The following description is from the third volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds':-

Adult male. General colour above velvety black, somewhat glossed with bronzy purple; mantle produced into an elevated shield, composed of velvety black plumes, glossed under certain lights with bronze; wingcoverts velvety black, rather more distinctly glossed with purple than the back; quills and tail-feathers deep black, glossed with steel-blue; lores and nasal plumes forming an elevated crest of purplish-black feathers; crown of head, nape, and hind neck spangled with metallic steel-coloured feathers, each of which has a subterminal bar of purple; sides of face, sides of neck, and entire throat deep coppery bronze; on the fore neck and breast a pectoral shield of bright metallic green plumes, most of which have a narrow edging of copper; remainder of under surface purplish black. Total length 9 inches, culmen 1.15, wing 4.55, tail 3.6.

Adult female. Above deep chocolate-brown, the feathers of the top and sides of the head blackish brown; over the eye a few white-spotted plumes; wing-coverts and quills blackish brown, externally reddish; tail brown, externally dull rufous brown; throat white, all the feathers being black tipped with white; rest of the under surface buffy white, inclining to rufous on the flanks and under tail-coverts, the whole under surface barred across with dull brown; under wing-coverts rufous, barred across with brown. Total length 8.8 inches, culmen 1.05, wing 5.1, tail 4, tarsus 1.3.

The principal figure is of the natural size, with a reduced male and female in the distance.