MEROPS SUPERBUS.

CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Rostrum curvatum, compressum, carinatum.

Lingua apice laciniata.

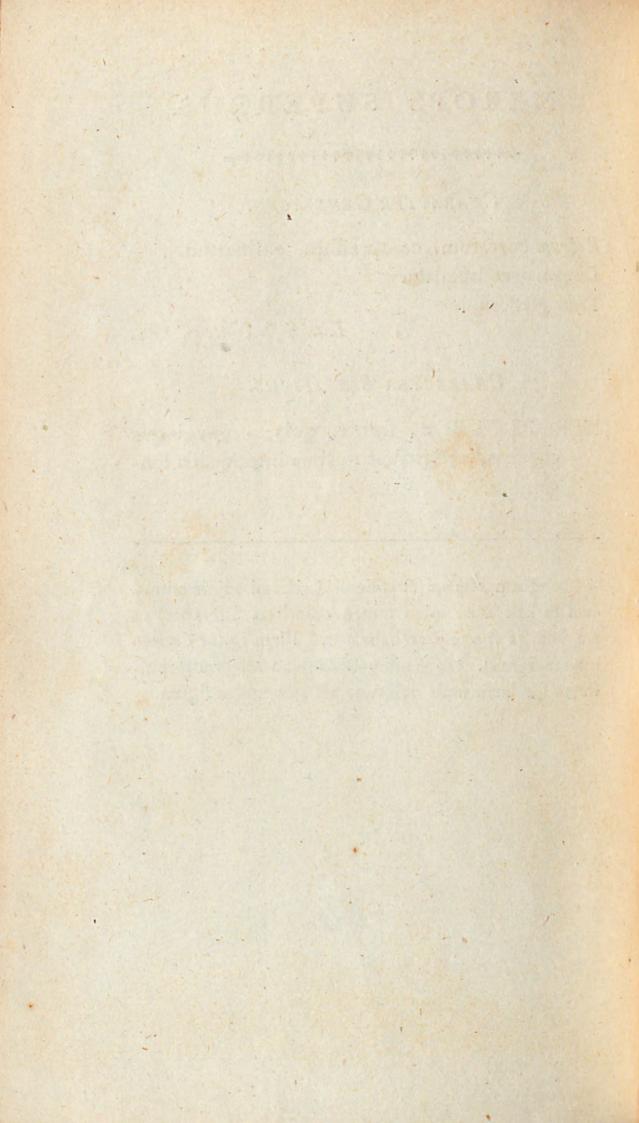
Pedes gressorii.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 182.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MEROPS RUBER, fronte, gula, uropygioque cæruleis, rectricibus duabus intermediis longioribus.

Quanquam Meropi Brasiliensi Lathami assinis admodum sit hæc avis, adeo tamen coloribus discrepat, ut pro distincta specie jure habeatur. Illam igitur diverso nomine signavi. In Museo Britannico asservatur pulchrum specimen unde delineata est hæc nostra sigura.







SUPERB BEE-EATER.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill curved, compressed, carinated, and sharp pointed.

Tongue (generally) laciniated at the tip.

Feet grefforial, 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 sigure 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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