MEROPS ERYTHROCEPHALUS.

CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Rostrum curvatum, compressum, carinatum.

Lingua apice laciniata.

Pedes gressorii.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 182.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

MEROPS viridis, subtus flavicans, capite rubro,
fascia oculari nigra, gula lutea.

APIASTER Indicus erythrocephalus.

Briss. av. 4. p. 563. t. 44. 3. A.

MEROPS erythrocephalus.

Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 463.

Lath. Ind. Orn. p. 274.

Adeo accurate descripsit hanc speciem celeberrimus Brisson ut ipsius auctoris verba non dubitem proferre.

“ Hanc Apiastris speciem nondum mihi videre contigit: ipsius descriptionem desumpsi ab icone ad avem ipsam depicta a Domino Poivre, et sic eam æri insculptam esse curavi.

C

Apiaf-

Apiaſtrem Angolenſem craſſitie paululum ſuperat. Ipſius longitudo ab apice roſtri ad caudam extremam ſex circiter pollices explet, et ad extremos ungues quinque pollices et ſex lineas. Roſtrum ab ipſius apice ad oris angulos uſque ſexdecim lineas longum eſt; cauda unum pollicem cum novem lineis; pes quinque lineas; trium digitorum anticorum medius cum ungue octo lineas, extimus ſeptem lineas, intimus quinque cum ſemi lineas; poſticus autem quatuor tantum lineas. Alæ complicatæ nonnihil ultra mediam caudæ longitudinem extenduntur. Caput et pars colli ſuperior ſplendido imbuuntur coccineo. In utroque capitis latere tænia exſtat nigra, ab exortu roſtri orta, et per oculos ducta. Dorſum, uropygium, pennæ ſcapulares et ſuperiores caudæ rectrices ſunt eleganter virides. Guttur luteum eſt. Pars colli inferior, pectus, venter, latera et crura luteſcunt, et paucis rubro adumbrantur. Pennæ caudam ſubtus obtegentes ſunt quoque luteſcens, ſed dilute viridi marginatæ. Superiores alarum rectrices ſaturate virides. Remiges ſuperne eodem viridi ſaturato imbutæ, interius cinereo marginatæ, ſubtus autem penitus cinereæ. Caudam componunt duodecim rectrices æquali longitudine pollentes, omnes ſubtus cinereæ; ſuperne vero binæ intermediæ virides: laterales omnes concolores, interius cinereo marginatæ. Oculorum irides rubræ. Roſtrum nigrum. Pedes cinerei; ungues vero nigricantes. Habitat in India Orientali.

Pub. Nov. 1864 by J. P. Cooper.

THE
RED-HEADED BEE-EATER.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill curved, compressed, carinated, and sharp-pointed.

Tongue (generally) lacinated at the tip.

Feet gressorial.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

Green BEE-EATER, yellowish beneath, with red head, black eye-streak, and yellow throat.

Le GUESPIER a teste rouge des Indes.

Briss. ois. 4. p. 563. *pl.* 44. *f.* 3. A.

GUEPIER a tête rouge.

Buff. ois. 6. p. 508.

This bird is most accurately described in the following manner by the celebrated Briffon.

This species of Bee-Eater I have never seen: but have taken its description from a figure drawn from nature by Monf. Poivre, and have caused it to be engraved. In size it rather exceeds the Bee-Eater of Angola. Its length from the tip of the beak to

the end of the tail is about six inches, and to the ends of the claws five inches and six lines. The beak from the tip to the angles of the mouth is sixteen lines long; the tail one inch and nine lines; the foot five lines; the middle of the three front toes together with the claw eight lines, the exterior seven lines, the interior five lines and a half; the hind toe only four lines. The wings when closed extend a little beyond the middle of the tail. The head and upper part of the neck are of a bright scarlet. On each side of the head is a black stripe, rising from the beginning of the bill, and passing through the eyes. The back, rump, scapular feathers, and upper tail-coverts are of an elegant green. The throat is yellow. The lower part of the neck, the breast, belly, sides and thighs are yellowish and shaded with a little red. The under tail-coverts also are yellowish, but edged with pale-green. The upper wing-coverts are deep-green. The quill-feathers are of the same full-green above, and within edged with ash-color, but beneath are entirely ash-coloured. The tail consists of twelve feathers of equal length, all of which are ash-coloured beneath, but the two middle ones are green above; the rest of the same color, but edged internally with ash-color. The irides of the eyes are red. The feet ash-color: the claws blackish. It is a native of the East Indies.

Shaw, George. 1798. "The Red-Headed Bee-Eater, *Merops erythrocephalus* [Pl. 357]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 10(CXI), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.304539>.

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