MONARCHA KORDENSIS, *Meyer.*

Mysore Yellow Flycatcher.

Monarcha kordensis, Meyer, Sitzungsberichte der k. Akad. Wissensch. Wien, Band lxix. p. 202 (1874).

In introducing this fine new bird to my readers, I cannot do better than quote Dr. Meyer's own words on the subject, as the differences between this bird and *M. melanonota* are very clearly expressed by him.

In the above-mentioned paper, published in the 'Proceedings' of the Vienna Academy, he writes as follows:—"I procured near the village of Kordo on the island of Mysore, in the north of Geelvink's Bay, eight specimens of a *Monarcha* which is closely related to *M. chrysomela* (i. e. *M. melanonota*, Scl.) of New Guinea, a species of which I also got nine specimens from different localities (Nappau, Passim, Andai, and Puta on the Arfak Mountains); but nevertheless the Kordo specimen is easily to be distinguished.

"*M. kordensis* is not yellow as is *M. chrysomela* auct., but is orange-coloured; and the head, which in *M. chrysomela* has an orange hue only, has a very distinct fiery tinge in the species from the neighbouring island. Further, only the upper back is black, and not the whole back, as in *M. chrysomela*; so that it might be described as follows—'upper parts orange, with a black patch on the uppper mantle.' Otherwise the colours are distributed as in *M. chrysomela*.

"The female of *M. kordensis* differs in a similar conspicuous way from the female of *M. chrysomela*, the underparts being orange, nearly as bright as in the male, and not brownish yellow as in *M. chrysomela*.

"The throat is whitish, the region of the throat deep orange; the head is darker orange, with a brownish hue, not olive-coloured as in *M. chrysomela*; upper parts olive-coloured with an orange gloss; wing-coverts with broad yellow tips. Total length 6·4 inches; culmen 0·5, wing 3·3, tail 2·75. A young male differs from the female only in having some feathers of the throat deep black."

But if *M. kordensis* differs from *M. melanonota*, as I freely confess it does, it is so closely allied to the true *M. chrysomela* from New Ireland that Dr. Cabanis and Reichenow considered the two species to be identical (*cf.* J. f. O. 1876, p. 320). Dr. Sclater, however, informs me that a comparison of the birds from these two localities induces him to consider them distinct, as *M. kordensis* has the black colour more circumscribed on the back and extending further down the throat; the black colour also narrowly surrounds the eye, which is not the case in *M. chrysomela*.

I an indebted to the kindness of my friend Dr. Meyer for the loan of one of the typical specimens of his *M. kordensis*, of which the following is a description:—

Adult male. Similar to *M. melanonota*, but distinguished at a glance by its more yellow back, the scapulars being yellow like the wing-coverts; the black patch in the middle of the back is confined to the mantle; the secondaries are much more broadly bordered with yellow, the latter colour being much richer and inclining to fiery orange on the head and neck; the white spot below the front of the eye very small.

Total length 5·9 inches; culmen 0·6, wing 2·9, tail 2·5, tarsus 0·75.

The figures in the Plate represent a pair of this species of the natural size.