

CAMPYLOPTERUS CUVIERI.

Cuvier's Sabre-wing.

Trochilus Cuvierii, De Latt. et Bourc. Rev. Zool. 1846, p. 310.

Polytmus Cuvieri, Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. i. p. 107, *Polytmus*, sp. 8.

Campylopterus cuvieri, Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., p. 71, *Campylopterus*, sp. 9.—Reichenb. Troch. enumer., p. 9. pl. dccciv. fig. 4871.

Aphantochroa Cuvieri, Bonap. Rev. et Mag. de Zool. 1854, p. 250.—Reichenb. Aufz. der Colibris, p. 17.

In naming this species of Humming Bird after the late Baron Cuvier, I am certain that MM. Bourcier and De Lattre felt assured that they could not add to the fame of that highly gifted and celebrated naturalist. France may indeed be proud of so great a man; and I must confess that I should have been much better pleased if some finer species of this fine family of birds had been selected for dedication to his memory; still, although it is one of the most plainly coloured species of the whole of the Trochilidæ, it plays a part in the economy of nature quite equal to that of the most glittering and gaily attired, and is none the less important or interesting because of its lesser degree of adornment.

All that we know respecting this species is, that it inhabits the northern parts of Columbia, the Caraccas, the Isthmus of Panama, and Veragua; and that the sexes and the young birds from the nest are all attired in a precisely similar style of plumage; in proof of which I may mention, that a little fledgeling I possess, taken from a nest near David in Veragua, is exactly of the same colour as a fully adult male. This latter specimen has the shaft of the first primary considerably dilated, showing clearly the group to which it belongs: its dull colouring and the large white tipping of its outer tail-feathers, too, are in unison with several others of the *Campylopteri*, such as *C. longipennis*, *C. obscurus*, &c. These modestly coloured species form a section which some Trochilidist may hereafter be induced to separate generically from the more gaily adorned *C. Delattrei*, *C. lazulus*, &c., but for the present I should prefer to retain them all in the same genus.

Crown of the head brownish green; all the upper surface and wing-coverts bronzy green; wings dark purplish brown; two centre tail-feathers greenish bronze, the remainder greenish bronze at the base, passing into greenish black, and tipped with white, the extent of the white increasing as the feathers recede from the centre ones; under surface dull bronzy green, each feather fringed with grey; centre of the abdomen washed with buff; under tail-coverts brown, broadly fringed with white; upper mandible dark brown; the under mandible appears to have been flesh-coloured; feet fleshy brown.

The figures are the size of life.