

AULACORAMPHUS DERBIANUS.

The Earl of Derby's Groove-bill.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Aul. rostro castaneo, anticè in brunnescenti-nigrum transeunte, ad basin fasciâ angustâ flavescenti-albidâ cincto; rectricum intermediarum duarum apicibus castaneis.

General plumage green, slightly tinged with brown on the upper surface of the body, strongly with blue on the back of the head, the nape and cheeks, and fading into white on the chin; primaries blackish brown; two middle tail-feathers largely tipped with chestnut; basal portion of both mandibles and the apex of the upper chestnut-red, the remainder of the bill black, with the exception of a narrow line of white, bordering the sides of both mandibles at the base; orbits lead-colour; irides yellow; legs and feet lead-colour.

Total length, 15 inches; bill, $3\frac{3}{8}$; wing, 5; tail, 5; tarsi, $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Aulacorhynchus Derbyanus, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part III. p. 49.

Pteroglossus Derbyanus, Gould, Mon. of Ramph., pl. 32.—Ib. Sturm's Edit., pl. —Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 404, *Pteroglossus*, sp. 27.

Aulacoramphus Derbyanus, Bonap. Conspect. Gen. Av., p. 96, *Aulacoramphus*, sp. 5.

For the loan of the only examples of this fine species that have come under my notice, I am indebted to the kindness of the late Earl of Derby, whose valuable collection so often afforded me opportunity of examining rare and new species. In naming this new bird after His Lordship, I was desirous of paying a just tribute to one, who during a long life took the greatest interest in the promulgation of the natural sciences, particularly that of Ornithology, and of evincing my sense of the many favours he accorded to me.

In the former edition of this work I gave the Cordillerian Andes, in a wide sense, as the habitat of this species, but I have since ascertained that Dr. Poeppig of Leipsic found it in Peru, and Mr. Bridges in Bolivia, near the margins of the rapid mountain streams at Ronco, in the country of the Yuracuri Indians; consequently those countries are its true and native habitat. It is a very fine species, and possesses characters by which it may be readily distinguished from every other; it is most nearly allied to *A. sulcatus*, but is of a more robust form, has a stouter and less attenuated bill, the basal angle of which is not carried so far back as in that species, and has the two middle tail-feathers tipped with chestnut, a character never seen in *A. sulcatus*. The Messrs. Sturm inform us that Dr. Poeppig has given a full description of this bird in "Frorieps Notizen" (vol. xxxi. No. 21, or No. 681, Supplement), and that he there states its cry is loud and disagreeable; that it carries its tail erect with a bobbing motion, like that of the Wagtails, both while perched on the trees and when on the ground; that it lives in the woods, and is very rare. Messrs. Sturm add, that Dr. Poeppig had further informed them, that, like the *Pteroglossus Beauharnaisi*, it is a native of the Peruvian Andes, particularly the province of Huanuco, at an elevation of 8000 feet above the level of the sea; that, like its congeners, it deposits its eggs in hollow trees, and that they are of a shining whiteness, like those of the Kingfisher (*Alcedo Ispida*). We are further indebted to the Messrs. Sturm for a knowledge of the young bird, which differs considerably from the adult. The bill is shorter, the sulci but indistinctly and not deeply impressed, and the serratures entirely absent; the chestnut-red colouring of the bill is also more diffused, and is only observable on the middle of the culmen, being replaced by blackish brown on the tomia and under mandible; the line at the base of the mandibles is dirty white, instead of white, as in the adult; the colour of the plumage is similar, but lighter and less pure, especially the middle ones, which have also a chestnut-brown spot very near to, but not quite at, the tip.

The figures are of the natural size.

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