

CAMPYLOPTERUS PAMPA.

Wedge-tailed Sabre-wing.

Ornismya Pampa, Less. Supp. des Ois. mou., p. 127. pl. 15.—Ib. Rev. Zool. 1839, p. 18.

Polytmus pampa, Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. i. p. 107, *Polytmus*, sp. 7.

Campylopterus pampa, Less. Ind. Gen. et Syn. des Ois. du Genre *Trochilus*, p. vi.—Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., p. 71, *Campylopterus*, sp. 6.—Ib. Rev. et Mag. de Zool. 1854, p. 250.

Pampa campyloptera, Reichenb. Aufz. der Colibris, p. 11.

THE cuneate form of the tail of this species of *Campylopterus* renders it very remarkable, not only among the members of its own genus, but among the *Trochilidæ* in general, for there are but few besides the present bird which display this peculiarity. Were I to be influenced by the form of the tail alone, I might be induced to constitute it the type of a distinct genus; but, as I can discover no other character that would bear me out in so doing, I content myself, for the present at least, by retaining it in the genus to which it has hitherto been assigned. Dr. Reichenbach has indeed founded one under the name of *Pampa* for its reception, but I hesitate, for the reason just given, in adopting it.

The native country of the *Campylopterus Pampa* is Mexico and Central America; in the former of which countries specimens were procured by M. De Lattre. I have also received it, through Mr. Skinner, from Guatemala. In a brief notice of it by M. De Lattre, that gentleman states that it inhabits the densest forests during the whole of the year; that it is very wild and unsociable; that it is fond of singing; and were its song not monotonous it might be regarded as the Nightingale of the *Trochilidæ*. It is found in the environs of Taupetta, in Mexico.

The sexes, as far as I have seen, are nearly alike in colour, while in size a more than ordinary difference exists, the female being very much smaller than her mate; both have a blue-coloured crown, but the outer tail-feathers of the female are tipped with dirty white instead of being of a uniform colour.

The male has the head fine blue; all the upper surface and wing-coverts green; wings purplish brown; four central tail-feathers dark bronzy green; lateral tail-feathers dark bluish black, glossed with bronzy green at the base; ear-coverts brown; all the under surface dull greyish white, washed with buff on the throat; bill black; feet brown.

The female is similar in colour, but has the three outer tail-feathers tipped with buffy white.

The Plate represents the two sexes of the natural size. The plant is the *Neptunia plena*.