

Mites associated with the ruddy ground dove, *Columbina talpacoti* (Temminck, 1810), in São Paulo State, Brazil

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Abstract

Mites associated with birds have different relationships with their hosts, ranging from accidental association to true ecto- and endoparasitism. A total of 51 samples of the ruddy ground dove, *Columbina talpacoti* (Temminck, 1810) (Columbiformes), from São Paulo State, Brazil, were examined for mites. Five of the samples were nests. Mites belonging to the following taxa were found: Astigmata—Analgidae (three species), Falculiferidae (four species) and an unidentified Pyroglyphidae species; Mesostigmata—a single species of Macronyssidae; Prostigmata—a single species each of Cheyletidae, Ereyetidae, Harpirhynchidae and Syringophilidae. *Diplaegidia columbigallinae* Cerný, 1975 and *Byersalges talpacoti* Cerný, 1975 were the most frequent species. Known associations of each mite species to other columbiform birds are reported.

Key words: Acari, ectoparasites, feather mites, quill mites, ruddy ground-dove.

Introduction

Mites associated with birds have different relationships with their hosts, ranging from accidental association to true ecto- and endoparasitism (Zumpt, 1961; Balashov, 2006; Krantz & Walter, 2009). The ruddy ground-dove, *Columbina talpacoti* (Temminck, 1810) is a very common columbid bird (Columbiformes) in Brazil, well adapted to urban environments. According to Sick (2001), it lives in open areas, coffee plantations and swampy areas. They are frequently seen on buildings, window sills and roofs, from Mexico to Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. In Brazil, Valim *et al.* (2004) examined 12 samples of ruddy ground-dove in the state of Rio de Janeiro, finding four mite species. Here we present records of mites on *C. talpacoti* from the State of São Paulo.

Materials and Methods

Feathers, nests and corpses of Columbiformes and other birds are commonly received in our laboratory for scientific studies. These refer to birds accidentally killed or that died naturally. The 51 samples (44 corpses; two feather samples, each corresponding to a bird, and five nests) of *C. talpacoti* examined in this study were received between 2005 and 2010 from the following localities of São Paulo State: Campinas (22°49'11"S; 47°4'12"W, alt. 604 m), Pedreira (22°40'56,49"S; 46°52'49,53"W, alt. 671 m), Jaguariúna (22°42'20"S; 46°59'09"W, alt. 584 m), Holambra (22°37'59"S; 47°03'20" alt. 590m), Itapira (22°26'00"S; 46°49'18"W, alt. 643 m) and Valinhos (22°58'14"S; 47°59'45"W, alt. 660 m). Each sample was provisionally identified using