

nest is deep in proportion to its width—externally three inches and a half deep, internal depth a little under one inch and three quarters, width within one inch and two-tenths; mouth slightly contracted. Externally it is formed of fine fibrous grass woven together, and attached by one side, and bottom, to some thin upright twigs; internally it is thickly lined with a felt, formed of the pappus of some composite flower. When on the wing, the appearance of this bird is singular. Like others of the genus, it moves from place to place with a rapidity which may be compared to that of *Syrphus* among Diptera, and *Sphinx* among Moths; but whilst hovering over a flower, it flaps its wings with a very slow and powerful movement, totally different from that vibratory one, common to most of the species, which produces the humming noise. I never saw any other bird, where the force of its wings appeared (as in a butterfly) so powerful in proportion to the weight of its body. When hovering by a flower, its tail is constantly expanded and shut like a fan, the body being kept in a nearly vertical position. This action appears to steady and support the bird, between the slow movements of its wings. Although flying from flower to flower in search of food, its stomach generally contained abundant remains of insects, which I suspect are much more the object of its search than honey is. The note of this species, like that of nearly the whole family, is extremely shrill.”—*Darwin, Zoology of the Beagle*, part iii. *Birds*, p. 111.

“The *Troch. gigas* is found in all the central provinces of Chile; it is seen about Valparaiso during the spring and summer months, feeding on the flowers of *Pourretia coarctata* and *Lobelia polyphylla* in preference to others. It generally builds its nest near a little rivulet, frequently on a solitary twig or branch over the water; the nest is beautifully constructed, and is composed of moss and the down of a species of *Gnaphalium*. Eggs white; iris dark brown. Catches flies.”—*Bridges in Proc. Zool. Soc.* part vi. p. 114.

The forms to which we now proceed are mostly of large size, have straight lengthened bills, and are very gorgeously coloured. These straight and prolonged bills are in unison with the flora with which they are associated, particularly such deep tubular flowers as those of the genera *Brugmansia*, *Lepageria*, *Nematanthus*, *Tacsonia*, *Alstrœmeria*, *Dipladenia*, &c.

The first genus is that of *Docimastes*. Of this remarkable form, the single species known stands alone among Humming-Birds for the great length of its bill. Nature here appears to have carried the development of this organ to its maximum; and how wonderfully is it adapted for exploring the lengthened tubular flowers from which the bird obtains its insect food!

Genus DOCIMASTES, *Gould*.

(Δοκιμάζω, exploro.)

Generic characters.

Male.—Bill of extraordinary length, exceeding that of the head and body, and inclining upwards; wings long and pointed; tail moderately long and forked; tarsi short and partially clothed; feet small; hind toe shorter than the middle toe; face and gorget dull; sides of the chest luminous.

Female.—Unadorned.

258. DOCIMASTES ENSIFERUS Vol. IV. Pl. 233.

Docimastes Derbyanus, Licht. in Mus. Berlin.

——— *ensifera*, Cab. et Hein. Mus. Hein. Theil iii. p. 77.

Habitat. Columbia and Ecuador.

Specimens from the neighbourhood of Bogota differ from those received from Quito in being of much smaller size; but I consider these as mere races of one and the same species, for I can see no characters on which a specific distinction could be founded.

The next species is interesting for its great size, the elegance of its proportions, and the beauty and harmony of its colours. This new and extraordinary bird I have named *Eugenia Imperatrix* in honour of the Empress of the French.

Genus EUGENIA, *Gould*.

(*Eugenia*, nom. propr.)

Generic characters.

Male.—Bill straight or slightly inclining upwards, longer than the head; wings long; primaries rigid; tail long