TAB. XX.

# MYOPHONUS HORSFIELDII.

*Myoph. cærulescenti-ater, fronte, humeris, marginibusque plumarum pectoris splendidè cæruleis.*

Statura *Myoph. cyanei*, Horsf.

Longitudo *corporis*, 10½ unc.; *alæ*, 6; *rostri*, 1⅜; *tarsi*, 1¾; *caudæ*, 5.

THIS very beautiful species of *Myophonus* is named in honour of that distinguished follower of science Dr. Horsfield. The genus in which it is entered was first characterized by M. Temminck: the propriety of separating it is now confirmed by the addition of the present and a third species figured in the succeeding Plate, *Myophonus Temminckii*. As regards the habits and mode of life of the birds of this group, little can be said with certainty, excepting that, from their lengthened tarsi and general structure, they may be considered as depending in a great measure for their subsistence upon the worms, insects and larvæ which inhabit the surface of the earth.

Although we have figured this bird as an inhabitant of the Himalayan mountains, yet, from having subsequently learned that it is met with in considerable abundance in the plains in their vicinity, we are not warranted in stating that those elevated regions are its exclusive habitat;—specimens, indeed, have been procured by collectors even so far south as Madras.

The general plumage of this species is black with reflections of metallic blue; a semilunar line of deep blue extends across the forehead from eye to eye; and the shoulders are resplendent with a still deeper tinge of the same lustrous hue; the head with the exception of the line of blue, the neck, and breast are jet black; but on the lower part of the breast and abdomen each feather is elegantly edged at its extremity with bright blue; the back, wings, and tail are black, reflecting a rich bloom of blue, which in some lights prevails over the sable ground colour; the beak and tarsi are black.

The figure is of the natural size.