



CHEWING LICE OF TERNS BREEDING ON TILIGULSKY LIMAN (ODESSA REGION)

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Terns are Charadriiform birds, which together with gulls, waders and ducks forming numerous colonies on the islands and spits of the Black Sea limans. The aim of our study was to investigate chewing lice of terns in the region.

In Tiligulsky liman four species of terns are breeding: common (*Sterna hirundo*), little (*S. albifrons*), gull-billed (*Gelohelidon nilotica*), sandwich (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*). We analyzed a collection of chewing lice, which was collected in 1989-1990 from birds of Tiligulsky liman and stored at the Zoology Department of ONU. In total we made about 50 slides, on which about 120 individuals of chewing lice were registered.

On one species of host 2-3 species of chewing lice can live. These insects are specialized to living in different types of feathers or skin of birds, and therefore they do not compete with each other. As a rule, chewing lice who live in the short feathers (eg, on the head) have a short and wide body, and the inhabitants of large feathers (eg, primaries or primaries covers) - long and narrow.

Below is the list of chewing lice, which were found during our study on terns:

Common tern *Sterna hirundo* L., 1758

Quadriceps sellatus (Burmeister, 1838)

Saemundssonina sterna L., 1758

Actornithophilus piceus piceus (Denny, 1842)

Little tern *Sterna albifrons* Pallas, 1764

Quadriceps nyctemerus (Burmeister, 1838)

Saemundssonina melanocephalus (Burmeister, 1838)

Actornithophilus piceus piceus (Denny, 1842)

Sandwich tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* (Latham, 1787)

Saemundssonina sterna L., 1758

Saemundssonina laticaudata (Rudow, 1869)

Gull-billed tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (Gmelin, 1789)

Saemundssonina gelochelidoni Touleshkov, 1959

Thus, for four species of terns, which breed in the lower part of the Tiligulsky liman, we found 8 species of chewing lice, which belong to 3 genera and 2 families. As it can be seen from the above list, most of chewing lice have high specificity to the host bird; only species *Actornithophilus piceus piceus* can live on several species of terns. We think, that this is due to the fact that this species actively moves over the skin of birds, so there is practically no risk of being deflated by air during flight. In this regard, it does not need to adapt to the structure of the particular type of bird feather.