

ECTOPARASITES OF POULTRY

AAAP Study Slide Set

Prepared by:

C. Gabriel Senties-Cué,
Manuela Crispo, and
H.L. Shivaprasad

Introduction.

Ectoparasitosis are very common in commercial and backyard poultry operations all over the world. Ectoparasites can result in a significant reduction of flocks' performance since they not only feed on birds, but also cause chronic stress, damage the skin and subcutaneous tissue and weaken the immune response against other diseases. In addition, they may be vectors of a variety of poultry pathogens. Severe infestations can even lead to the death of affected birds. Understanding the ecology of ectoparasites, including their life cycle, feeding behavior and interrelation with the poultry house and the environment, as well as their modes of transmission is crucial to establish proper control interventions. This slide study set provides information on the most common ectoparasites encountered in poultry, including, mites, lice, fleas, bedbugs, flies, gnats, mosquitos, and ticks.

Etiology.

The species associated with clinical disease and economic losses in poultry are included in two main classes (Arachnida and Insecta) and are listed in order of importance:

Mites.

Classification and General Information: Class Arachnida, Sub-class Acari, Order Parasitiformes, Sub-order Mesostigmata, Families: Dermanyssidae (*Dermanyssus gallinae*), Macronyssidae (*Ornithonyssus sylviarum*, *O. bursa*) Knemidokoptidae (*Knemidokoptes mutans*, *K. laevis gallinae*), Analgidae (*Megninia ginglymura*), Laminosioptidae (*Laminosioptes cysticola*), Rhinonyssidae (*Sternostoma tracheacolum*), Hypoderatidae (*Hypodectes propus*), Cytoditidae (*Cyodites nudus*), Trombiculidae (*Neoschongastia americana*, *Trombicula alfreddugesi*), and Epidermoptidae (*Epidermoptes bilobatus*).