



# Bat flies (Diptera: Nycteribiidae) from Mount Makiling, Luzon Island: New host and distribution records, with a checklist of species found in the Philippines

James D.V. Alvarez<sup>1\*</sup>, Ireneo L. Lit, Jr.<sup>1,2</sup>, Phillip A. Alviola<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Museum of Natural History, University of the Philippines Los Baños, College, Laguna, Philippines 4031

<sup>2</sup> Institute of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, University of the Philippines Los Baños, College, Laguna, Philippines 4031

\* Corresponding author. E-mail: [jamesalvarez21@gmail.com](mailto:jamesalvarez21@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** Our survey in Mount Makiling Forest Reserve, Luzon Island, Philippines from April to May 2011 revealed new host records of bat fly species (Diptera: Nycteribiidae), including: *Eucampsipoda philippinensis* Ferris, *Cyclopodia garrula* Maa, *C. horsfieldi* de Mejeire, *Phthiridium brachyacantha* (Theodor) and *Penicillidia acuminata* Theodor. We also report *C. garrula* as a new record for Luzon Island. A checklist of the species known from the Philippines with the known distribution and bat host species was also provided.

**Key words:** Mount Makiling, Philippines, bat fly, Nycteribiidae, bats

Mount Makiling Forest Reserve (MMFR) is situated at 14°09' N, 121°11' E (Mallari *et al.* 2001), 65 km southeast of Manila in the province of Laguna on the central part of Luzon Island and is surrounded by agricultural areas and human settlements. It remains to be one of the centers of biological diversity in the Philippines (Gonzalez 1997; Mallari *et al.* 2001) making it an extremely high conservation priority area (Ong *et al.* 2002) and one of the country's 32 key ecotourism sites (DOT-DENR 2002). It serves as a training field laboratory of the University of the Philippines Los Baños which gained exclusive jurisdiction, administration and complete control by virtue of Republic Act #3523 and 6967 (Abraham *et al.* 2010). While most researches in MMFR are on bats (Sedlock 2002; Ingle 1992, 1993), information on ectoparasites associated with these bats is deemed inadequate.

Most bat ectoparasites belong to the lymph- or blood-sucking classes: Acari (mites and ticks) and Insecta (fleas, lice and parasitic flies). Among the most common are members of Nycteribiidae which are light brown, spider-like and wingless flies exclusively parasitic on bats (Dick and Patterson 2007; Bertola *et al.* 2005) although there are some accidental occurrences on birds (Maa 1975).

Ferris (1924a, 1924b, 1925a, 1925b), Maa (1962, 1966, 1968, 1975) and Theodor (1955, 1959, 1963, 1966, 1967, 1968) included descriptions of species from the Philippines. Apparently, none of these studies documented nycteribiids in Laguna province,

specifically Mount Makiling. The most comprehensive review of Philippine nycteribiids was by Cuy (1980, 1981) wherein he reported at least nine species in Mount Makiling. Since the 1980s, only the study of Zabat and Eduardo (2011) has been published reporting on some nycteribiids.

This paper presents new host and island records of nycteribiids collected from four species of bats captured recently from MMFR. These bats were *Cynopterus brachyotis* (Muller), *Ptenochirus jagori* (Peters), *Rousettus amplexicaudatus* (Geoffroy) and *Rhinolophus arcuatus* Peters. Bats were captured through mist nets, V-nets and tunnel traps and preserved in 70% ethanol. Most of the host bats were released after extraction of the ectoparasites but a few were preserved as vouchers (see Appendix 1) as stipulated in the Gratuitous Permit (GP No. 207) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. All collected specimens were deposited at the UPLB Museum of Natural History (UPLB-MNH). All specimens examined were collected by JDV Alvarez and PA Alviola in April to May 2011 and labeled accordingly with the locality data as follows: Philippines: Luzon Is.: Mount Makiling.

## CYCLOPODIINAE

### *Cyclopodia* Kolenati

#### ***Cyclopodia garrula* Maa**

*Cyclopodia garrula* Maa 1968. *Pacif. Ins.* 10: 17.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION:** Previously recorded only from Mindanao, it is the first time to document the species on the island of Luzon.

**HOST RECORDS:** The type specimens were collected only from *Harpionycteris whiteheadi* Thomas and currently recorded in *Cynopterus brachyotis* and *Ptenochirus jagori* (Maa 1968; Cuy 1980)

**SPECIMEN(S) EXAMINED:** On *Cynopterus brachyotis*, 1 female (UPLBMNH-DIP-1530); on *Ptenochirus jagori*, 3 females (UPLBMNH-DIP-1527 to 1529).

#### ***Cyclopodia horsfieldi* de Mejeire**

*Cyclopodia horsfieldi* de Mejeire, 1899. *Tijds. Ent.* 42: 153.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION:** This species is widespread in

various localities in the Philippines including Luzon, Mindoro, Busuanga, Culion, Palawan, Balabac, Leyte, Iloilo, Panay, Guimaras, Camiguin, Mindanao, Negros and Jolo (Ferris 1925; Theodor 1963; Cuy 1980, 1981). It is the first time to collect this species from Mount Makiling. It is also present in Indonesia, Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Timor Leste (Cuy 1980).

HOST RECORDS: Initially identified as parasites of *Pteropus* Erxleben, *Acerodon* Jourdan, and *Rousettus* Gray species (Ferris 1925; Cuy 1980), new host records include *Cynopterus brachyotis* and *Ptenochirus jagori*.

SPECIMEN(S) EXAMINED: On *Cynopterus brachyotis*, 1 male and 2 females (UPLBMNH-DIP-1531, 1536, 1540); on *Ptenochirus jagori*, 4 males and 4 females (UPLBMNH-DIP-1532 to 1535, 1537 to 1539, 1541).

*Eucampsipoda* Kolenati

***Eucampsipoda philippinensis*** Ferris

*Eucampsipoda philippinensis* Ferris, 1924. *Philipp. J. Sci.* 24: 76.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: This species is probably endemic to the Philippines and is widely distributed in Luzon, Leyte, Negros, Mindanao (Ferris 1924; Theodor 1955; Cuy 1980), Palawan and Mindoro (Cuy 1981).

HOST RECORDS: Previously recorded from *Eonycteris robusta* Miller, *Hipposideros diadema* (Geoffroy) (Ferris 1924; Theodor 1955; Cuy 1980). New host record: *Ptenochirus jagori*.

SPECIMEN(S) EXAMINED: On *Ptenochirus jagori*, 1 female (UPLBMNH-DIP-1542).

***Eucampsipoda sundaica*** Theodor

*Eucampsipoda sundaicum* Theodor, 1955. *Parasitology* 45: 213.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: This species has been recorded in India, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and New Guinea. In the Philippines, it is known to occur in Luzon, Mindoro, Palawan, Leyte, Negros and Mindanao (Maa 1962; Cuy 1980, 1981).

HOST RECORDS: Hosts of this species include *Eonycteris spelaea* (Dobson) and *Rousettus amplexicaudatus* (Maa 1962; Cuy 1980).

SPECIMEN(S) EXAMINED: On *Rousettus amplexicaudatus*, 2 males and 2 females (UPLBMNH-DIP-1543 to 1546).

*Leptocyclopodia* Theodor

***Leptocyclopodia brevicula*** Maa

*Leptocyclopodia brevicula* Maa, 1966. *Pacif. Ins.* 8: 677.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: This Philippine endemic species is recorded only from Mindanao (Maa 1968) and Luzon (Cuy 1980).

HOST RECORDS: This species parasitizes *Ptenochirus jagori* (Cuy 1980) which is endemic to the Philippines.

SPECIMEN(S) EXAMINED: On *Ptenochirus jagori*, 7 males (UPLBMNH-DIP-1550 to 1557).

***Leptocyclopodia ferrarii mabuhai*** Maa

*Leptocyclopodia ferrarii mabuhai* Maa, 1975. *Pacif. Ins.* 16: 474.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: A Philippine endemic species widely distributed in Luzon, Leyte, Panay, Guimaras, Negros, Camiguin and Mindanao (Cuy 1980, 1981).

HOST RECORDS: Hosts of this species include *Cynopterus*

*brachyotis*, *Ptenochirus jagori*, *Haplonycteris fischeri* Lawrence, *Macroglossus lagochilus* (= *Macroglossus minimus* Geoffroy), *Eonycteris spelaea* and *Hipposideros diadema* (Cuy 1980).

SPECIMEN(S) EXAMINED: On *Cynopterus brachyotis*, 3 males (UPLBMNH-DIP-1547 to 1549).

***Leptocyclopodia simulans*** (Theodor)

*Cyclopodia (Leptocyclopodia) simulans* Theodor, 1959. *Parasitology* 49: 291.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: This is another Philippine endemic species distributed in Luzon, Mindoro, Leyte, Bohol, Cebu, Negros, Camiguin and Mindanao (Cuy 1980).

HOST RECORDS: This species is mainly on *Ptenochirus jagori*. Other hosts include *Cynopterus brachyotis*, *Rousettus amplexicaudatus*, *Eonycteris robusta* and *Macroglossus lagochilus* (= *Macroglossus minimus*) (Cuy 1980).

SPECIMEN(S) EXAMINED: On *Ptenochirus jagori*, 1 male (UPLBMNH-DIP-1572); on *Cynopterus brachyotis*, 7 males. (UPLBMNH-DIP-1565 to 1571).

NYCTERIBIINAE

*Penicillidia* Kolenati

***Penicillidia acuminata*** Theodor

*Penicillidia oceanica acuminata* Theodor, 1963. *Fieldiana (Zool.)* 42: 174.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: This species is known from Java and the Philippines (Luzon, Lubang, Tablas, Mindanao and Polillo) (Cuy 1980, 1981).

HOST RECORDS: This is a parasite of *Miniopterus australis* Tomes and *M. schreibersii*, *Rhinolophus arcuatus*, *Tadarida luzonensis* (= *Chaerephon plicatus* (Buchanan)) and *Emballonura alecto* (Eydoux & Gervais) (Cuy 1980) and newly recorded from *Rousettus amplexicaudatus*.

SPECIMEN(S) EXAMINED: On *Rousettus amplexicaudatus*, 1 male (UPLBMNH-DIP-1574).

*Phthiridium* Hermann

***Phthiridium brachyacantha*** (Theodor)

*Stylidia brachyacantha* Theodor, 1963. *Fieldiana (Zool.)* 42: 164. *Phthiridium brachyacantha*: Maa, 1965. *J. Med. Ent.* 1: 381.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: This Philippine endemic species is recorded in Luzon and Mindanao (Cuy 1980, 1981).

HOST RECORDS: Initially identified only from *Rhinolophus* spp. (Cuy 1980), it is newly recorded in *Ptenochirus jagori*.

SPECIMEN(S) EXAMINED: On *Rhinolophus arcuatus*, 2 males and 4 females (UPLBMNH-DIP-1558 to 1563); on *Ptenochirus jagori*, 1 male (UPLBMNH-DIP-1564).

***Phthiridium mindanaense*** (Theodor)

*Stylidia mindanaensis* Theodor, 1963. *Fieldiana (Zool.)* 42: 163. *Phthiridium mindanaense*: Maa, 1965. *J. Med. Ent.* 1: 381.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: Another Philippine endemic species recorded in Luzon and Mindanao (Cuy 1980, 1981).

HOST RECORDS: Initially identified only from unidentified *Rhinolophus* sp. (Cuy 1980), it is now recorded in *Rhinolophus arcuatus*.

SPECIMEN(S) EXAMINED: On *Rhinolophus arcuatus*, 1 male (UPLBMNH-DIP-1573).

**Nycteribiidae of the Philippines**

The following are the 20 species, one of them with two subspecies, of nycteribiid bat flies recorded in the Philippines. Geographical distribution and known host records together with the author of publications or accounts used as basis for locality data are also provided thereafter, except for those already included in the foregoing account of species from Mount Makiling, marked in the list below with an asterisk (\*).

## CYCLOPODIINAE

***Cyclopodia garrula*** Maa\****Cyclopodia horsfieldi*** de Mejeire\****Eucampsipoda inermis*** Theodor

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines (Luzon, Catanduanes, Mindoro, Busuanga, Palawan, Samal, Samar, Jolo, Mindanao, Negros) (Maa 1962; Cuy 1980, 1981)

HOST RECORDS: *Rousettus amplexicaudatus*, *Eonycteris spelaea* (Maa 1962; Cuy 1980)

***Eucampsipoda philippinensis*** Ferris\****Eucampsipoda sunaica*** Theodor\****Leptocyclopodia brevicula*** Maa\****Leptocyclopodia ferrarii mabuhai*** Maa\****Leptocyclopodia ferrarii palawanensis*** (Theodor)

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: Philippines (Busuanga, Culion, Palawan, Balabac) (Cuy 1981)

HOST RECORDS: *Cynopterus brachyotis* (Cuy 1980)

***Leptocyclopodia haplotes*** Maa

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: Philippines (Negros, Mindanao) (Cuy 1980, 1981)

HOST RECORDS: *Haplonycteris fischeri*, *Cynopterus brachyotis*, *Ptenochirus jagori*, *Macroglossus lagochilus* (= *M. minimus*) and *Rousettus amplexicaudatus* (Cuy 1980)

***Leptocyclopodia pilosipectus*** Maa

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: Philippines (Leyte, Negros, Camiguin, Mindanao) (Cuy 1980, 1981)

HOST RECORDS: *Harpionycteris whiteheadi*, *Haplonycteris fischeri*, *Ptenochirus jagori*, *Pteropus tablasi* (= *Pteropus pumilus* Miller) (Maa, 1962, 1968; Cuy, 1980)

***Leptocyclopodia simulans*** (Theodor)\*

## NYCTERIBIINAE

***Basilina majuscula*** (Edwards)

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: India, Sumatra, Philippines (Palawan) (Cuy 1980, 1981)

HOST RECORDS: *Pipistrellus imbricatus* (= *Pipistrellus javanicus* (Gray)) (Cuy 1980)

***Nycteribia allotopa*** Speiser

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines (Luzon, Polillo, Tablas, Mindanao) (Cuy 1980, 1981)

HOST RECORDS: *Miniopterus schreibersii*, *M. australis*, *Tadarida luzonensis* (= *Chaerephon plicatus*) (Cuy 1980)

***Nycteribia allotopoides*** Theodor

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: Myanmar, Philippines (Mindanao, Luzon, Polillo) (Cuy 1980, 1981)

HOST RECORDS: *Miniopterus australis*, *M. schreibersii* (Cuy 1980)

***Nycteribia parvula*** Speiser

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Japan, Malaysia, Sumatra, Java, Amboina, Moluccas, New Guinea, Taiwan, Philippines (Luzon, Polillo, Tablas, Mindanao) (Cuy 1980, 1981)

HOST RECORDS: *Miniopterus australis*, *M. schreibersii*, *Tadarida luzonensis* (= *Chaerephon plicatus*), *Rhinolophus arcuatus* (Ferris 1924; Maa 1962; Cuy 1980)

***Nycteribia parvuloides*** Theodor

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: Nicobar Island, Malaysia, Philippines (Polillo, Mindanao) (Cuy 1980, 1981)

HOST RECORDS: *Miniopterus australis*, *M. schreibersii*, *Hipposideros coronatus* (Peters), *Rousettus amplexicaudatus* and *Eonycteris spelaea* (Theodor 1963; Cuy 1980)

***Penicillidia acuminata*** Theodor\****Penicillidia dufourii tainani*** Karaman

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: Northern China, Japan, Taiwan, Philippines (Luzon) (Cuy 1980, 1981)

HOST RECORDS: *Rousettus amplexicaudatus* (Maa 1962; Cuy 1980)

***Penicillidia oligacantha*** Theodor

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: Philippines (Luzon, Tablas, Mindanao, Polillo) (Cuy 1980, 1981)

HOST RECORDS: *Miniopterus australis*, *M. schreibersii*, *Rousettus amplexicaudatus*, *Eonycteris spelaea* (Cuy 1980)

***Phthiridium brachyacantha*** (Theodor)\****Phthiridium mindanaense*** (Theodor)\***ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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**APPENDIX 1.** Summary of specimen vouchers of host bats collected from Mount Makiling and their respective museum catalog numbers. *Cynopterus brachyotis*: UPLBMNH-Z-NS-1174, 1175, 1178, 1182. *Ptenochirus jagori*: UPLBMNH-Z-NS-1203, 1208, 1214, 1225. *Rhinolophus arcuatus*: UPLBMNH-Z-NS-1243-1245, 1255. *Rousettus amplexicaudatus*: UPLBMNH-Z-NS 1237-1238.