

DIPHYLLODES GULIELMI III., Meyer.

Waigiou Bird of Paradise.

Diphyllodes Gulielmi III., Meyer, P. Z. S. 1875, p. 31.

Paradisea (Diph.) Gulielmi III., Van Musschenbroek, Zool. Garten, 1875, p. 29.

Diphyllodes Gulielmi III. (v. Mussch. in lit.), Meyer, Mittheilungen a. d. kgl. zool. Mus. Dresden, 1875, pp. 4-8, pl. 1.

THE present bird was discovered, in 1874, in the mountains of eastern Waigiou; and a short description was sent by Mr. S. C. T. Van Musschenbroek, the Dutch resident at Ternate, who is well known for his exertions in the cause of science. The original communication was made through Baron von Rosenberg, who takes the opportunity of remarking that it is also most likely to be found on the island of Batanta, as in general respects the avifaunas of the two islands are identical. Of course there is the probability of the above suggestion ultimately turning out correct; but it is a bold suggestion for a traveller of Von Rosenberg's experience to have made. The same paper expresses his opinion that the splendid new *Paradisea Raggiana* is a manufactured species, a supposition equally untrustworthy! Dr. Meyer about the same time communicated a note on the species to the Zoological Society, which I reproduce, as it so well expresses the differences between it and its allies.

"Notwithstanding there are more points of resemblance between the new species and *Diphyllodes speciosa* and *D. respublica* than between it and *Cicinnurus regius*, some features immediately remind one of the latter, *e. g.* the red colour and structure of the glossy feathers of the upper parts, the webless tail-shafts, at least at the beginning, and chiefly the similar fan, formed by elongated, broad and metallic-green-edged feathers, on the sides of the breast, not quite but nearly of the same colour and size as in *Cicinnurus regius*. This fan has been hitherto known to exist only in the latter species, except as regards the homologous organization of the large *Epimachus speciosus*.

"*Diphyllodes Gulielmi III.* has nearly the same-shaped crest, inserted on the neck, as *Diphyllodes speciosa*; but the crest seems to be somewhat smaller, and the colour of it differs from that of the latter species, as well as all other colours of the upper surface of the two birds, whereas the form and colour of the bill appear to be very similar in the two species. The new bird shows nothing of the broad line of iridescent feathers extending down from the chin over the breast, and nothing of the light-brown feathers of the shoulders and of the neck occurring in *Diphyllodes speciosa*.

"*Diphyllodes Gulielmi III.* reminds one of *D. respublica* in the shape of the green velvet feathers of the breast, and especially in the shape of the two elongated tail-shafts, with the single difference that these are webbed in *Diphyllodes respublica* from the beginning, and that they do not project so far as in *Diphyllodes Gulielmi III.*; but the breadths of the webs agree. The colour of the web is between that of the button of *Cicinnurus regius*, which is more of a green, and that of the web of *Diphyllodes speciosa*, which is more of a blue.

"From this short comparison with the allied species, it follows that *Diphyllodes Gulielmi III.* is a new species with very characteristic features, not to be confounded for a moment with any other hitherto known. These characteristic features are chiefly the shape of the elongated tail-shafts, with their web, the reddish colours of nearly all the upper parts, the violet-coloured belly, and the fan-like tufts at the sides of the breast."

I here insert a description of the female, with which I have been kindly favoured by Dr. Meyer:—

Whole upperside olive-brown; chin, throat, breast, belly, abdomen and under wing-coverts light yellow with fine brown stripes; each feather has several such light and dark markings, the lines getting smaller towards the upper part of the body; upperside of the wings brownish, secondaries and tertiaries margined yellow on the outer webs; underside silver-grey, basal portions of the inner webs cream-coloured; upper part of shafts brown, lower part whitish, underside of tail changing into grey, outer web lighter, lower parts of shafts white, upper part brown.

I owe the opportunity of figuring the present bird to the kindness of M. A. Bouvier, who lent the male specimen in his possession to Mr. Sharpe to bring from Paris for the purpose of this work. The example is intended for the Warsaw Museum.

Two males are represented in the Plate, of the natural size.