

- b. Chin-angle not produced in front of the nasal aperture; hallux not exceeding the middle toe and claw, when measured as above; outer toe longer than the inner one; nares pervious; no ossified nasal septum; palatines with the postero-external angle produced; first primary shorter than the inner secondaries

PTILONORHYNCHIDÆ.

Fig. 5.

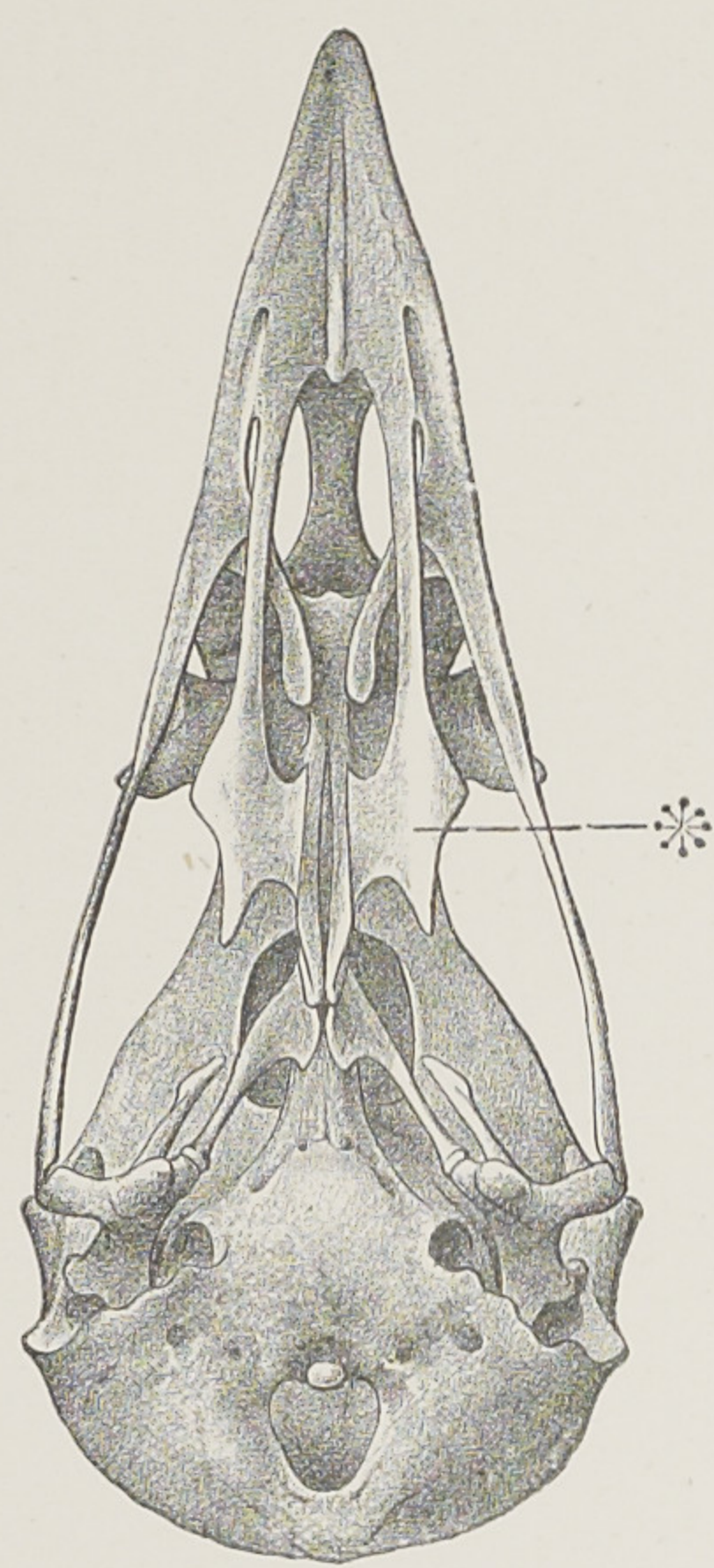


Fig. 6.

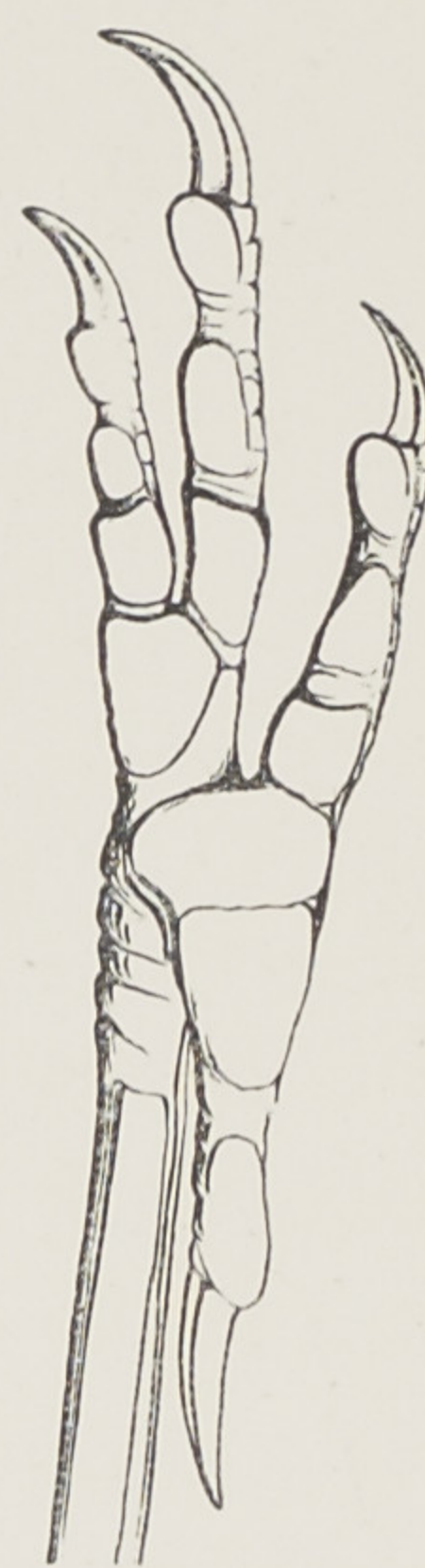


Fig. 5.—Ventral aspect of skull of *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus* (slightly enlarged).

Fig. 6.—Plantar surface of foot of *Alurædus crassirostris*, from dried specimen, to show the proportions of the toes.

[From specimens in the British Museum.]

The genus *Loria*, which I have placed among the *Ptilonorhynchidæ*, may yet turn out to be a true Bird of Paradise when its osteology is known; but specimens of the single species of the genus are so rare in collections that I have not been able to examine the skull!

All the members of the families *Paradiseidæ* and *Ptilonorhynchidæ* are remarkable for the strength of their feet, and the scutellation of the tarsus seemed at one time to offer a character for the differentiation of certain genera; but I have found this feature in the tarsus to break down utterly. To make sure of the worth of this character, I asked Mr. H. Grönvold, an expert friend, to examine the specimens in the British Museum, so as to check the correctness of my identifications. The result is that we found the tarsus scutellated in front in the genera *Ptilorhis* and *Drepananax*, plain in *Seleucides* and *Drepanornis*. *Epimachus meyeri* has a scutellated tarsus, while *E. speciosus* has a plain tarsus. After this we gave up the scutellation of the tarsus as a character of value in the *Paradiseidæ*!

The shape of the posterior extremities of the palatine bones, as seen in the ventral aspect of the skull, which varies in the families *Corvidæ*, *Paradiseidæ*, and *Ptilonorhynchidæ*, is apparently of some importance.

The following synopsis represents my present conclusions as to the classification of the Birds of Paradise and the Bower-Birds.