ACANTHIPARUS? JOUSCHISTOS.

Chestnut-breasted Tit.

Parus Jouschistos, Hodgs. Gray's Zool. Misc. (1844) p. 943.—Ib. in Ann. and Mag. of Nat. Hist., vol. xv. p. 326.—Gray, Cat. of Spec. and Draw. of Mamm. and Birds presented to Brit. Mus. by B. H. Hodgson, Esq., p. 72.—Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. i. p. 192, *Parus*, sp. 45.—Blyth, Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng., vol. xiii. p. 943.—Ib. Cat. of Birds in Mus. Asiat. Soc. Calcutta, p. 104.—Ib. in Jard. Cont. to Orn. 1852, p. 51.

Poecila jouchistos, Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., p. 230, *Poecila*, sp. 14.

Orites (?) *jouschistos*, Horsf. Cat. of Birds in Mus. East Ind. Comp., vol. i. p. 375.

The native country of this singularly coloured species of Tit is Nepaul, and most, if not all the specimens that have been sent to this country have been received through the medium of Mr. Hodgson, its first describer: would that this gentleman had recorded something respecting its habits and economy, as it may be supposed that they are somewhat peculiar, since, in structure and colour, it differs from most of its congeners; not greatly it is true, but still sufficiently so to render it very puzzling as to which group it may be properly assigned. Mr. Blyth, who has also had it under review, states, that "by its lengthened spread tail, it approximates the *Orites* division;" in the lengthened form of its bill, however, and in the mark on the forehead, it more nearly approximates to *Acanthiparus*, and in that genus I have, therefore, provisionally placed it.

Judging from the examples I have had opportunities of examining, there appears to be little or no difference in the colouring of the sexes. Specimens of this rare bird are contained in the collections at the British Museum and the East India House.

Forehead rusty-red, passing into pale rufous on the centre of the crown; lores, sides of the head, and nape black; back and wings grey, the latter inclining to brown; tail dark brown, the three outer feathers margined with greyish-white, the white being gradually less extensive on the second and third than on the first; cheeks and sides of the neck reddish-chestnut; chin black; throat silvery-grey; all the under surface chestnut-red; bill black; feet reddish flesh-colour.

The figures are of the natural size. The plant is the *Roydsia suaveolens*, Roxb.