

TANYSIPTERA DANAE, Sharpe.

Crimson-and-brown Kingfisher.

Tanysiptera nympa juv., Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, iv. p. 4 (1879).

Tanysiptera danae, Sharpe, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. fifth series, vol. vi. p. 231 (1880).

I AM not surprised that my friend Mr. E. P. Ramsay, when he first received a specimen of this bird, took it to be the young of the beautiful *Tanysiptera nympa*; and had I seen but one example, I believe I should have done the same. In the collection, however, which was sent by Mr. Charles Hunstein to this country there were at least twenty specimens, and both old and young birds were represented in plenty, and Mr. Sharpe was no doubt right in considering it to be a new species.

The home of this beautiful bird is the interior of South-eastern New Guinea; and here it represents the *Tanysiptera nympa*, which inhabits the north-western portion of the island. It is somewhat allied to the last-named bird, having the under surface of the body crimson, as also the lower back and rump, characters which are also possessed by *T. nympa*. It differs, however, in having the head and back brown instead of black, and by the rufous-brown colour of the side face.

We owe the discovery of this species to the energy of a young German naturalist, Mr. Charles Hunstein, who has been collecting in South-eastern New Guinea, round East Cape, Milne Bay, and the adjacent parts, where he discovered likewise the wonderful new Kingfisher, named by Mr. Sharpe *Clytoceyx rex*, and figured in the present work.

We know nothing of the habits of this new *Tanysiptera*; but there is no reason to suppose that they would differ from those of its congeners. The measurements of the adult are as follows, according to Mr. Sharpe:—

Total length 10·5 inches, culmen 1·25, wing 3·45, tail 6·4, tarsus 0·6.

On the arrival of the specimens at the British Museum, Mr. Sharpe kindly showed them to me; and I was thus able to draw the accompanying Plate from the typical specimens. It represents two old birds and a young one, all being of about the natural size.

[R. B. S.]