

PTEROGLOSSUS ULOCOMUS.

Curl-crested Araçari.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Pter. rostro elongato, mandibulis albo serratis, ad basin fasciâ angustâ castaneâ circumdatis; superioris culmine aurantiaco lineâ sordidè cœruleâ utrinque marginato, lateribus aurantiorubris; inferiore stramineâ, in aurantiacum ad apicem vergente; naribus lineâ albâ cinctis: plumis capitis, genarum, nuclæque foliiferis, illius crispis nigris, harum spatulatis, genarum stramineis nigro apiculatis; cervice, dorso, pectorisque lateribus coccineis; alis, caudâ, femoribusque olivaceis; remigibus brunneis; gulâ, pectore, abdominis medio crissoque flavescentibus, pectoris plumis coccineo marginatis.

Beak lengthened, both mandibles edged with thickly set white serratures; the upper has the culmen orange, bordered by a narrow longitudinal stripe of dull blue extending nearly to the tip, below which the sides of the mandible are fine orange red; a white line surrounds the apertures of the nostrils; the under mandible is straw-coloured, becoming orange at the tip; a narrow band of rich chestnut encircles both mandibles at their base; crown of the head covered with a crest of curled metal-like feathers, without barbs, of an intense black and very glossy; as they approach the occiput these appendages gradually lose their curled character and become straight, narrow and spatulate. The feathers of the cheeks have the latter form, but are more decidedly spatulate; their colour is yellowish white, each having its extremity tipped with black; occiput and upper tail-coverts deep blood red; chest delicate yellow, with slight crescent-shaped bars of red; sides yellow richly stained with red; back, tail and thighs olive green; quills brown; tarsi lead colour. Total length, 18 inches; bill, 4; wings, $5\frac{3}{4}$; tail, $7\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, $2\frac{1}{4}$.

Pteroglossus ulocomus. Gould, Proceedings of the Zool. Soc., Part 1. p. 38.

ABUNDANT as are the treasures which science has received from the Brazils, the valuable addition of this beautiful bird to our ornithological stores, further illustrates the riches of that luxuriant portion of tropical America, and also confirms the opinion long entertained, that there are yet many rarities to be discovered in its extensive forests. Although our collections already abound with the productions of districts adjacent to cities and of easy access, such is not the case as it regards the almost unexplored districts of the interior, whence we only occasionally derive specimens, proving how much we are yet ignorant of, and how much remains for future discovery.

Interested as I have always been with this singular family, it was with no small degree of pleasure that I hailed the arrival of so fine a species, particularly as it offers to our observance in the covering of its head a feature entirely new among the *Pteroglossi*. I regret that it is beyond the efforts of our pencil to do strict justice to the rich appearance of these glossy and curiously curled appendages, which in substance can only be compared to the metal-like feathers found in some species of the *Gallinae*,—the extreme ends of the neck- and wing-feathers of the *Gallus Sonnerati*, Temm., for instance. This structure appears to consist in a dilatation of the shaft of each feather, or perhaps an agglutination of the web into one mass.

Two examples of this species formed part of a collection of rare birds brought to this country from Rio de Janeiro. Of these I was so fortunate as to obtain the finest, which is in all probability a male: it is now in the Museum of the Zoological Society of London. The other, which is considered a female, is preserved in the British Museum.

The habitat of this species is probably in the almost untrodden forests which border the river Amazon, as, since the arrival of the pair alluded to, I have seen a third, having a label attached intimating that it was received from Para.