

MICRODYNAMIS PARVA.

Dwarf Koel.

Eudynamis parva, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. vii. p. 986 (1875).

Microdynamis parva, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. xiii. p. 461 (1878).—Id. Orn. Papuasia e delle Molucche, i. p. 371 (1880).

Rhamphomantis rollesi, Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, viii. p. 24 (1884).—Salvad. Ibis, 1884, p. 354.

WE regret greatly that we have not been able to obtain a specimen of the adult male of this very interesting species of Cuckoo, but recognizing the importance of figuring in the present work as many peculiar Papuan genera as possible, we have deemed it better to figure the immature birds than to omit the species altogether.

The male has the head glossy black, and the general aspect of the bird, as well as the colour of its plumage, proclaims its relationship with the Koels or Black Cuckoos of the genus *Eudynamis*. Its short curved bill, however, distinguishes it from the typical Koels, while its small size is a striking peculiarity.

The history of *Microdynamis* is somewhat involved, for the original specimen was sent by Dr. Beccari, along with a number of others, from the island of Tidore in the Moluccas; but with the consignment were one or two New Guinea species, which led Count Salvadori to suspect that the type of *Microdynamis parva* might also have come from New Guinea rather than from Tidore. In this surmise we expect him to be correct, as there can be little doubt that the specimens figured in our Plate are of the same species as the bird described by Count Salvadori. There is no question also that they are the same as the *Rhamphomantis rollesi* described by Mr. Ramsay from Mount Astrolabe. Although closely allied to, and in appearance much resembling, *Rhamphomantis megarhynchus*, the latter has a differently formed bill, and belongs to another section of the family *Cuculidae*.

Mr. H. O. Forbes has procured two specimens in the Sogeri district of the Astrolabe Mountains, viz. a female (which we presume to be adult) and a young bird, of which the following are descriptions:—

Adult female. General colour above brown, glossed with greenish bronze, with indistinct traces of rufous margins to the feathers; wing-coverts like the back, but a little more rufous, with the rufous margins more pronounced; bastard-wing dusky brown, edged with rufous; primary-coverts and quills brown, edged with rufous and glossed with greenish bronze, especially on the secondaries; upper tail-coverts and tail-feathers brown, glossed with greenish bronze and edged with rufous, the outer feathers slightly freckled with rufous on the inner web; crown of head like the back, and spotted with rufous, with a band of glossy black across the nape; lores dusky; below the eye a streak of white from the base of the bill across the ear-coverts, which are otherwise like the crown; cheeks black, forming a broad band bordering the throat, which is tawny rufous; remainder of under surface of body ashy brown, washed with rufous, with faint indications of dusky cross bars; thighs dusky brown; under tail-coverts pale ashy, washed with rufous and faintly barred with dusky; under wing-coverts and axillaries pale rufous, the latter with indistinct dusky bars; quills below dusky, rufous on the inner edge: "bill blue-black; legs and feet lavender-blue; iris with a red ring" (*H. O. F.*). Total length 7.2 inches, culmen 0.65, wing 3.85, tail 3.4, tarsus 0.7.

The young bird differs in having scarcely any black on the nape or cheeks; the upper surface is more distinctly washed with rufous, especially on the head, which is also plainly barred with dusky; the wings are more rufous, and the mottlings on the inner webs of the tail-feathers are more marked; the throat is ashy, with faint dusky cross bars.

The type specimen, described by Count Salvadori, is probably an adult male, and has the whole of the head and hind neck black. Mr. Ramsay's description also agrees with this; but in his account of the female, which appears to be immature, there seem to be some misprints, as we cannot understand the description as it stands.

The figures in the Plate represent the female and young bird of the natural size; they are drawn from the specimens obtained by Mr. Forbes, and described above.

[R. B. S.]