TWO NEW SPECIES OF THE FEATHER MITE GENUS AMERODECTES VALIM ET HERNANDES, 2010 (ACARIFORMES: PROCTOPHYLLODIDAE) FROM PASSERINES (AVES: PASSERIFORMES) OF THE NEW WORLD

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ABSTRACT: Two new species of the feather mite genus *Amerodectes* Valim et Hernandes, 2010 (Proctophyllodidae: Pterodectinae) are described from passerines of the New World: *Amerodectes tiaris* sp. n. from the Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus* (Thraupidae) from Cuba and *A. zonotrichiae* sp. n. from the Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* (Emberizidae) from Chile. A brief review of taxonomic works dealing with the *Pterodectes* generic complex is provided.

KEY WORDS: Feather mites, Acariformes, Proctophyllodidae, Amerodectes, systematics, Passeriformes

INTRODUCTION

The feather mite genus *Amerodectes* Valim et Hernandes, 2010 (Analgoidea: Proctophyllodidae: Pterodectinae) was established over the course of taxonomic revisions of the genus *Pterodectes* Robin, 1877 (*sensu* Park and Atyeo 1971) and extensive investigations of biodiversity of pterodectines in South America (Mironov et al. 2008; Hernandes and Valim 2005, 2006; Valim and Hernandes 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010; Mironov and González-Acuña 2011; Hernandes 2013).

The genus Amerodectes and six more genera Berladectes Valim et Hernandes, 2009, Cotingodectes Valim et Hernandes, 2009, Hemitriccodectes Hernandes, 2013, Metapterodectes Mironov, 2008, Tyrannidectes Mironov, 2008 and Pterodectes — constitute the Pterodectes generic complex within the subfamily Pterodectinae. With the exception of the monotypic genus Pterodectes, which is associated with globally distributed species of swallows (Hirundinidae), mites of the remaining genera of this complex live on various oscine and suboscine passerines of the New World (Mironov 2009; Valim and Hernandes 2010; Mironov and González-Acuña 2011). As for most pterodectines, representatives of this genus occupy the primaries, secondaries and retrices of the plumage of their avian hosts, where they are located in corridors formed by barbs on the ventral side of vanes.

The genus *Amerodectes* is the most speciesrich genus in the *Pterodectes* complex and includes 23 previously described species (Valim and Hernandes 2010; Mironov and González-Acuña 2011; Mironov and OConnor 2014). The majority of previously known species (19) are associated with oscines of the infraorder Passerida; among them, 14 species were described from birds of the superfamily Passeroidea, three from the Turdidae, one from the Mimidae (Muscicapoidea), and one from the Troglodytidae (Certhioidea). Only four species are known so far from suboscines: one species from the Furnariidae and three from the Tyrannidae. Modern (re)descriptions of all previously known Amerodectes species are provided in the following taxonomic works: OConnor et al. (2005), Mironov et al. (2008), Valim and Hernandes (2006, 2008, 2010), Mironov and González-Acuña (2011), Mironov and OConnor (2014). The publication by Valim and Hernandes (2010) contains a review of host associations of Amerodectes species, and the paper by Mironov and González-Acuña (2011) provides a key to all previously known species; both publications give exhaustive references to investigations of pterodectines in the New World.

The present paper continues our study of feather mites associated with passerines of South and Central America (Mironov and González-Acuña 2009, 2011, 2013) and provides descriptions of two new species of the genus *Amerodectes* found on passerine hosts of the families Emberizidae and Thraupidae.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The material used in the present work was collected by DGA in Cuba in 2007 and in Chile in 2010. Examined bird specimens represented individuals that died of a disease or were road-killed. Feather mites were removed from the plumage of their hosts using a needle or fine forceps and placed in tubes with 70% ethanol. Mite specimens were mounted on microslides in Faure medium according to the standard technique used for small mites (Krantz and Walter 2009). The descriptions of new taxa are given in the format elaborated for pterodectine mites over in the past ten years (Mironov and Fain 2003; Hernandes and Valim 2006; Mironov 2006, 2008; Valim and Hernandes 2010; Mironov and González-Acuña 2011). General morphological terms and the leg chaetotaxy are after Gaud and Atyeo (1996); the idiosomal chaetotaxy also follows these authors with subsequent correction of coxal setal nomenclature by Norton (1998). All measurements are in micrometers (µm). Measuring techniques used for particular structures are as described by Mironov and González-Acuña (2011). The classification and scientific names of birds follow Clements et al (2013). Type material depositories: DGA - Departamento de Ciencias Pecuarias, Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias, Universidad de Concepción (Chillán, Chile), ZISP — Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Saint-Petersburg, Russia).

SYSTEMATICS

Family Proctophyllodidae Mégnin et Trouessart, 1884

Subfamily Pterodectinae Park et Atyeo, 1971 Genus Amerodectes Valim et Hernandes, 2010 Amerodectes zonotrichiae sp. n.

Figs 1–3

Type material. Male holotype (ZISP 6013), 2 male and 6 female paratypes from the Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* (Statius Müller, PL, 1776) (Passeriformes: Emberizidae), CHILE, Atacama Region, Llanos de Challe National Park, 28°10′0″S 71°0′0″W, 20 August 2010, coll. D.A. González-Acuña. Holotype, 1 male and 3 female paratypes — ZISP, 1 male and 3 female paratypes — DGA.

Additional material. 6 females from the same host, CHILE, Coquimbo Region, Fray Jorge National Park, 30°39'57"S, 71°39'57"W, 10 December 2010, coll. D.A. González-Acuña.

Description. Male (holotype, range for 2 paratypes in parentheses). Idiosoma, length \times width, 360 (360–375) \times 153 (150–160), length of hysterosoma 235 (230–245). Prodorsal shield: entire, antero-lateral extensions with two unequal indentations, lateral margins without noticeable concavities, posterior margin straight, posterior angles widely rounded, length 113 (110–120), width 105 (105–115), surface with small ovate la-

cunae in anterior one third (Fig. 1A); scapular setae se separated by 56 (55-60). Setae ve rudimentary, represented by alveoli. Scapular shields not developed dorsally. Humeral shields absent. Setae cp and c2 situated on striated tegument. Subhumeral setae c3 lanceolate, $19(19-22) \times 6(6-8)$. Hysteronotal shield: greatest length 236 (235-255), width in anterior part 102 (100-110), anterior margin straight, surface without ornamentation or posterior one third bearing scarcely distinct, small lacunae. Distance between prodorsal and hysteronotal shields about 10. Opisthosomal lobes approximately as long as wide at base; posterior margins of lobes roughly rounded, with scarcely expressed extensions at bases of setae h^2 and h^3 . Terminal cleft shaped as an inverted V withe rounded anterior end, 31 (30-35) in length. Supranal concavity semicircular, well outlined. Setae f2 anterior to bases of setae ps2. Setae h1 at level of anterior end of supranal concavity. Setae h3 whiplike, 75 (75–80) in length; setae *ps2* 80 (80–85) long; setae *ps1* filiform, about 10 long, situated on margin of terminal cleft approximately at level of setae ps2. Distances between bases of dorsal setae: c2:d2 93 (90-95), d2:e2 90 (85-90), e2:h3 50 (50-60), *d1:d2* 45 (40-45), *e1:e2* 15 (15-20), h1:ps2 16 (15-22), h2:h2 50 (50-60), h3:h3 36 (35-40), ps2:ps2 64 (60-65).

Epimerites I fused into a V, fused part trifurcate (with one median and a pair of lateral short indentations) (Fig. 1B). Coxal fields I, II without extensively sclerotized areas. Rudimentary sclerites rEpIIa absent. Coxal fields I-III open. Coxal fields IV without sclerotized areas at bases of trochanters IV. Epimerites IVa absent. Genital arch of moderate size, 22 (22–26) \times 42 (40–44); basal sclerite of genital apparatus with widely rounded posterior margin; aedeagus sword-shaped, 98 (95-105) long, extending to midlevel of anal suckers (Fig. 3E). Genital papillae connected at bases. Genital and adanal shields absent. Anal suckers 11 (11–12) in diameter, corolla smooth, surrounding membrane with radial striae. Opisthoventral shields narrow, occupying lateral areas of opisthosoma and distal half of opisthosomal lobes; inner margins of these shields at level of anal suckers smooth, bearings setae ps3. Setae 4b situated posterior to level of setae 3a. Distance between ventral setae: 4b:3a 7 (7-9), 3a:4a 36 (35-42), 4a:g 35 (35–48), g:ps3 60 (55–60), ps3:ps3 68 (65–70), ps3:h3 35 (33-35).

Femora I, II with narrow ventral crests, other segments of legs I, II without processes.



Fig. 1. Amerodectes zonotrichiae sp. n., male. A — dorsal view, B — ventral view.

Solenidion σI of genu I 12 (12–13) long, situated at midlevel of segment; genual setae *cGI*, II and *mG* I filiform, setae *mG* II thickened, thin spiculiform (Figs 3A, B). Seta *d* of tarsi II subequal to corresponding setae *f*, setae *d* of tarsi III much shorter than corresponding setae *f* (Fig. 3C). Solenidion φ of tibia IV extending to midlevel of ambulacral disc. Tarsus IV 28 (26–28) long, without apical process; seta *d* in basal half of segment (Fig. 3D). Length of solenidia: ω 1I 13 (13–14), ω 1II 11 (10–12), φ I 58 (55–60), φ II 47 (45–50), φ III 28 (25–30), φ IV 33 (32–35).

Female (range for 4 paratypes). Idiosoma, length × width, 545–560 × 175–190, length of hysterosoma 385–400. Prodorsal shield: outlines and surface as in male, 135–140 × 140–145, posterior angles acute, setae *se* separated by 70–78 (Fig. 2A). Setae *ve* present, rudimentary. Scapular shields narrow, not developed dorsally. Humeral shields rudimentary, represented by poorly sclerotized bands anterior to bases of setae *cp*. Setae *cp* and *c2* situated on striated tegument. Setae *c3* lanceolate, 22–24 × 8–9. Anterior and lobar parts of hysteronotal shield separated dorsally by narrow



Fig. 2. Amerodectes zonotrichiae sp. n., female. A - dorsal view, B - ventral view.

transverse band of soft tegument, but remain connected ventro-laterally (Fig. 2B). Anterior hysteronotal shield slightly attenuate posteriorly, anterior margin straight, greatest length 290–305, width at anterior margin 140–150, surface with ornamentation. Length of lobar region 100–105, greatest width 80–90. Terminal cleft narrow, parallelsided, 75–80 long. Supranal concavity indistinct; lobar shield with narrow posterior incision almost splitting this shield into two parts, surface of shield without ornamentation. Setae h1 on anterior margin of lobar shield; setae h1 and f2 arranged in a trapezium. Setae h2 spindle-like, $42-48 \times 8-9$. Setae ps1 near inner margins of opisthosomal lobes, approximately equidistant from levels of setae h2and h3. Setae h3 18–22 long, about 1/5 the length of terminal appendages. Distances between dorsal setae: c2:d2 130–140, d2:e2 125–135, e2:h2 60–



Fig. 3. *Amerodectes zonotrichiae* sp. n., details. A–C — legs I–III of male, respectively, D — tibia and tarsus IV of male, E — opisthosoma of male, ventral view, F — spermatheca and spermaducts. co — copulatory opening, hs — head of spermatheca, pd — primary spermaduct, sd — secondary spermaduct.

65, *h2:h3* 50–60, *d1:d2* 55–60, *e1:e2* 40–45, *h1:h2* 30–35, *h1:h1* 35–40, *h2:h2* 70–80, *h2:ps1* 22–33.

Epimerites I fused into a Y, with very short and narrow stem, without lateral extensions. Lateral parts of coxal fields II without large sclerotized areas (Fig. 2B). Epimerites IVa absent. Translobar apodemes of opisthosomal lobes present, wide, not fused to each other anterior to terminal cleft. Epigynum without lateral extensions, greatest width 70–75; apodemes of ovipore fused with epimerites IIIa. Primary spermaduct with enlargement in proximal quarter; secondary spermaducts 40–45 long (Fig. 3F). Pseudanal setae filiform, setae *ps2* posterior to anal opening and widely separated from each other, distance between setae: *ps2:ps2* 45–50, *ps3:ps3* 15–17, *ps2:ps3* 28–35.

Femora II with ventral crest, other segments of legs I, II without processes. Solenidion σI of genu I short, 13–14 long, situated at midlevel of segment. Genual setae *cG*I, II, *mG* I, II as in male. Seta *d* and *f* of tarsi II subequal, setae *d* of tarsi III, IV much shorter than corresponding setae *f*. Genu IV dorsally inflated, with narrow dorsal crest. Lengths of solenidia: $\omega 1I 13-15$, $\omega 1II 11-12$, φI 60–65, $\varphi II 48-58$, $\varphi III 24-26$, $\varphi IV 10-12$.

Differential diagnosis. The new species, *Amerodectes zonotrichiae* sp. n., belongs to a group of *Amerodectes* species with long filiform setae h3 in males. Among these, it is very close to *A. phrygilus* Mironov et González-Acuña, 2011 from *Phrygilus patagonicus* Lowe in having the following features: in both sexes, the prodorsal and hysteronotal shields are without pronounced lacunae, the anterior margin of the hysteronotal shield is straight; in males, the aedeagus extends to the level of anal suckers, the humeral shields are strongly reduced and the terminal cleft is longer than the half the length of the lobar region.

Amerodectes zonotrichiae differs from A. phrygilus by the following characters: in both sexes, the antero-lateral extensions of the prodorsal shield bear two unequal indentations; in males, setae ps3 are situated at the level of posterior margins of anal suckers, the posterior angles of the prodorsal shield are widely rounded; in females, the parts of lobar shields are connected by a narrow transverse bridge, setae *ps1* are approximately equidistant from the levels of setae h2 and h3. In both sexes of A. phrygilus, the antero-lateral extensions of the prodorsal shield are acute; in males, setae ps3 are situated at the midlevel of anal suckers, and the posterior angles of the prodorsal shield are acute; in females, the lateral parts of lobar shield are widely connected, setae *ps1* are closer the levels of setae h3 than of setae h2.

Females of *A. zonotrichiae* also resemble those of *A. sicalis* Mironov et González-Acuña, 2011 from *Sicalis luteola* (Sparman) by having a very narrow transverse bridge connecting lateral parts of the lobar shield. However, females of *A. zonotrichiae* differ from that species by having a much longer secondary spermaducts (40–45 versus 20–25 in *A. sicalis*). Males of these two species are distinctly different: in *A. zonotrichiae*, the aedeagus extends only to the midlevel of the anal suckers, while in *A. sicalis* it is noticeably longer and extends to the anterior end of the terminal cleft. **Etymology**. The specific epithet derives from the generic name of the type host and is a noun in the genitive case.

Amerodectes tiaris sp. n.

Figs 4–6

Type material. Male holotype (ZISP 6021), 5 male and 4 female paratypes from the Yellowfaced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus* (Linnaeus, 1766) (Passeriformes: Thraupidae), CUBA, Habana, 23° 6′52″N, 82°23′1″W, 21 September 2007, coll. D.A. González-Acuña. Holotype, 3 male and 2 female paratypes — ZISP, 2 male and 2 female paratypes — DGA.

Description. Male (holotype, range for 5 paratypes in parentheses). Idiosoma, length \times width, $340 (330-345) \times 130 (130-145)$, length of hysterosoma 225 (210-230). Prodorsal shield: entire, antero-lateral extensions short and rounded terminally, lateral margins shallowly concave, posterior margin straight, length 124 (124–135), width 100 (100-110), surface with numerous small circular lacunae (Fig. 4A); scapular setae se separated by 56 (55–60). Setae ve present, minute. Scapular shields narrow, not developed dorsally. Humeral shields absent. Setae cp and c2 situated on soft tegument. Subhumeral setae c3 lanceolate, 18 (18–20) \times 8 (8–9). Hysteronotal shield: greatest length 225 (220-230), width in anterior part 100 (100–110), anterior margin straight or slightly convex, entire surface except for lobes with numerous circular lacunae as on prodorsal shield. Distance between prodorsal and hysteronotal shields about 10. Opisthosomal lobes approximately as long as wide at base; posterior margins of lobes roughly rounded, with scarcely marked extensions at bases of setae h^2 and h^3 . Terminal cleft shaped as an inverted U with slightly divergent branches, 30 (24-30) in length. Supranal concavity present, well outlined. Setae f2 anterior to bases of setae *ps2*. Setae *h1* at level of anterior end of terminal cleft. Setae h3 whip-like, 70 (70-75) long; setae ps2 70 (70-80) long; setae ps1 filiform, about 10 long, situated on margin of terminal cleft approximately at level of setae ps2. Distances between bases of dorsal setae: c2:d2 82 (80-85), d2:e2 85 (85-90), e2:h3 48 (45-50), d1:d2 40 (30-40), e1:e2 24 (22-25), h1:ps2 20 (20-25), h2:h2 50 (45-50), h3:h3 38 (33-40), ps2:ps2 62 (60-65).

Epimerites I fused into a V, fused part with pair of acute extensions directed to epimerites II but not fused with them (Fig. 4B). Coxal fields I,



Fig. 4. Amerodectes tiaris sp. n., male. A - dorsal view, B - ventral view.

II without extensive sclerotized areas. Rudimentary sclerites rEpIIa absent. Coxal fields I–III open. Coxal fields IV without sclerotized areas at bases of trochanters IV. Epimerites IVa absent. Genital arch of moderate size, 24 (22–25) \times 38 (35–40); basal sclerite of genital apparatus widely rounded posteriorly; aedeagus sword-shaped, 105 (100–110) long, extending to midlevel of anal suckers (Fig. 6E). Genital papillae connected at bases. Genital and adanal shields absent. Anal suckers 11 (9–11) in diameter, corolla smooth, surrounding membrane with several radial striae in anterior part. Opisthoventral shields wide, occupying lateral areas of opisthosoma and distal half of opisthosomal lobes. Setae ps3 situated off opisthoventral shields, approximately at midlevel of anal suckers. Setae 3a and 4b situated at same transverse level. Distance between ventral setae:



Fig. 5. Amerodectes tiaris sp. n., female. A — dorsal view, B — ventral view.

4b:4a 39 (35–40), *4a:g* 35 (35–38), *g:ps3* 60 (55–60), *ps3:ps3* 62 (55–65), *ps3:h3* 36 (35–38).

Femora I, II with narrow ventral crests, other segments of legs I, II without processes. Solenidion σI of genu I 9 (9–10) long, situated in basal half of segment; genual setae *cG*I, II and *mG*I filiform, setae *mG*II thickened. spiculiform (Figs 6A, B). Setae *d* and *f* of tarsi II subequal in length, setae *d* of tarsi III much shorter than corresponding setae *f* (Fig. 6C). Solenidion φ of tibia IV extending to midlevel of ambulacral disc. Tarsus IV 24 (24–28) long, without apical process; seta *d* in basal half of segment (Fig. 6D). Length of solenidia: ω 1I 15 (12–15), ω 1II 9 (9–11), φ I 62 (60–65), φ II 47 (45–50), φ III 18 (18–22), φ IV 24 (24–26).

Female (range for 4 paratypes). Idiosoma, length \times width, 465–480 \times 150–160, length of



Fig. 6. *Amerodectes tiaris* sp. n., details. A–C — legs I–III of male, respectively, D — tibia and tarsus IV of male, E — opisthosoma of male, ventral view, F — spermatheca and spermaducts. co — copulatory opening, hs — head of spermatheca, pd — primary spermaduct, sd — secondary spermaduct.

hysterosoma 320–340. Prodorsal shield: outline and surface as in male, $124-130 \times 120-122$, setae *se* separated by 70–75 (Fig. 5A). Setae *ve* present, minute. Scapular shields narrow, not developed dorsally. Humeral shields absent. Setae *cp* and *c2* situated on soft tegument. Setae *c3* lanceolate, $20-22 \times 8-9$. Anterior and lobar parts of hysteronotal shield separated dorsally by narrow transverse band of soft tegument, but remain connected ventro-laterally (Fig. 5B). Anterior hysteronotal shield almost rectangular, anterior margin straight or slightly convex, greatest length 250–265, width at anterior margin 120–125, whole surface with numerous small circular lacunae as on prodorsal shield. Length of lobar region 85–90, greatest width 83–88. Terminal cleft narrow, parallel-sided, lateral margins almost touching, anterior end extending slightly beyond level of setae h2, 45–50 long. Supranal concavity well outlined, ovate; surface of lobar shield with several ovate lacunae near anterior margin. Setae h1 on lobar shield, distant from anterior margins and situated at level of supranal concavity; setae h1 and f2 arranged in trapezium. Setae h2 spindle-like, $33-38 \times 9-10$. Setae ps1 situated near inner margins of opisthosomal lobes, much closer to level of setae h3 than h2. Setae h3 18–22 long, about 1/5 of terminal appendages. Distances between dorsal setae: c2:d2 100–115, d2:e2100–110, e2:h2 65–70, h2:h3 35–36, d1:d2 45– 50, e1:e2 25–30, h1:h2 30–33, h1:h1 33–35, h2:h2 68–75, h2:ps1 25–30.

Epimerites I fused into a Y with very short and narrow stem. Lateral parts of coxal fields II without large sclerotized areas (Fig. 5B). Epimerites IVa absent. Translobar apodemes of opisthosomal lobes present, wide, fused to each other anterior to terminal cleft. Epigynum with small lateral ledges, greatest width 58–60; apodemes of ovipore fused with epimerites IIIa. Primary spermaduct slightly enlarged in very proximal part; secondary spermaducts 20–25 long (Fig. 6F). Pseudanal setae filiform; setae *ps2* posterior to anal opening and widely separated from each other; distance between setae: *ps2:ps2* 48–53, *ps3:ps3* 20–25, *ps2:ps3* 22–25.

Femora I, II with ventral crests, other segments of legs I, II without processes. Solenidion σI of genu I short 9–11 long, situated at midlevel of segment. Genual setae *cG*I, II, *mG* I, filiform and setae *mG* II thickened, spiculiform (Figs 6A, B). Setae *d* and *f* of tarsi II subequal in length, setae *d* of tarsi III, IV half as long as corresponding setae *f*. Genu IV dorsally inflated, with narrow longitudinal dorsal crest. Lengths of solenidia: $\omega 11 14-15$, $\omega 11I 11-13$, $\varphi I 64-70$, $\varphi II 48-53$, $\varphi III 20-22$, $\varphi IV 11-12$.

Differential diagnosis. Like the other new species described in this paper, *Amerodectes tiaris* sp. n. belongs to a species-group having filiform setae *h3* in males and is relatively close to *A. phrygilus* Mironov et González-Acuña, 2011 in having an aedeagus that extends to the level of anal suckers in males and the humeral shields strongly reduced or completely lost in both sexes. *Amerodectes tiaris* clearly differs from *A. phrygilus* and also from *A. zonotrichiae* by the following features: in both sexes, the prodorsal and hysteronotal shields are entirely covered with numerous circular lacunae; in males, the fused part of epimerites I has a pair of laterally directed acute extensions, setae *3a* and *4b*

are arranged in an almost transverse row, and setae ps3 are situated off the opisthoventral shields; in females, the terminal cleft is short and approximately half as long as the lobar region, the humeral shields are completely absent, the translobar apodemes are fused to each other anterior to the terminal cleft, and the supranal concavity is clearly outlined. In both sexes of A. phrygilus and A. zonotrichiae, most areas of the prodorsal and hysteronotal shields lack the lacunae (although a few small lacunae can be present in the anterior part of the prodorsal shield); in males, the fused part of epimerites I has a pair of very short acute extensions directed posterior, setae 4b are situated distinctly posterior to the level of setae 3a, setae ps3 are situated on inner margins of the opisthoventral shields; in females, the terminal cleft is long and constitutes about 2/3of the lobar region length, the humeral shields are represented by rudimentary sclerites anterior to the bases of setae *cp*, the translobar apodemes are not fused to each other anterior to terminal cleft, and the supranal concavity is poorly distinct.

Etymology. The specific epithet derives from the generic name of the type host and is a noun in apposition.

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