

235. *KLAIS GUIMETI* Vol. IV. Pl. 210.

Basilinna Guimeti, Reichenb. Troch. Enum. p. 12; Cab. et Hein. Mus. Hein. Theil iii. p. 45.

Myiabella guimeti, Sclat. in Proc. Zool. Soc., part xxv. p. 17.

Mellisuga Merrittii, Lawr. Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. in New York, vol. vii. April 9, 1860.

Habitat. Venezuela and the Andes of New Granada.

"In the district of El Mineral" in New Granada, says Dr. Merritt, "there has been a slight attempt at cultivation of the soil and planting of fruit-trees. The Orange, the Guama, and Guayava trees are the most numerous, particularly the last-named, which is very prolific, bearing nearly throughout the year fruit in all its stages from the blossom to maturity. Consequently the Guayava tree is the favourite resort of the Humming-Bird. I often watched these little creatures feeding and quarrelling around a tree near the door of my palm-leaf hut; and soon my attention was attracted to one much smaller than the rest, whose pugnacity and indomitable 'pluck' greatly amused me. Upon closer examination of this diminutive feathered warrior my interest increased, as I soon became convinced that it was new to me. I frequently afterwards saw numerous specimens of it, and almost invariably encountered them feeding from the blossoms of the Guayava, and I therefore conclude they are quite local in their habitat."

Genus *MYIABEILLIA*, *Bonap.*

This is a very distinct generic form. Like that of *Klais*, it contains but a single species, a delicately-formed bird inhabiting Mexico and Guatemala. The male is decorated with a brilliant green gorget, a feature which is entirely absent in the female.

236. *MYIABEILLIA TYPICA* Vol. IV. Pl. 211.

Baucis Abeillei, Reichenb. Aufz. der Col. p. 13.

Abeillia typica, Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av. tom. i. p. 79, *Ramphomicron*, sp. 4.

Basilinna Abeillii, Reichenb. Troch. Enum. p. 11.

Baucis Abeillei, Cab. et Hein. Mus. Hein. Theil iii. p. 72.

Habitat. Mexico and Guatemala.

"Volcan de Fuego and Coban. The barrancos of the volcano are the only localities I am aware of, near Dueñas, where this species is found. Here, however, it is a common bird. It is usually to be seen feeding about upon the brushwood, seeking the flowers, &c. It is a restless species, but shows little symptoms of fear. My skins from the volcano are one female and three males. The proportions at Coban are very different. Here it is common, being found in all the mountain-hollows feeding among the *Salvia*. The ratio of the sexes is as twenty males to one female."—*Salvin* in *Ibis*, vol. ii. p. 262.

I must now direct the notice of my readers to some of the most chaste and elegant species yet discovered of this or any other family of birds—namely, the members of the genera *Heliactin*, *Heliotrix*, *Schistes*, and *Petasophora*.

Genus *HELIACTIN*, *Boiè.*

The single species of this genus stands alone for the resplendent and richly coloured tufts of feathers which spring from above and behind the eye.

237. *HELIACTIN CORNUTA* Vol. IV. Pl. 212.

Heliactinus cornutus, Burm. Th. Bras. tom. ii. p. 356.

Trochilus bilobus, Licht. in Mus. of Berlin.

Heliactin cornuta, Cab. et Hein. Mus. Hein. Theil iii. p. 64.

Habitat. Brazil, particularly the district of Minas Geraes.

The female of this species, like that sex in the genus *Heliotrix*, has a longer and more ample tail than her mate,—in which respect the form offers an affinity to the members of the succeeding genus.

Genus *HELIOTRIX*, *Boiè.*

This, like the last, is a very well-marked form, of which two species are natives of Central America and New Granada, one of the regions of the upper Rio Negro, and two of the rich country of Brazil. They are all distinguished by being decorated with beautiful blue tufts on the sides of the neck, relieved by glittering green cheeks and snowy breasts. In addition to this fine display of colours, two of them have rich blue crowns; there is