PITTA CYANEA, *Blyth.*

Blue Pitta.

Pitta gigas, Blyth, Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng., vol. xii. p. 961.
—— *cyanea*, Blyth, Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng., vol. xii. p. 1008.—Ib. Cat. of Birds in Mus. Asiat. Soc. Calcutta, p. 157.—Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. i. p. 213, *Pitta*, sp. 4. pl. lv.
Brachyurus cyaneus, Blyth, Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng., vol. xvi. p. 153.

Irrespective of their form, which is not very graceful, there certainly is not a more beautiful tribe of birds than the members of the genus *Pitta*, and the present species must always rank as one of the most lovely of the entire group, of which hitherto the Indian islands and the continent of Australia have been considered the native habitat; but we now know that the Indian continent is also tenanted by several of them. Mr. Blyth, who first described this bird in the "Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal," under the name of *P. cyanea*, states that it was received from Arracan. I am indebted to H. E. Strickland, Esq. for the loan of the fine example from which my figures are taken, and which, with two others in the Museum of the Honourable East India Company, are all that have come under my notice.

Crown of the head dull olive-brown, with a stripe of black down the centre; occiput bright red; upper surface fine blue; under surface pale blue washed with green on the breast, all the feathers marked with imperfect black bands, which become entire on the sides of the breast and flanks; lores and stripe from the eye to the nape black; throat light brown, with an oblique mark on either side of black, with a stripe of buffy white down the centre of each feather; bases of the primaries and tips of the under wing-coverts white; primaries slaty black; bill black; feet flesh-colour.

The figures are of the natural size; the plant in the background is the *Gastrochilus pulcherrimus*.