

MELIDECTES EMILII, *Meyer.*

Count Turati's Honey-sucker.

Melidectes torquatus (nec Scl.), Sharpe, Journ. Linn. Soc. xvi. p. 438 (1883).

Melidectes emilii, Meyer, in Madarász's Zeitschr. für gesammte Ornithologie, iii. p. 22, Taf. iv. fig. 2 (1886).

THE first occurrence of this species in South-eastern New Guinea was recorded by us in 1883, when Mr. Goldie's collections from the Astrolabe Mountains reached England. We then compared specimens with the plate of *M. torquatus* from the Arfak Mountains, figured in the present work, and were unable to see any differences between them; but Dr. Meyer, who had examples before him from the Horseshoe range of the Astrolabe Mountains, compared them with others from North-western New Guinea, and described the southern bird as *M. emilii*, naming it after Count Emilio Turati of Milan.

We have no doubt that Dr. Meyer, having specimens from both the north-west and south-east of New Guinea, was able to form a more correct judgment than we were, and that he was perfectly right in separating *M. emilii* from *M. torquatus*, although the differences are very slight, consisting in the pale under surface and smaller white throat-spot in the southern bird. We have lately seen several specimens from the Astrolabe range, all of which bore out the characters assigned to *M. emilii* by Dr. Meyer, and we therefore fully believe in the distinctness of the species. Besides the specimens obtained by Mr. Goldie in the Morocco district, where it is called by the natives 'Ugirru,' it has been met with in the Horseshoe range by Mr. Hunstein, and by Mr. H. O. Forbes in the Sogeri district.

It is from specimens obtained in the last-named locality that the figures in the Plate have been drawn.

[R. B. S.]