

THE FINDING OF MALLOPHAGA ON PIPISTRELLUS KUHLI (CHIROPTERA)

It is well known that Chiroptera do not belong to the hosts of biting lice and from none of 981 species of this order findings of Mallophaga have been reported (Emerson K. C., Price R. D., Misc. Publ. Entomol. Soc. Amer. 12, 1: 1—72, 1981). Therefore, it came as a great surprise when the junior author of this communication collected two Mallophaga specimens, together with other ectoparasites, from one of the twelve bats *Pipistrellus kuhli* (Kuhl, 1819) examined. The mentioned bat, a male, was caught at early evening hours on 20 June 1982 in a Japanese net stretched above the bottom of the dry river bed in the locality of Beyugdash near Gobustan (the Azerbaijan SSR, SW of Baku).

The biting lice were identified as a male and a female of *Brueelia straminea* (Denny). This species is known in two subspecies: *B. straminea straminea* (Denny, 1842) parasitizing *Dendrocopos major* (L.) and *B. straminea superciliosa* (Nitzsch in Gieb., 1866) parasitic on *D. medius* (L.) (Zlotorzycska J., Klucze do oznaczania owadów Polski XV, 4, PWN, Warszawa, 124 pp., 1977). It might be supposed that the parasites transferred to the non-specific host in the place of contact of the two species, the woodpecker and the bat, e.g. in a tree hollow. However, *Pipistrellus kuhli* is known to show a predilection for synanthropic environment rather than for tree hollows. Strelkov (in: Mammals of the fauna of the USSR, Izd. AN SSSR, Moskva, Leningrad, vol. 1, p. 191, 1963, in Russian) reports that colonies of reproducing females readily inhabit cracks in the rocks, crevices in the walls, behind the window panelling and other shelters in buildings. Similar places,

behind the window panelling, wall crevices and under the roofs are mentioned as bat habitats in Armenia by Shagoyan and Yavruyan (Mater. 1 vsesoyuz. soveshch. po rukokrylym (Chiroptera), ZIN, Leningrad: 96—98, 1974). The locality where the bat was caught is situated at the foot of a knob surrounded by a biotope of semi-desert character, and devoid of old trees with hollows. Although four species of woodpeckers of the genus *Dendrocopos*: *D. major* (L.), *D. medius* (L.), *D. minor* (L.) and *D. leucotos* (Bechst.) are mentioned from east Azerbaijan (Flint V. E., Beme R. L., Kostin Yu. V., Kuznetsov A. A., Birds of the USSR, Publ. House Mysl, Moskva, 637 pp., 1968, in Russian; Stepanyan L. S., Composition and distribution of birds of the USSR fauna, Non-Passeriformes, Publ. House Nauka, Moskva, 371 pp., 1975, in Russian), none of these species has been reported in the ornithofauna inhabiting the wide environs of the locality where the finding was made (Khanmamedov A. Y. et al., Izv. AN Azerb. SSR, ser. biol. No 3: 83—90, 1973). In our case the question of the original host and the place of its possible contact with *P. kuhli* has thus remained open.

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