

It will have been observed that each of the foregoing groups is characterized by certain peculiarities, and that one feature is more prominent than the others in each of the different forms: in some the back, and back only, is lit up with luminous colours; in others the throat is the only part thus adorned; in another (the *Pterophanes*) the wings alone are lustrous. The group which stands next on my list of genera and species have their share of ornament disposed on their broad and ample tails: in nearly every species this organ is illumined with brilliantly shining colours—some blue, others purple, and others, again, bronze; in some these glittering hues appear on both the upper and under surface, while in others it is either confined to or is most brilliant on the latter. These colours, I am sure, the bird has the power of displaying to the greatest advantage, in order to render himself as attractive as may be when desirous of pleasing the female, perhaps, like the Peacock, for the purpose of his own vainglory. These varied beauties serve to increase our admiration of Nature's works; at least such is the feeling they create in my own breast.

Genus METALLURA, Gould.

(Μέταλλον, metallum, et οὐρά, cauda.)

Generic characters.

Male.—Bill straight and of moderate length; wings moderate; tail rather large and rounded; tarsi bare; feet rather large; hind toe and nail as long or longer than the middle toe and nail; throat and under surface of the tail luminous, like shining metal.

Female.—Much less brilliant than the male, and in most of the species destitute of the luminous throat-mark.

All the members of this genus are tenants of the Andes, and by far the greater portion of them of Bolivia and Peru; one species, however (the *M. tyrianthina*), ranges over the whole of the temperate portions of New Granada. I now proceed to arrange the species according to their affinities, commencing with the largest and most gorgeously coloured.

215. METALLURA CUPREICAUDA, Gould Vol. III. Pl. 191.
Trochilus (Lampornis) opaca, "Licht." Tschudi, Consp. pp. 38, 210; Id. Faun. Peru. p. 248, 13.
Metallura opaca, Cab. et Hein. Mus. Hein. Theil iii. p. 69.
Habitat. Bolivia.
216. METALLURA AENEICAUDA, Gould Vol. III. Pl. 192.
Urolampira aeneicauda, Cab. et Hein. Mus. Hein. Theil iii. p. 68.
Habitat. Bolivia.
217. METALLURA WILLIAMI Vol. III. Pl. 193.
Urolampira Williami, Cab. et Hein. Mus. Hein. Theil iii. p. 68, note.
Habitat. Popayan.
218. METALLURA PRIMOLII, Bonap. Vol. III. Pl. 194.
Habitat. Peru.
219. METALLURA TYRIANTHINA Vol. III. Pl. 195.
Urolampira tyrianthina, Cab. et Hein. Mus. Hein. Theil iii. p. 68.
Habitat. New Granada.

In my account of *Metallura tyrianthina*, I have given that bird a very wide range of habitat, extending from the Gulf of Darien to Ecuador; but having since had ample opportunities for examining numerous specimens from every locality, I find that the birds from Ecuador are so much larger than those from Bogota that I cannot do otherwise than regard them as distinct. In examples from the two localities mentioned, there is a difference of more than half an inch in the length of their wings, and fully an eighth in the length of their bills; I observe also that the small birds from Bogota are much more richly coloured than the larger ones from Ecuador; the throat is of a more beautiful green, the abdomen much darker, and the reddish-purple of the tail more resplendent; believing the Ecuadorian bird to be distinct, I have no alternative but to give it a name, and I therefore propose for it that of *Quitensis*:—

220. METALLURA QUITENSIS, Gould.
Habitat. Ecuador.