

## ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES.

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VIII.—DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF HONEY-EATER FROM NORTH QUEENSLAND.

*PTILOTIS LEILAVALENSIS*, sp. nov.

*Adult*.—General colour above pale ashy-brown tinged with yellow, the upper tail-coverts more distinctly shaded with yellow; scapulars and upper wing-coverts like the back; quills brown, strongly washed with bright olive yellow, the apical portion of the outer webs of the primaries and the tips of the secondaries having whitish edges; tail-feathers brown with whitish tips, the two central feathers, and outer webs of the remainder washed with bright olive yellow; lores, forehead, sides of the head, cheeks and ear-coverts bright olive yellow; behind the ear-coverts a patch of silky-white feathers; chin, throat, and fore neck pale olive-yellow passing into fawn-white, tinged with yellow on the breast and abdomen, lower portion of the abdomen and the under tail-coverts pale yellow; bill black; legs and feet fleshy-brown. Total length of skin 6 inches, wing 2·8, tail 2·7, bill 0·42, tarsus 0·75.

*Habitat*. Fullerton River, Burke District, North Queensland.

*Type*. In the Australian Museum, Sydney.

*Observations*. This species, which will be vernacularly known as the Lesser White-plumed Honeyeater, is allied to *P. penicillata* and *P. flavescens*. From the former it may be distinguished principally by its smaller size, more brightly coloured head, and otherwise generally paler plumage, also by the absence of the blackish line which separates the silky-white patch of feathers from the ear-coverts. In size, and general colour of plumage, except the ear-coverts, it closely approaches *P. flavescens*.

The specimen from which the above description is taken was presented to the Trustees by Dr. W. Macgillivray of Hamilton, Victoria. It was obtained by his brother, Mr. A. S. Macgillivray, of Leilavale Station, Fullerton River, thirty miles east of Cloncurry Township, North Queensland, who states that these birds are fairly common in the Tea-trees along the river. The nest and eggs were secured at the same time, but the latter were unfortunately broken.

For the sake of comparison the following measurements are given

	Total length of skin.	Wing.	Tail.	Bill.	Tarsus.	Localities.
<i>P. leilavalensis</i> , ad. sk	6 inches	2·8	2·7	0·42	0·75	Fullerton River, N. Queensland.
<i>P. penicillata</i> ♂ ad. sk.	6·7 „	3·45	3·3	0·5	0·82	Near Adelaide, S. Australia.
„ ♂ ad. sk.	6·6 „	3·3	3·2	0·47	0·8	Bourke, Western N. S. Wales.
„ ♂ ad. sk.	6·5 „	3·3	3·1	0·47	0·8	Dawson River, Queensland.
<i>P. flavescens</i> , ♂ ad. sk.	5·7 „	2·95	2·7	0·5	0·7	Georgetown, Gulf District.
„ ♀ ad. sk.	5·4 „	2·92	2·7	0·48	0·7	Derby, N. West Australia.

### IX.—DESCRIPTION OF THE NEST AND EGGS OF *MICRÆCA* *PALLIDA*, DE VIS.

Dr. W. Macgillivray has kindly forwarded the following description of the nest of this species, together with the eggs and skin of the bird for identification.

“Two nests of this species of *Micræca* were taken by my brother Mr. A. S. Macgillivray on Leilavale Station, Fullerton River, North Queensland, between the 20th and 25th December, 1897. They were built rather low down on horizontal branches in a patch of *Giddea* scrub and each contained a pair of eggs. A nest my brother sent was slightly smaller but more substantially built than that of *M. fascinans*, and of much the same material, the outside being ornamented with bits of bark and lichen attached by means of cobweb.”

The eggs are oval in form, one specimen having a pale bluish-grey ground colour, which is freckled and spotted with faint purple and purplish-brown, predominating and becoming darker as usual on the thicker end of the shell; the other is of a warm stone white ground colour, and in many places the markings which are of a light reddish-purple are confluent and intermingled with faint underlying spots of pale greyish-lilac. Length (A) 0·69 x 0·55 inch; (B) 0·67 x 0·56 inch.

The range of this species probably extends right across the northern portion of the Australian Continent, for there are specimens in the Museum, obtained by Mr. E. J. Cairn at Derby, North-west Australia in 1886.



North, Alfred J. 1899. "Ornithological notes VIII. Description of a new species of honey-eater from north Queensland." *Records of the Australian Museum* 3, 106–107. <https://doi.org/10.3853/j.0067-1975.3.1899.1148>.

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