



MYZOMELA ANNABELLÆ, *Sclater*.

## MYZOMELA ANNABELLÆ, Sclater.

Mrs. Forbes's Honey-sucker.

*Myzomela annabellæ*, Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1883, p. 56.

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THIS little *Myzomela* belongs to a small section of the genus which contains *M. boiei* from Banda and *M. adolphinæ* from the Arfak Mountains in North-western New Guinea. The former, however, differs in having the whole of the back scarlet, while according to Count Salvadori's description of the Arfak species, which we have never seen, the back is dusky greyish with a slight olive tint and the rump and upper tail-coverts scarlet, whereas in *M. annabellæ* the mantle is blue-black and the lower back is scarlet as well as the rump and upper tail-coverts.

The single specimen yet known was procured by Mr. Forbes in Loetoe while it was frequenting the cocoa-nut trees from which the natives had been collecting their "Tuak," or palm-wine.

This pretty little species has been named by Mr. Sclater after Mrs. Forbes; and we have great pleasure in figuring a bird bearing the name of this brave lady, who shared the perils of Mr. Forbes's travels in the Moluccas and even accompanied him to Timor Laut, where, in addition to the risks from the climate, their collecting had to be done in a circumscribed area, with the constant dread of an attack from the neighbouring villages.

*Adult male.* General colour above blue-black, the centre of the back, rump, and upper tail-coverts bright scarlet; wing-coverts blue-black, greater coverts and quills black, with a narrow margin of yellowish olive; tail-feathers blue-black, narrowly fringed with white along the edge of the inner web; crown of head and hind neck scarlet; lores black; sides of face, ear-coverts, cheeks, and throat bright scarlet, succeeded by a black patch across the fore neck; remainder of under surface of the body pale yellowish olive, the flanks mixed with ashy, the bases being of this colour; thighs pale yellowish olive; under tail-coverts white, washed with pale yellowish olive and having faint dusky centres; under wing-coverts and axillaries white, washed with yellow on the edge of the wing; quills blackish, white along the edge of the inner web; "bill black; legs and feet dirty green; iris dark brown" (*H. O. Forbes*). Total length 3.65 inches, culmen 0.55, wing 2.0, tail 1.3, tarsus 0.6.

The figures in the Plate represent the typical specimen, of the natural size, in three positions.

[R. B. S.]



Gould, John and Sharpe, Richard Bowdler. 1883. "Myzomela annabellæ, Mrs. Forbes's Honey-sucker [Pl. 67]." *The birds of New Guinea and the adjacent Papuan islands : including many new species recently discovered in Australia* 3(XV), -. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322780>.

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