

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW RACE OF MYRMECIZA SCHISTACEA FROM
CENTRAL PERU.

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In 1858, Sclater (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1858, p. 252) described as *Hypocnemis schistacea* a bird secured by Bates on the "Rio Javari, Upper Amazon," though whether from the present Peruvian or Brazilian side of the Javari is not known. Later other forms were found which eventually were recognized as subspecies of *schistacea*. The males of all the races of this species are comparatively uniform, while the females present the more noticeable differences. Specimens from Peru are not numerous in collections and females from central Peru and from the type locality of *schistacea* were entirely unknown until recently. In 1922, as ornithologist of the Captain Marshall Field Peruvian Expedition of Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, I secured a female and three males of the species in Peru, in the subtropical forest at the junction of the Chinchao and Huallaga rivers. These were referred to *schistacea schistacea* and it was believed that the hitherto unknown characters of the female had been brought to light.

More recently the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh secured specimens of both sexes from São Paulo de Olivença, Rio Solimões, a locality quite near to the Rio Javari, which proved to be quite distinct from the birds I secured in central Peru. The relative geographic positions of the various localities are such that there is no doubt that the São Paulo de Olivença birds belong to true *schistacea*, while the Peruvian examples represent an undescribed form. Dr. Todd of the Carnegie Museum recently sent specimens of the São Paulo form to Dr. Hellmayr for examination, and I was enabled to compare them

with my material in the collection of Field Museum. Since I am at present working on my Peruvian collections, Dr. Todd and Dr. Hellmayr have kindly resigned to me the description of the new form. It may be known as:

***Myrmeciza schistacea intensa*, subsp. nov.¹**

Hypocnemis schistacea Berl. and Stolz. (nec Sclater), Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1896, p. 384 (La Merced).

Sclateria schistacea schistacea Hellmayr (nec Sclater), Novit. Zool., **13**, p. 344, 1906—partim, nos. 2, 3 and 4 (La Gloria, Borgoña and Pozuzo); idem, Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Publ., **13**, pt. 3, pp. 254–255, 1924—partim (Pozuzo, Vista Alegre, Huachipa and Tulumayo).

Type from Huachipa, Peru. No. 60157 Field Museum of Natural History. Adult female collected September 22, 1922, by J. T. Zimmer; original number 2898.

Diagnosis.—Similar to *M. s. subplumbea* from Colombia, eastern Ecuador and northeastern Peru (Iquitos, north bank of Marañon R.), but darker and deeper in coloration. Female darker brown on the back and more blackish gray on the crown; below about as in *subplumbea*. Male blacker above and on the sides of the face and darker gray below, with the throat not distinctly paler than the breast. Size about the same as *subplumbea*.

From *M. s. schistacea* of the Rio Javari and the south bank of the Rio Solimões, northwestern Brazil, the female is instantly separable by having the crown slaty instead of russet; the back is darker rufous; below the rufous is deeper and more intense; there appear to be fewer pale spots on the upper wing-coverts, and the radial margin of the wing is uniform, without a whitish stripe as in *schistacea*. The males are very like those of *schistacea* but are less bluish gray and more sooty; the white spots on the upper wing-coverts are smaller and are all but obsolete on the tips of the tertials (but noticeable in immature specimens); the axillaries are uniform gray and there is no white stripe along the radial margin of the wing. Both sexes are slightly larger than *schistacea*.

Habitat.—Subtropical forests of central Peru.

Description of type.²—Back Vandyke Brown or dark Auburn, slightly lighter on the rump with distinctly lighter, Hazel, tips to some of the feathers. Crown and nape Dark Neutral Gray to Dusky Neutral Gray, becoming slightly tinged with olivaceous at the juncture with the back. Sides of head, lores and ear-coverts paler, Deep Neutral Gray. Chin pale grayish; throat bright Tawny, passing into Sanford's Brown or Argus Brown on the center of the breast, deepening into rich Auburn on the sides of the breast and flanks and passing into near Sanford's Brown in the

¹As suggested by Dr. Hellmayr (Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Publ., **13**, pt. 3, p. 254, footn. d, 1924) and Dr. Chapman (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., **55**, p. 406, 1926), I have placed the species in the genus *Myrmeciza* rather than *Sclateria*.

²Names of colors when capitalized are from Ridgway's "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature."

center of the belly. Under tail-coverts Auburn. Upper wing-coverts and remiges Bone Brown; the remiges edged with the color of the back; lesser and middle coverts and some of the greater series with a terminal, triangular spot of Tawny; primary-coverts and those of the greater coverts nearest the edge of the wing, without spots. Under wing-coverts grayish with faint Tawny tips; axillaries like the lower breast. Rectrices Dusky Neutral Gray with brownish edges. Maxilla and feet brownish black; mandible pale except at tip. Iris blue. Wing 65 mm.; tail 53; culmen (exposed) 19, (from base) 24.5.

Male above uniform Dusky Neutral Gray or Dark Neutral Gray, slightly paler on the forehead and sides of face. Throat and breast paler, Deep Neutral Gray; belly slightly duller, inclining toward Chaetura Black. Remiges blackish brown, lightly edged with the color of the back. Upper wing-coverts, except primary-coverts, with small, terminal, triangular spots of white; tertials the color of the back. Axillaries and under wing-coverts like the breast. Rectrices Dusky Neutral Gray with a faint, tiny speck of white at the tips of the outermost ones. Bill and feet black, the mandible slightly paler at the base in one example. Iris dark brown. Wing 65–67 mm.; tail 52–54; culmen (exposed) 21.5, (from base) 26–28.

A young male in moult is colored below as in the adult except for the admixture of dark rufous feathers on the abdomen becoming more pronounced posteriorly, while the under tail-coverts are Auburn as in the female. Above about like the adult male but slightly paler. Wings like those of the female with a few lesser upper wing-coverts and tertials grayish, the latter with distinct whitish spots on their tips like the coverts. Bill like that of the female. Tail like that of either sex.

Two specimens, male and female, from Tulumayo are in the American Museum of Natural History, New York. According to Dr. Hellmayr, who has examined them, they agree with my birds from Huachipa and Vista Alegre. Dr. Hellmayr has also examined a male and female from Pozuzo; the female had the crown dark gray and the entire under mandible whitish in agreement with the present form. There is no doubt that the Chanchamayo Valley form is *intensa*.

Berlepsch (Ornis 13, p. 118, 1906) comments on a female of "*schistacea*" from Huaynapata which had the head brownish olive instead of dark gray in comparison with *leucostigma* from Guiana. Dr. Hellmayr (Novit. Zool., 13, pp. 344 and 345, 1906) describes two females from Marcapata which have the head and back dark olive brown and the lower mandible horn brown, not whitish. Dr. Hellmayr also (Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Publ., 13, p. 254, footn. a, 1924) describes a female from Chaquimayo comparable with the Marcapata bird. No males of the species have been recorded from this region so the exact affinities are open to question. The female would seem to be darker than *humaytha* and paler than *intensa* and *subplumbea*, with the head not darker than the back although brownish and not gray, showing affinities to *schistacea*. It is certainly not referable to any known variety of *schistacea* since the characters, recorded by independent observers, are quite distinct. In the absence of specimens, especially of the male sex, it would be unwise to name it at this time.

Specimens examined:

M. s. schistacea—Brazil: S. Paulo de Olivença, 2 ♂ 2 ♀.¹

M. s. subplumbea—Colombia: La Murelia, 1 ♂ 1 ♀. Ecuador: Rio Suno, 4 ♂ 3 ♀.²

M. s. intensa—Peru: Vista Alegre, 1 ♂; Huachipa, 2 ♂ 1 ♀ (Type).

M. leucostigma—British Guiana: Carimang River, 1 ♂. Brazil: Congeirão, Rio Branco, 1 ♀?³

¹Specimens in Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh.

²Specimens in American Museum of Natural History, New York.

³Specimens in Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.



Zimmer, John T. 1927. "A new race of *Myrmeciza schistacea* from central Peru." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 40, 207–210.

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