

**PRELIMINARY INFERENCES ABOUT THE BIOGEOGRAPHIC
DISTRIBUTION OF FEATHER MITES ON THE RUFOUS-COLLARED
SPARROW (*Zonotrichia capensis*, PASSERELLIDAE)**

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The Rufous-collared sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* (Aves: Passerellidae) is a common bird found in open grassland with scrubs in South America. Currently only three of the seven species of feather mites recorded from this bird have been described. A total of 36 specimens of *Z. capensis* from the South (PR; RS) and Southeast (MG; SP) regions in Brazil were analyzed for their feather mites; some of the birds were captured with mist nets, whereas other samples were collected from dead birds or museum skins. From them, seven genera and 10 species of feather mites were recovered: *Trouessartia capensis* (Trouessartiidae); *Strelkoviacarus* sp.; *Analges* sp. 1; sp. 2 (Analgidae); *Xolalgoides* sp. (Xolalgidae); *Mesalgoides* sp. (Psoroptoididae); *Proctophyllodes* sp. 1; sp. 2 and *Amerodectes* sp. 1; sp. 2 (Proctophyllodidae). Only mite species recovered in at least three bird specimens from museum skins were considered in this study. Our results suggest a scattered pattern of distribution of feather mite species on *Z. capensis* populations. In Brazil the species *Amerodectes* sp. 2 and *Analges* sp. 2 were recorded only from samples of the South region (RS; PR), while *Proctophyllodes* sp. 2 and *Analges* sp. 1 were recorded only from the Southeast region (SP; MG), the other species were equally recorded from both regions. The most astonishing result is the absence of the species *Amerodectes zonotrichiae* and *Proctophyllodes polyxenus* in our analyzes, since both species were abundantly recorded on many specimens of *Z. capensis* from Chile in a previous study; conversely, in Chilean specimens the authors did not recover the downy feather mites (*e.g.* *Analges*, *Mesalgoides* and *Xolalgoides*) herein reported. Our results suggest a strong divergence in the feather mite composition between Chilean and Brazilian populations of *Z. capensis*, probably due to the Andes, that acts as a barrier, and a slightest divergence between the South and Southeast populations of *Z. capensis* in Brazil.

Keywords: biodiversity, plumicolous mites, ectocommensals, ectoparasites.

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