

MEROPS SUPERBUS.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Rostrum curvatum, compressum, carinatum.

Lingua apice laciniata.

Pedes gressorii.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 182.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MEROPS RUBER, fronte, gula, uropygioque
cæruleis, rectricibus duabus intermediis lon-
gioribus.

Quamquam Meropi Brasiliensi Lathamii affinis admo-
dum fit hæc avis, adeo tamen coloribus discrepat, ut
pro distincta specie jure habeatur. Illam igitur diverso
nomine signavi. In Museo Britannico asservatur pul-
chrum specimen unde delineata est hæc nostra figura.



THE
SUPERB BEE-EATER.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill curved, compressed, carinated, and sharp pointed.

Tongue (generally) lacinated at the tip.

Feet gressorial, *i. e.* three toes forward and one backward; and the three lower joints of the middle toe closely joined to those of the outmost.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

RED BEE-EATER, with front, throat, and rump, blue; and the two middle tail-feathers longer than the rest.

The colours of this bird differ so much from those of the *Merops Brasiliensis* of Mr. Latham, to which it is yet extremely nearly allied, as to justify its being regarded as a distinct species. I have therefore called it by a different title. The beautiful specimen from which the present figure was taken is preserved in the British Museum.



Shaw, George. 1791. "The Superb Bee-Eater, *Merops superbus* [Pl. 78]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 3(XXVI), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.304498>.

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