

ACANTHIZA EWINGII, *Gould.*

Ewing's Acanthiza.

Acanthiza Ewingii, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., August 13, 1844.

THIS species of *Acanthiza* is a native of Van Diemen's Land, and has been named after the Reverend Thomas James Ewing, a gentleman ardently attached to the study of Natural History, and a sincere friend to all who have the advantage of his acquaintance. That there were two nearly allied species of this genus inhabiting Van Diemen's Land was an opinion I had entertained before my visit to that country, and I have since ascertained that this opinion was a correct one, although I did not reside there long enough to ascertain what difference may exist in the habits and economy of the two birds.

The *Acanthiza Ewingii* is more elegant in all its proportions than its near ally, the *Acanthiza Diemenensis*, for although it is a smaller bird, its tarsi are longer and more slender. There is also a rich brown mark at the base of the primaries of *A. Ewingii*, which does not occur in any other known species; the markings of the breast also are more indistinct and clouded with blue-grey, while in *A. Diemenensis* this part of the plumage is lighter and more inclined to brown. I have never seen this little bird on the continent of Australia, and I believe that it never occurs there.

Crown of the head light brown; all the upper surface brownish olive; wings dark brown; primaries margined at the base with sandy buff; tail rich brown, crossed by a broad band of black near the tip; the lateral feathers tipped with white; throat speckled black and white; under surface pale olive; irides dark brown; bill and feet brown.

The Plate represents the two sexes of the natural size.