

Genus STERNOCLYTA, *Gould*.

(Στέρνον, pectus, et κλυτός, insignis.)

Generic characters.

Male.—*Bill* unusually large, rather arched, and much longer than the head; *wings* ample; *tail* moderate and rounded; *tarsi* partly clothed; *feet* moderate; *throat* and *breast* luminous.

Female.—Unadorned.

Three outer tail-feathers tipped with white in both sexes.

67. STERNOCLYTA CYANEIPECTUS, *Gould* Vol. II. Pl. 58.
Polytmus cyanopectus, Gray & Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. i. p. 108. *Polytmus*, sp. 22.
Sternoclyta cyanipectus, Cab. et Hein. Mus. Hein. Theil iii. p. 13, note.
Habitat. The province of La Guayra in Venezuela.

We now proceed to the genera *Delattria*, *Cœligena*, *Lamprolema*, *Eugenes*, and their allies, all of which are peculiar to Central America; at least, so far as is yet known, none of them have been found to the southward of the Isthmus; even Veragua, so far as we are aware, is not tenanted by any one of them.

It may be considered by some ornithologists that here the subdivision of genera has been carried too far; but having once broken ground, and separated the old genus *Trochilus*, it would be inconsistent to place together in one genus all the members of this Central American group of Humming-Birds; for while a certain degree of unity pervades them, no generic character could be found which could be applicable to the whole. This instance will serve most efficiently to illustrate the great diversity of closely allied forms which occur in the great family of Humming-Birds. We frequently find groups, like the present, so diversified that nearly every species demands a generic title, while in such genera as *Thalurania*, *Petasophora*, and *Aglæactis*, the species, though as distinct as they well can be, possess characters common to all.

I commence with the

Genus EUGENES, *Gould*.

(Εὐγενής, nobilis.)

Generic characters.

Male.—*Bill* straight, longer than the head; *wings* long and pointed; *tail* moderate and very slightly forked; *tarsi* clothed; *feet* rather small; *hind toe* about equal in length to the middle one; *crown* and *throat* luminous.

Female.—Unadorned.

Of this form only one species is known; it is a native of Guatemala and Southern Mexico, and is distinguished from its allies by the gorgeous colouring of its crown and breast. It is in the possession of a luminous crown, and other characters, that this bird differs from that immediately following.

68. EUGENES FULGENS Vol. II. Pl. 59.
Coeligena fulgens, Reichenb. Troch. Enum. p. 3, pl. 686. figs. 4513-14.
Eugenes fulgens, Cab. et Hein. Mus. Hein. Theil iii. p. 20.
Trochilus melanogaster, Licht. in Mus. Berlin.
 ——— *Rivoli*, Swains. Birds of Brazil, pl. 76.
Habitat. Mexico and Guatemala.

"This species," says Mr. Salvin, "is rare at Coban. The western boundary of the Llaño of Dueñas is the spot where I have found it in the greatest numbers; indeed, with two exceptions, I have never met with it elsewhere. It is a most pugnacious bird. Many a time have I thought to secure a fine male, which I had perhaps been following from tree to tree, and had at last seen quietly perched on a leafless twig, when my deadly intention has been anticipated by one less so in fact, but to all appearance equally so in will. Another Humming-Bird rushes in, knocks the one I covet off his perch, and the two go, fighting and screaming, away at a pace hardly to be followed by the eye. Another time this flying fight is sustained in mid air, the belligerents mounting higher and higher till the one worsted in battle darts away, seeking shelter, followed by the victor, who never relinquishes the pursuit till the vanquished, by doubling and hiding, succeeds in making his escape. These fierce raids are not waged alone