

## MELIPOTES GYMNOPS, *Sclater*.

### Naked-faced Honey-eater.

*Melipotes gymnops*, Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1873, p. 695, fig. 3 & pl. 56.—A. B. Meyer, Sitzungsber. der k.-k. Akad. d. Wissenschaften zu Wien, lxx. 1874, p. 128.—T. Salvadori, Ann. del Mus. Civ. di Genova, vol. vii. 1875, p. 776.

---

THE discovery of the present species in the Arfak Mountains of New Guinea makes an important addition to the great group of Honey-eaters—a group almost peculiar to the Papuan Islands and Australia. The size of the bird under consideration is about that of *Melidectes torquatus*; but it differs in its shorter and more robust bill and in its much more naked face. The only remark made by Dr. Sclater is as follows:—

“This form of the Meliphagine family is very distinct on account of the denudation of the whole ocular region, which is fringed below by a narrow caruncle. D’Albertis’s notes do not give the colour of these naked parts; but they are probably orange or flesh-colour. The bill is short and rather stout; the nostrils are short and suboval, and situated in a shallow groove near the central feathers.”

The following description is taken from a specimen in Dr. Meyer’s collection:—Throat and chest blackish, becoming lighter on the flanks and abdomen, the light marks assuming the form of triangular spots; under tail-coverts pale buff; under tail-feathers brownish grey, the shafts, as in the other species of Honey-eaters, being whitish; bill black; feet bluish black; large naked space round the eye wavy, orange-yellow; crown of the head and back blackish brown, lighter on the rump; tail-feathers pale brown, edged with olive; wings, on the upper surface brown, margined as in the tail; under surface of the wings rich buff, passing into brown on the primaries.

Total length  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches, bill 1, wing  $4\frac{1}{4}$ , tail 5, tarsi  $1\frac{1}{3}$ .

*Hab.* Atam, apud montes Papuanos Arfak.

The two birds in the accompanying Plate are of the size of life, from specimens in Dr. Meyer’s collection.