## TODOPSIS WALLACII, Gray.

Wallace's Todopsis.

Todopsis wallacei, Gray, P. Z. S. 1861, pp. 429, 434, pl. xliii. fig. 2.—Finsch, Neu-Guinea, p. 168.—Meyer, Sitz. k. Akad. Wien, lxix. p. 81.

Tchitrea wallacei, Gray, Handl. B. i. p. 334, no. 5033.

This pretty little species is rather different in structure of bill from the other members of the genus. The bill is longer, rather more curved; and the bristles are longer and more numerous, reaching to the end of the bill. In colours also it is very distinct; but I do not feel disposed to found a new generic title at present on these characters.

There is, however, another point in connexion with this bird to which I must call attention; and this has reference to the small *Todopsis* which comes from the Aru Islands, and of which I have a single specimen in my collection. I have compared this with the typical examples from Mysol in the British Museum, and I notice that the Aru bird has a black streak under the eye and the spots on the head are in the form of rounded tips of blue to the feathers of the crown, quite different from the lanceolate tips which appear in the Mysol species. If the receipt of future specimens should confirm my impression that the Aru bird is distinct, I propose the name of *Todopsis coronata* for it.

Wallace's *Todopsis* differs from all the others in its small size, exceedingly delicate legs and toes, and the whitish colouring of the entire undersurface, and in having the tail tipped with white, which is only found in the females of the other members of the genus. Nothing has been recorded of the habits of this species, which is described as follows by the late Mr. George Robert Gray:—

"Top of the head black, with the tips of the feathers light blue, and the shaft bluish white; back rufous, wings and tail dark brown; wing-coverts tipped with white; round the eyes, lores, ear-coverts, and beneath the body white; quills narrowly margined with white; the tips of the outer tail-feathers also white.

"Total length 4 inches 7 lines, bill from gape 8 lines, wings 2 inches.

"The young bird is rufous-white on the throat; the bill is black tipped with yellowish white, differs from that of the typical *Todopsis* in being longer and somewhat curved and in having the bristles as long as the bill."

The three figures in the Plate are of the size of life, the one in the foreground representing the T. coronata from Aru, the centre bird being drawn from one of the typical specimens in the British Museum.