MALLOPHAGA OF DOMESTIC CHICKENS FROM CUBA


In the period from August 1967 to March 1968 we examined 490 living birds of various age in 8 state farms of the provinces Pinar del Río and Havana. Most of them (390) belonged to the race White Leghorn, the rest to Rhode Island, Plymouth and Cornish. In addition we examined 10 birds of private owners. We considered the incidence only in birds older than 40 weeks (see below). The following species were recorded:

1. Menopon gallinae (Linné, 1758)
Incidence: 85.7 %  Location : Body, mainly ventral side

2. Eomenacanthus cornutus (Schömmer, 1913)
Incidence: 3.3 %  Location : Body
Locality : farm Cacahual (prov. of Havana). New for Cuba.

3. Oulocrepis dissimilis (Nitzsch, 1842)
Incidence: 20.0 %  Location : Body plumage
Localities : farm Benito Juárez, Enrique Troncoso (prov. of Pinar del Río), La Soria (prov. of Havana). New for Cuba.

4. Goniocotes gallinae (De Geer, 1778)
Incidence: 2.9 %  Location : Body plumage

5. Stenocrotalus gigas (Taschenberg, 1879)
Found on 3 birds of private owners. Location : Body plumage

6. Lipurus caponis (Linné, 1758)
Incidence: 6.2 %  Location : Mainly wing plumage

7. Numidiipeurus laurensis tropicalis (Peters. 1931)
Incidence: 40.9 %  Location : Mainly neck plumage

8. Oxylipeurus dentatus (Sugimoto, 1934)
One finding in the collections of the Institute of Biology of the Cuban Academy of Sciences from Sierra Maestra (prov. of Oriente). New for Cuba.

Ecological notes. The species Menopon gallinae and Numidiipeurus laurensis are very frequent among Cuban chickens. The species composition varies on each farm and sometimes differences of infestation were observed on various sites of the same farm. The cage-bred hens are first parasitized at the approximate age of 40 weeks. Birds older than 50 weeks are infested almost by 100 %, During our examinations no case of infestation with Eomenacanthus stramineus (Nitzsch, 1874) was observed, although this species was designated by Zayas (1941) as “usually very frequent”. The only finding was made on a turkey.

Summary. Up to date a total of nine species of Mallophaga are known to parasitize domestic chickens in Cuba.

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