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
occiparasses, from one of the twelve bats Pipistrellus kuhlii (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 Beynigisheh near Gabustan
(the Azerbaijan SSR, SW of Baku).

The biting lice were identified as a male and a female of Bructria straminea (Denny). This
species is known in two subspecies: B. straminea straminea (Denny, 1842) parasitizing Dendro-
copos major (L.) and B. straminea superciliosa (Nitzsch in Gieb., 1869) parasitic on D. medius
(L.) (Zlotorzynska J., Kluse do owocow Polski XV, 4, PWN, Warsaw, 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 kuhlii is known to show a predilection
for synanthropic environment rather than for tree hollows. Strelkov (in: Mammals of the
reports that colonies of reproducing females readily inhabit crannies 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 Yav-

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 (Bonch.) are mentioned from east Azerbaijan (Flint V. E., Benz R. L.,
Kostin Yu. V., Kuznetsov A. A., Birds of
the USSR, Publ. House Mysl, Moscow, 637 pp.,
1968, in Russian; Stepanyan L. S., Composition
and distribution of birds of the USSR fauna,
Non-Gamefauna, Publ. House Nauka, Moscow,
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 (Khanmadarov 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. kuhlii has thus remained open.

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MATERIAL AND METHODS

The authors declare that the experimental procedures involving animals have been conducted in
accordance with the relevant national and institutional guidelines on the care and use of
research animals.