

RHIPIDORNIS GULIELMI TERTII ^{81.} (Meyer).

King of Holland's Bird of Paradise.

- Diphyllodes guillemi III.*, Musschenbr. in litt.—Meyer, Zool. Gart., Jan. 1875, p. 29.—Rosenb. t. c. p. 30.—Meyer, Nature, Jan. 14, 1875, p. 208.—id. P. Z. S. 1875, p. 31.—id. Mitth. Zool. Mus. Dresd. i. p. 3, pl. i. (1875).—Beccari, Ann. Mus. Gen. vii. p. 710 (1875).—Slater, Ibis, 1876, p. 249.—Gould, Birds New Guin. i. pl. 21 (1876).—Slater, Ibis, 1877, p. 493.—D'Hamonv. Bull. Soc. Zool. France, 1886, p. 510.
- Rhipidornis guillemi tertii*, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Gen. ix. p. 192 (1876).—Meyer, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1886, p. 297.—Salvad. Agg. Orn. Papuasie, pt. ii. p. 162 (1890).
- Rhipidornis respublica*, Sharpe (nec Bp.), Cat. B. Brit. Mus. iii. p. 173 (1877).—Eudes-Deslongch. Ann. Mus. d'Hist. Nat. Caen, i. p. 30 (1880).
- Rhipidornis guillemi III.*, Salvad. Orn. Pap. ii. p. 645 (1881).—Scl. P. Z. S. 1883, p. 252.—Meyer, P. Z. S. 1886, p. 297.
- Paradisaea guillemi III.*, Musschenbr. Dagboek, pp. 190, 223 (1883).—Rosenb. Mitth. orn. Ver. Wien, 1885, p. 31.

THE present species was first recognized as distinct by Mr. van Musschenbroek, a well-known officer of the Dutch East Indian Service, whose name has often been mentioned in connection with the natural history of the Malayan Archipelago. He appears to have been well aware that the species, when he first received it, was quite new to science, and he even sent a description of it to Baron von Rosenberg, naming it *Diphyllodes guillemi tertii*, after the King of Holland.

At the same time Van Musschenbroek forwarded the type specimens, with the name *D. guillemi tertii* attached to them, to Dr. Meyer, who was then, as now, deeply attached to the study of Papuan Ornithology, to the history of which he has himself furnished most important contributions. Dr. Meyer duly published a description of the species, using Van Musschenbroek's specific title, in the 'Zoologischer Garten' for January 1875, and on the succeeding page appears Van Musschenbroek's original description, contributed by his friend Von Rosenberg. The first description of the species, however, having been furnished by Dr. Meyer, must bear his name as author.

The type specimens remained for some time in the Dresden Museum, but their ultimate fate is plaintively narrated by Dr. Meyer, as follows:—"As it is of importance to know where type specimens are preserved, I add the history of those of *Rhipidornis guillemi tertii* described by myself. Having kept them in the Dresden Museum since the year 1875, I one day in the year 1877 received a telegram from Van Musschenbroek, who had returned home in 1876, telling me that he wished to show the birds to King William III. I sent the specimens to him, and never saw them again. They remained in the hands of the King, and we never succeeded in recovering these types for science, though supported by the late Prof. Schlegel, of Leyden; but after Van Musschenbroek's death, in the year 1883, the King of the Netherlands delivered the specimens to the Museum of the Zoological Society ('Natura Artis Magistra') of Amsterdam, where they probably will remain."

Very few specimens of this rare Bird of Paradise have as yet reached Europe. Besides the two original types, we know of one other, which was disposed of by Mr. Bouvier, of Paris, to the Warsaw Museum. Before being sent to Poland, this individual was figured by the late Mr. John Gould in his 'Birds of New Guinea.' A fourth specimen was afterwards received by Mr. Whitely, of Woolwich, and was exhibited at a Meeting of the Zoological Society of London by Dr. Slater on the 1st of May, 1883. This specimen was acquired by the British Museum. I have myself been shown two more specimens, both of which appear to have passed into the collection of the Hon. Walter Rothschild, who has also another perfect male.

This makes seven specimens known to me at present; of these all but one were flat skins of native manufacture, but about two years ago a perfect specimen was offered to the British Museum along with a complete example of *Epimachus ellioti* and other rare Papuan species. The price asked, however, was prohibitory, and I do not know what afterwards became of the specimen.

The home of the species was originally supposed to be the island of Waigiou, but the exact habitat will probably be found to be New Guinea. Dr. Beccari writes:—"It seems most improbable to me that *Diphyllodes guillemi tertii* should be found in Waigiou, because the type specimen (which I have seen) was, if I do not mistake, prepared in the manner of the 'alfuros' of New Guinea, and was acquired at Salawatti