



PITTA GRANATINA.



## PITTA GRANATINA, Temm.

### Bornean Pitta.

- Pitta granatina*, Temm. Pl. Col. 506.—Lesson, Traité d'Orn. p. 395.—Müll. & Schl. Verh. Nat. Gesch. Zool. Pitta, pp. 10, 15, 20.—Gray, Gen. of Birds, i. p. 213.—Blyth, Journ. Asiatic Soc. Beng. xvi. p. 326.—Id. Cat. Birds Mus. Asiatic Soc. Beng. p. 157.—Schlegel, Mus. Pays-Bas, *Pitta*, p. 5.—Id. Vog. Nederl. Indië, pp. 20, 35, pl. 5. fig. 3.—Wallace, Ibis, 1864, p. 107.—Salvad. Ucc. Born. p. 242.—Schlegel, Mus. Pays-Bas, Revue *Pitta*, p. 9.
- Brachyurus granatinus*, Bonap. Consp. Av. i. p. 255.—Elliot, Monogr. Pittidæ, pl. xv.
- Erythropitta granatina*, Bonap. Consp. Volucr. Anis. p. 7 (pt.).—Walden, Ibis, 1872, p. 374.
- Phœnicocichla granatina*, Cab. & Heine, Mus. Hein. ii. p. 5 (pt.).
- Pitta* (*Phœnicocichla*) *granatina*, Gray, Hand-list of Birds, i. p. 296 (pt.).
- Brachyurus* (*Phœnicocichla*) *granatinus*, Elliot, Ibis, 1870, p. 417, fig. 3 (pt.).

This beautiful Pitta was first described by Temminck from specimens procured by Diard near Pontianak, in Borneo. Since the time when its discovery took place, the species has been sent by other travellers in that great island; but it has never been seen in any quantity, and cannot be called a common bird. Several writers have united the Malayan species, *Pitta coccinea* of Eyton, with the true *Pitta granatina* of Borneo; but, as I have remarked in my account of the former species, this is, in my opinion, an erroneous identification.

Indeed I am not sure that a second species has not been confounded under the single heading of *P. granatina* in the island of Borneo itself; and I invite attention to the differences which will be observed at a glance in the two figures drawn on the accompanying Plate. One of these birds is a little smaller than the other, and has the red nape-patch much finer, while there is a good deal of difference in the colour of the dorsal plumage. One bird has the feathers of the back rounded and deep purple, while in the other the feathers are pointed and beautifully glossed with purplish lilac, which is quite metallic in its brilliancy. I am not sure whether these two different states of plumage represent a distinction of sex; but if my surmise should prove correct that there are two species in Borneo, hitherto confounded under the same name, I would propose for the lilac-backed bird the appellation of *Pitta adoranda*, reserving that of *granatina* for the species with the dark purplish back, as I have in my collection an example in this state received direct from Temminck when he was Director of the Leiden Museum.

The present species appears to be confined to the island of Borneo, at different points of which it has been met with by collectors. Diard first collected it at Pontianak, Schwaner at Banjarmassing, Everett at Marup, and David and Beccari at Sarawak, while I have been lately informed by Mr. Sharpe that it occurred in Mr. W. B. Pryer's consignment from Sandakan in North-east Borneo. Like most of the Pittas it would appear to be migratory; for the Marquis Doria writes that the species does not seem to be resident in the vicinity of Sarawak, as no specimens were seen during June and November. The stomachs of the specimens killed by him contained remains of small Cockroaches and Coleoptera; the iris is brown.

In the Plate are figured two specimens, one being referable to *Pitta granatina*, the other being the bird I propose to call *P. adoranda*, if it should prove to be distinct. They are both in my own collection.



Gould, John. 1879. "Bornean Pitta, *Pitta granatina*, Temm. [Pl. 67]." *The Birds of Asia* 5(XXXI), -. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.323234>.

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