

Skull, as compared to that of *S. cumanicus*, smaller and more delicate; muzzle narrower anteriorly; frontal processes of premaxillæ terminating about one tenth of an inch in front of the end of the nasals; palatal foramina narrower; bullæ larger in proportion, especially anteriorly. Incisors with the same deep simple notch in front as in *S. cumanicus*.

Dimensions of the type (taken by the collector in the flesh):—

Head and body 355 millim.; tail 27; hind foot 70 (c. u. 75); ear from notch 55.

Skull: greatest length 70; basilar length 55; greatest breadth 34; nasals 31.2×13.5 ; interorbital breadth 16.6; intertemporal breadth 13.8; palatal foramina 19.5×6.2 ; length of upper tooth-row (alveoli) 14.

Hab. Maipures, Upper Orinoco.

Type. Female. B.M. no. 99. 9. 11. 49. Collected 22nd January, 1899, by Geo. K. and Stella M. Cherrie. Two specimens examined.

This species is more or less intermediate in size, as in geographical position, between the comparatively large *S. cumanicus* (and its ally *S. Margaritæ*, Miller) and the little *S. brasiliensis*.

XLIX.—On a new Genus and Species of Bulbul and an apparently new Species of Cyornis. By Col. C. T. BINGHAM, F.Z.S.

DURING a recent two months' tour in the Southern Shan States, Upper Burma, I had opportunities for making a small collection of the birds frequenting the high plateau-lands in those States. I was fortunate also in being able to spend three or four days on Loi-San-Pa, a mountain nearly 8000 feet in height, situated in the Möng Köng State.

Among the birds procured, I find after careful comparison with published descriptions and with the series of birds contained in the Indian Museum, Calcutta, that the following species, descriptions of which are given below, have apparently not been previously described. One of these birds is a Bulbul closely resembling in habits the species belonging to the genus *Hypsipetes*, Vigors, but differing so markedly from them in certain points of structure and in colour, and also from all known Bubluls, that I have no hesitation in proposing a new genus for its reception.

CERASOPHILA *, gen. nov.

Like *Hypsipetes*, possesses short legs, with a non-scutellated tarsus and a forked tail, but differs in having a more curved culmen, a bare unfeathered patch of skin round the eye, and the under tail-coverts of a colour different from that of the rest of the underparts, as in *Molpastes*, *Otocompsa*, &c.

Cerasophila Thompsoni, sp. n.

The whole head and neck snow-white, the white of these parts abruptly defined from the colour of the back and breast, and extending further down on the upper back than on the sides of the neck and breast; the back, rump, upper tail-coverts, wing-coverts, scapulars, the outer webs of the two inner tertiaries, the breast, sides, and stomach a clear ash-grey; the primary wing-feathers, the secondaries, the tertiaries, with the exception noted above, and the tail hair-brown; vent and under tail-coverts light bright chestnut; the under wing-coverts and axillaries, the lower portion of the stomach, and some of the lower feathers on the thighs pale grey with a wash of light chestnut.

Bill, legs, and feet coral-red, claws horny; a bare patch of skin round the eyes, conspicuously wider below the eye than above it, greyish tinged with yellow, the eyelids with a rim of bright vermilion-red. Iris whitish yellow to pale yellow.

The sexes are alike in plumage and differ only very slightly in size.

♂. Length 7·8 inches, wing 3·8, tail 3·8, tarsus 0·7, bill from gape 0·85.

♀. Length 7·8 inches, wing 3·7, tail 3·85, tarsus 0·7, bill from gape 0·85.

These measurements were taken in the flesh.

Hab. Loi-San-Pa, 6500 feet, Möng Kōng State, Southern Shan States, Upper Burma.

I know of only one *Hypsipetes* that approaches the above species in coloration, that is *H. leucocephalus*, Gmelin, from China, which also has a white head as its name implies, but then, apart from the structural differences pointed out above, Gmelin's species is a much larger bird. A skin in the Indian Museum collection measures:—Length 9·5 inches, wing 4·8, tail 4, tarsus 0·7, bill from gape 1·1. Also, except the white head and neck, its plumage is black and the under tail-coverts are concolorous with the stomach, as in all known species of *Hypsipetes*. *Cerasophila Thompsoni* bears a superficial

* κέρανος=a cherry-tree.

resemblance to some of the Grey Starlings (*Sturnia*); the grey plumage, white head, and above all the bare eye-patch contributing not a little to this likeness. It seems clear, however, that its short tarsi, forked tail, and above all its habit of keeping in small parties to the tops of trees, and rarely, if ever, descending to the ground, point to a close affinity with *Hypsipetes*.

On my visit to Loi-San-Pa the wild cherry-trees were in full bloom, and all day long were visited by numbers of *Hypsipetes concolor*, *Chloropsis Hardwickii*, *Lioptila melano-leuca*, and other birds. Among these the above-described species was most conspicuous with its white head and grey plumage. Its call, so far as I could catch the note amid the babel of sound made by all the birds on the trees, was very similar to that of *Hypsipetes*.

I have named the species after Mr. H. N. Thompson, of the Indian Forest Department, a keen observer and field-naturalist, who was with me on Loi-San-Pa, and was the first to discriminate as new and procure specimens of this beautiful Bulbul.

Cyornis brevirostris, sp. n.

Forehead, sides of the head and neck, crown, occiput, nape, back, scapulars, the greater wing-coverts, and the sides of the body under the wings uniform dark slaty blue (the colour of a dark rock-pigeon); rump and upper tail-coverts paler blue; lesser wing-coverts and the wings dark brown; tail black, the base narrowly on the two central feathers and broadly on the remainder white; chin, throat, breast, and the upper half of the stomach bright orange; lower portion of stomach, the thighs, and under tail-coverts white, faintly washed with olive-brown; under wing-coverts and axillaries pale orange-yellow. Bill, legs, and feet black; iris dark brown.

♂. Length 4·8 inches, wing 2·9, tail 1·8, tarsus 0·6; bill from gape 0·4, from front 0·24.

Hab. Kalaw, 4000 feet, Myilat State, Southern Shan States, Upper Burma.

The dimensions given above are from the dry skin, as unfortunately when procured I did not discriminate it from *C. sapphira*. It is a *Cyornis* in colouring, and seems nearest to *C. Tickelli*, Blyth, but very much smaller and very much duller in colour, entirely wanting the glistening blue feathers on the forehead, bend of the wing, &c. Its extremely short bill also serves to distinguish it from that and all other species of *Cyornis*.

The types of both the above-described species are in the Indian Museum, Calcutta.



Bingham, C. T. 1900. "XLIX.—On a new genus and species of Bulbul and an apparently new species of Cyornis." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 5, 357–359.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00222930008678299>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/78502>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222930008678299>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/62099>

Holding Institution

University of Toronto - Gerstein Science Information Centre

Sponsored by

University of Toronto

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.