

A new species of *Pterodectes* Robin, 1877 (Proctophyllodidae: Pterodectinae) from the pale-breasted thrush, *Turdus leucomelas* (Passeriformes: Turdidae)

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ABSTRACT

A new species of feather mite, *Pterodectes fissuratus* sp. n., is described from the pale-breasted thrush, *Turdus leucomelas* Vieillot (Passeriformes: Turdidae), in Brazil. This species is easily distinguished by having numerous well-pronounced lacunae and a longitudinal median furrow on prodorsal and hysteronotal shields in both sexes.

Key words: Astigmata, feather mite, Analgoidea, systematics, Brazil

INTRODUCTION

Feather mites (Astigmata: Analgoidea, Freyanoidea, Pterolichoidea), a vast group of permanent inhabitants of bird plumage, currently include over 2,400 described species (Mironov 2003). However, this number likely represents only a minute fraction of existing species (Gaud & Atyeo 1996). In the present paper, we describe a new feather mite species, *Pterodectes fissuratus* sp. n. (Analgoidea: Proctophyllodidae: Pterodectinae), collected from the pale-breasted thrush, *Turdus leucomelas* Vieillot (Passeriformes: Turdidae). The feather mite subfamily Pterodectinae includes about 110 species (Park & Atyeo 1971) and is one of two major subfamilies of Proctophyllodidae. Representatives of this family mainly inhabit the ventral surfaces of flight and covert feathers of the wings (Dabert & Mironov 1999). Mites of the genus *Pterodectes* are known to occur on ten families of the order Passeriformes: Corvidae, Emberizidae, Fringillidae, Furnariidae,