ACANTHIPARUS NIVEOGULARIS, Gould.

White-throated Tit.

Parus niveogularis, Gould MS., Moore in Proc. of Zool. Soc., June 27, 1854.

I have searched in vain throughout the various ornithological works for the name and description of this species of Tit, two specimens of which are in my own collection, and which are said to have been procured in Northern India, but in what particular province I have not been able to ascertain; and I publish it thus early in the "Birds of Asia" with the twofold view of eliciting information respecting its history, and of making it known to science. It is remarkably different from every other member of the *Paridæ* I have seen, not only in its colouring, but also in its structure: in the tints of its plumage and in its long tail, it offers an alliance to the members of the genus *Mecistura*, but it differs from them remarkably in the much greater length of its wings, and in its longer and more spine-like bill; these differences in structure are doubtless accompanied by a corresponding variation in its habits and manners, with which, however, we are unfortunately not acquainted.

Although opposed to any unnecessary increase in the number of genera, I find I cannot with propriety associate this bird with any of the minor groups into which the Tits have been subdivided. I am therefore constrained to make it the type of a new genus, with the appellation of *Acanthiparus*, a term which has been suggested by the lengthened and pointed form of the bill.

Forehead, centre of the crown, chin, sides of the neck and chest white; lores and sides of the head black; hinder part of the crown and the nape brown; ear-coverts, which are very long, pale brown edged with a still lighter hue; upper surface brownish-grey; wings brown; primaries margined with silvery-grey; tail greyish-brown, the three outer feathers narrowly margined with white, the white being gradually less extensive on the second and third than on the first; under surface vinous-brown, separated from the white of the breast by a narrow crescentic band of a darker hue; bill black; feet reddish flesh-colour.

The figures are of the natural size. The plant is the Cornus capitata, Wall.