

SOME GENERIC GROUPS IN THE MALLOPHAGA FAMILY MENOPONIDÆ.

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The chief interest in the study of the Mallophaga lies in the problem of their distribution, which is beyond question fundamentally the problem of the relationships of their hosts. It has already been pointed out very clearly by Kellogg and Harrison

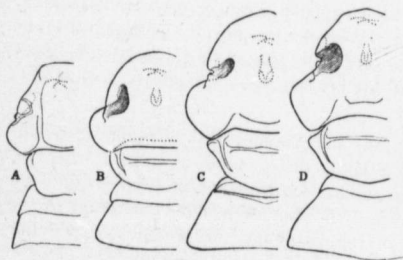


Fig. 10.—Outlines of one side of head of: A, *Dennyus distinctus*, n. s.p.; B, *Myrsidea diffusa* (Kell.); C, *Actornithophilus uniseriatus* (P); D, *Heleonomus miandrius* (Kell.).

that the solution of the first problem may legitimately be used as an aid in the solution of the second; that the student of these parasites may possibly be able to throw some light upon certain questions of the answers to which the ornithologists are at present in doubt.

However, before this happy end can be achieved, it is necessary that the classification of the Mallophaga themselves be placed upon a sound basis, something that, as it is becoming increasingly apparent, has not yet been accomplished. The generic groups that have in the past been recognized are entirely too broad adequately to express the needs of the situation. The old genera are for the most part really of family value, and many of them have quite recently been elevated to this rank; but the division of these unwieldy and complex groups into small and compact genera has as yet hardly begun, nor have the limits of many of the groups been accurately defined. It is toward this end that this paper is a slight contribution.

The two relatively very large genera, *Colpocephalum* and *Menopon*, with a few smaller genera, constitute the family *Menoponidæ*, a family that includes nearly one-fifth of all the known