



Ectoparasites—a diverse assemblage of organisms that range from herbivorous insects on plants, to

monogenean flatworms on fish, and feather lice on birds—are powerful models for the study of coevolution because they are easy to observe, mark, and count. As lice on birds and mammals are permanent parasites that spend their entire lifecycles on the bodies of their hosts, they are ideally suited to generating a synthetic overview of coevolution—and, thereby, offer an exciting framework for integrating the concepts of coadaptation and codiversification. In this book, three leading experts on host-parasite relationships combine experimental and comparative approaches to demonstrate how the stunning coadaptation that occurs between such species in microevolutionary or ecological time generates clear footprints in macroevolutionary or historical time.

**DALE H. CLAYTON** is professor of biology at the University of Utah. He is coeditor of *Host-Parasite Evolution: General Principles and Avian Models*, coauthor of *The Chewing Lice: World Checklist and Biological Overview*, and inventor of the Louse-Buster™. **SARAH E. BUSH** is an assistant professor of biology at the University of Utah. **KEVIN P. JOHNSON** is a principal research scientist with the Illinois Natural History Survey at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is coauthor of *The Chewing Lice: World Checklist and Biological Overview*.



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Cover illustration: Colorized SEMs of a sucking louse (*Linognathus setosus*) on the hair of an African springbok (*Antidorcas marsupialis*) (SEM by M. L. Turner, E. B. Green, and J. Wentzel), and a chewing louse (*Saemundsson lani*) on the feather of a grey-headed gull (*Larus cirrocephalus*) (SEM by M. L. Turner and F. C. Clarke).  
Cover design: Rich Hendel.

"Clayton, Bush, and Johnson's writing has a way of sneaking up on you, drawing you further and further into the fascinating world of lice, their unfortunate hosts (count us among The Chosen, of course), and evolution's hand on all participants, be they willing or unwilling. This may be a book intended for biologists, but I would call it a page-turner for just about anyone who—forgive the pun—itches to learn more about little creatures that make their living by sucking and chewing on bigger creatures. Let me just say this: I know for sure it's a treasure trove for at least one cartoonist."

— **GARY LARSON**, creator of *The Far Side*™

"A fascinating treatment of coevolution using the very interesting and apt model system of lice-host associations. The authors assemble and consider a great deal of research to achieve a broad synthesis—for instance, linking microevolution and macroevolution, taking a community ecology approach to host-parasite coevolution, and reflecting on geographic structure as part of the coevolutionary process. . . . Thorough, carefully documented, well-substantiated, and with flashes of humor, *Coevolution of Life on Hosts* will become a bible for students of lice-host interactions, but it should appeal to anybody with an interest in coevolution and has the potential to be a crossover work that stimulates thought and progress in many fields."

— **KELLEY J. TILMON**, editor of *Specialization, Speciation, and Radiation: The Evolutionary Biology of Herbivorous Insects*

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