

## NOTE VIII.

## POECILODRYAS CINEREA.

On a new species of *Poecilodryas*.

By R. Bowdler Sharpe, F. L. S. etc.

The genus *Poecilodryas* was founded by Gould in 1865 (Handbook to the Birds of Australia, vol. I, p. 287), for the reception of the *Petroeca cerviniventris*, which he had described in 1857 from North-Western Australia. He also placed in the new genus, *P. superciliosa* (Gould, P. Z. S. 1846, p. 106), and that these two birds are rightly separated from the genus *Petroeca*, no one who has compared the two forms will reasonably doubt. This is not the case with Mr. Gould's genus *Amaurodryas*, which, in my opinion, cannot be separated from *Petroeca*.

When the first collection of Signor D'albertis came from the Arfak Mountains and was described by Dr. Sclater in 1873, the latter gentleman brought forward a new genus *Leucophantes*, with a new species, *L. brachyurus*; but on comparing this species, of which there are examples in the Leyden Museum, with *Poecilodryas* as represented by the Australian species, it will be seen that they are generically inseparable, and that *Leucophantes* is synonymous with *Poecilodryas*. Lastly I consider that the fine species, *Megalestes albinotatus*, described in 1875 by Count Salvadori (Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. VII, p. 769) is a true *Poecilodryas* also, and I believe that the following will be a correct list of the members of this genus, as at present known.

Notes from the Leyden Museum.



1. *Poecilodryas cerviniventris* (Gould).
2. » *superciliosa* (Gould).
3. » *cinerea*, sp. n.
4. » *brachyura* (Sclater).
5. » *hypoleuca* (Gray).
6. » *bimaculata* (Salvad.).
7. » *albinotata* (Salvad.).
8. » *leucops* (Salvad.).
9. » *capito* (Gould).
10. » *nana* (Ramsay).
11. » *papuana* (Meyer).

The new species which I propose to describe is the above-mentioned

*Poecilodryas cinerea.*

*P. similis P. brachyura* sed maculâ mentali nigra nullâ et caudâ basali albâ distinguenda.

*Adult female.* General colour above bluish grey, a little duller on the head: wings browner than the back, the least wing-coverts alone grey like the latter, the secondaries with a small brown spot at the tip: upper tail-coverts black: the two central tail-feathers black, the remainder white for the basal half, black for the remainder: a line across the base of the forehead, lores and feathers round the eye dusky blackish, the ear-coverts also washed with dusky: cheeks and under surface of body white, washed with grey on the sides of the breast and flanks: under wing-coverts blackish, with a white spot near the edge of the wing: quills dusky blackish below, with a considerable amount of white near the base of some of the quills. Total length 5.6 inches, culmen 0.65, wing 3.35, tail 2.4, tarsus 0.8.

*Hab.* Noisaroe, Arfak Mountains, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> 1876. (*coll. Bruijn*).

Typus in Mus. Lugd.

Leyden Museum Nov. 6, 1878.

R. B. S.



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