

IXULUS CASTANICEPS, *Moore*.

Chestnut-beaded *Ixulus*.

Ixulus castaniceps, Moore, in Proc. of Zool. Soc., part xxii. p. 141.—Horsf. and Moore, Cat. of Birds in Mus. East Ind. Comp., vol. i. p. 411.

THE following is Mr. Moore's description of a bird which was formerly in the Museum of the East India Company, but now forms part of the national collection. This individual, from which my figures were also taken, is the only one I have ever seen, and is probably the only specimen that has yet been collected.

Nothing whatever is known respecting the habits of this rare little bird, nor, although Mr. Moore has given Afghanistan as its habitat, is it quite certain of what part of India it is a native. Mr. Moore has recently informed me that he has reason to believe it is from the Khasia Hills.

“Colour, above dull brownish olive, the shafts of the dorsal and scapular feathers pale; crown dark chestnut, and subcrested; the frontal plumes short and scale-like, and having pale margins; the occiput paler chestnut; behind the eye whitish; ear-coverts chestnut; wings blackish, the secondaries and tertiaries with pale shafts; axillæ white; tail black, the three outer feathers graduated and tipped obliquely externally with white, the next white at the extreme tip only, and the rest entirely black; the whole under parts of a dirty ruddy-white colour; bill reddish brown; legs yellowish.

“Length $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches; of wing $2\frac{3}{10}$; tail $2\frac{1}{4}$, its outermost feather $\frac{5}{8}$ ths less; bill, to front $\frac{3}{10}$ ths, to gape $\frac{1}{2}$; and tarse $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch.

“Habitat Afghanistan.

“This species is at once distinguished by the white tips to the tail-feathers.”

The figures are of the natural size. The plant is the *Berberis concinna* of Dr. Hooker.