

INTRODUCTION.

Genus *MICRÆCA*, *Gould*.

Generic characters.

*Bill* shorter than the head, depressed, broad at the base; *gonys* straight; curving downwards and slightly notched at the tip; *nostrils* round, placed at the base of the bill, which is beset with strong bristles; *wings* lengthened and powerful, first primary short, the third the longest; *tail* rather short and nearly square; *tarsi* moderate and feeble; *toes* feeble, the external toe much longer than the internal one.

Three species of this genus inhabit Australia, to which country they are confined.

141. *Microeca macroptera* . . . . . Vol. II. Pl. 93.  
*Sylvia leucophæa*, Lath. Gen. Hist. vol. vii. p. 139.  
 142. *Microeca assimilis*, *Gould*.

*Microeca assimilis*, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part VIII. p. 172.

All the upper surface brown, primaries dark brown; tail brownish black; the tips and the terminal half of the external margins of the two outer feathers white; the three next on each side also tipped with white, the extent of the white becoming less upon each feather as they approach the centre of the tail; the four middle feathers without the white tip; throat, centre of the abdomen and under tail-coverts white, passing into pale brown on the sides of the chest and flanks; irides reddish brown; bill and feet blackish brown.

Total length,  $4\frac{5}{8}$  inches; *bill*,  $\frac{9}{16}$ ; *wings*,  $3\frac{3}{8}$ ; *tail*,  $2\frac{1}{8}$ ; *tarsi*,  $\frac{9}{16}$ .

Inhabits Western Australia; and is so nearly allied to the *Microeca macroptera*, from which it only differs in being much less in size and in having the base of the outer tail-feather brown, that I have not considered it necessary to figure it.

143. *Microeca flavigaster* . . . . . Vol. II. Pl. 94.

Genus *MONARCHA*, *Vig. & Horsf.*

Several species of this genus occur in the Indian Islands and two in Australia. They are insectivorous birds, and procure their food by quietly hopping about among the branches of the trees.

144. *Monarcha carinata* . . . . . Vol. II. Pl. 95.  
 145. *Monarcha trivirgata* . . . . . Vol. II. Pl. 96.

Genus *GERYGONE*, *Gould*.

Generic characters.

*Bill* shorter than the head, swollen, notched at the tip; commissure straight; *nostrils* basal, lateral, oval; *rietus* beset with two or three extremely fine and weak bristles; *wings* moderately long, first quill almost spurious, second long, third, fourth and fifth equal and longest; *tail* rather short and square; *tarsi* entire, slender, moderately long; *toes* extremely short and small, the lateral toes even, and united to the middle one nearly to the first joint; *claws* much curved.

The term *Psilopus* was originally proposed by me for this genus, but that name having been previously employed, *Gerygone* was substituted for it.

A group inhabiting every part of Australia, and probably New Guinea and Polynesia. Their chief food consists of insects of the most diminutive size, such as aphides, gnats and mosquitos. The more thickly-billed species may probably feed upon larger insects and their larvæ. They mostly frequent the thick umbrageous woods, where they dart about for insects under the canopy of the dense foliage, or sally forth into the open glade like true Flycatchers. Their nests are of a domed form, with the entrance near the top, some species protecting the opening by constructing a projection above it like the eaves of a house; the eggs are generally four in number, and spotted with red like those of the *Maluri* and *Pari*.