megapodiella nakatae*, n. sp., ♀.

Oxylipeurus ischnocephalus (Taschenberg, 1882)

Talegalla cuvieri Lesson

Colpocephalum talegallae Price & Beer, 1964

Goniodes crassipes (Piaget, 1888)

Kelerimenopon ciliatum (Piaget, 1890)

Talegalla fuscirostris Salvadori

Kelerimenopon fuscirostris Price & Emerson, 1966

Lipeurus meyeri Taschenberg, 1882

Aepypodius arfakianus (Salvadori)

Colpocephalum arfakiani Price & Beer, 1964

Colpocephalum wilhelmi Price & Beer, 1964

Kelerimenopon aepypodi Price & Emerson, 1966

Kelerimenopon clayae Price & Emerson, 1966

Megapodiella nakatae Emerson & Price, n. sp.

Oxylipeurus aepypodius Clay, 1938

Macrocephalon maleo S. Müller

Colpocephalum maleonis Price & Beer, 1964

Goniocotes pallidiflavus Piaget, 1890

Lipeurus tsade Piaget, 1890