COCHOA PURPUREA, Hodgs.

Purple Cochoa.

Cochoa purpurea, Hodgs. in Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng., vol. v. p. 359; vol. xii. part 1. p. 450, with a plate.—Blyth, Cat. of Birds in Mus. Asiat. Soc. Calcutta, p. 195.—Gray, Cat. of Spec. and Draw. of Mamm. and Birds presented by B. H. Hodgson, Esq. to Brit. Mus., p. 96.—Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. i. p. 280, Cochoa, sp. 2.

Prosorinia (Cochoa) purpurea, Hodgs., Gray, Zool. Misc., p. 84, 577.

Prosorinia (Cochoa) Hodgsonii? Blyth in Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng., vol. xi. pt. 1. p. 182.

Although this species is still rarely seen in the cabinets of Europe, it appears, from the numerous examples that have come under my notice, to be much more common than the *Cochoa viridis*; like that species, it was first discovered by Mr. Hodgson in Nepaul; several examples were also contained in the collections made by Mr. Grace and Captain Boys; I have seen others from Bhotan and Sikim, and it is said to be common at Darjeeling; whereby we learn that it enjoys a tolerably wide range over the regions of Upper India.

The Cochoa purpurea is very nearly allied to, but is readily distinguished from, the C. viridis by the general hue of its plumage, which has obtained for it the specific appellation of purpurea; its habits, actions, places of resort, food, and mode of nidification, are so similar to those of the preceding species, that an account of the one is equally descriptive of the other.

The sexes of the *C. viridis* are stated by Mr. Hodgson to be alike, while in the present species a marked difference is observable, the female being brown where the male is purple.

"Male dark purple; cheeks black; crest, tail, and upper apert portion of the wings, soft grey-blue more or less purpurascent; lower part of the wings and tip of tail black, and both black internally; a white speculum on the wing, just below the false wing; bill and legs black; iris brown.

"Female brown where the male is purple; and the upper part of the wings also brown.

"Young rufous below with black bars; brown above with rufescent white drops; head blue as in maturity, but barred."

The Plate represents the two sexes of the natural size.