# MONARCHA MELANONOTA, *Sclater.*

## Papuan Yellow Flycatcher.

*Monarcha chrysomela* auct., ex Novâ Guineâ.
*Arses chrysomela*, Gray, Handl. B. no. 4805 (1869, nec Garn.).

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Dr. Sclater has brought to my notice the fact that this species, usually called *M. chrysomela* by authors, is not the true *M. chrysomela* of Garnot, which is from New Ireland. It will be seen that the present bird, which is an inhabitant of New Guinea and Mysol, is distinguished by the greater extent of the black on the back, and by other characters mentioned by Dr. Meyer. I have not had a sufficient series for comparison; but I question whether *M. melanonota* can really be separated specifically from *M. aruensis* of Salvadori (Ann. Mus. Civic. Genova, vi. p. 309), and in the case of their identity the latter name will have precedence.

Nothing has been recorded concerning the habits of this species, which, by reason of its brilliant coloration, is one of the most beautiful of all Flycatchers.

I add a full description of the sexes of this species, which has been figured from some of Dr. Meyer's specimens. He procured it on the mainland of New Guinea, at Nappau, Passim, Andai, and Puta. I have a specimen in my collection obtained by Mr. Hoedt at Waigaama in Mysol.

*Adult male.* Back, from the nape to the rump, purplish black; entire head and nape, sides of neck, and hinder part of ear-coverts golden yellow, deepening to orange on the crown; a narrow frontal line, lores, fore part of ear-coverts, and entire throat glossy purplish black; under the eye a spot of white feathers; round the eye a ring of purplish black plumes, yellow where they adjoin the yellow of the ear-coverts; least and median series of wing-coverts yellow; primary-coverts and greater series black, the innermost of the latter yellow, some of the outer greater coverts also slightly tipped with yellow; quills purplish black, the innermost secondaries broadly edged with yellow; rump and upper tail-coverts bright yellow; tail black, with slight indications of a tiny yellow tip; under surface of body, from the fore neck downwards, brilliant yellow; thighs black; under wing-coverts yellow, the lower ones whiter; quills blackish below, white along the inner webs.

*Adult female.* General colour above olive-green, rather yellower on the head; wing-coverts and quills brown, externally edged with the same olive-green as the back; tail-feathers light brown, washed with olive-green on both webs; lores dull whitish, tipped with dusky; in front of the lower part of the eye a white spot; sides of face olive-green like the back; entire under surface of body yellow, more dingy on the throat, the chin somewhat dusky; under wing-coverts pale yellow; quills light brown below, edged with fulvous brown along the inner webs; "bill bluish, the tip black; feet lead-colour; iris dark" (*Wallace*).

The principal figures in the accompanying Plate are of life-size.