



RAMPHASTOS CULMINATUS.

Culminated Toucan.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Ramph. rostro nigro, culmine fasciâque basali stramineis : ater ; gulâ pectoreque albis ; fasciâ angustâ pectorali tectricibusque caudæ inferioribus coccineis ; uropygii plumis sulphureis in aurantium ad apices transeuntibus.

Beak black, with a broad line of pale straw yellow along the whole length of the culmen, from which a basal belt of the same colour encircles both mandibles; throat and chest white bounded by a narrow pectoral band of crimson, which is also the colour of the under tail-coverts; feathers of the uropygium brimstone yellow, passing off into fiery orange at their tips; remainder of the plumage black.

Total length, from 18 to 20 inches; *bill*, 4 to 5, breadth, scarcely 1; *wing*, $8\frac{1}{4}$ to 9; *tail*, $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 7; *tarsus*, 2.

Ramphastos culminatus. Gould, Proceedings of the Zool. Soc., Part I. p. 70.

It is now several years since I first received this fine species, which I had always been led to confound with the *Ramphastos Cuvieri* of Wagler. A more minute examination of its characters, however, has convinced me that the present bird is essentially different, particularly in the formation of its mandibles, having them invariably shorter and more incurved, with the upper one compressed laterally so as to present a narrow culmen bounded by a furrow on each side running its whole length; a character very different to that of *R. Cuvieri*, the upper mandible of which is regularly swollen on its sides, of great length, and gradually drawn out to a point. With the exception of the bird just referred to, it is impossible to confound the present with any other known species.

The *Ramphastos culminatus* is a rare bird in the collections of Europe: a fine example graces the museum of Lord Stanley; another—in all probability a female, the stature being inferior, and the characters alluded to less prominent—is in the museum of the Zoological Society of London.

The species was received from Mexico, to which country and the Spanish Main its habitat is in all probability restricted.