VINAGO MILITARIS.

TAB. LVIII.

VINAGO MILITARIS.

THE group *Vinago* may be considered as including those Pigeons whose strong short tarsus and broadly palmed feet indicate them to be constant frequenters of the branches of trees : such are doubtless the habits of the present and the former species, whose food is said to consist principally of grain, the seeds of vetches and other wild plants, the tops of tender vegetables, &c.

The locality of *Vinago militaris*, as mentioned in the preceding page, is widely extended, as it has been received equally from the northern and western coasts of the Indian continent. The specific name *militaris* has been given to it from the resemblance of the mark on its breast to a shield. We are indebted to Colonel H. J. Bowler for the following interesting particulars respecting this bird : “ The present as well as the preceding species, together with several others, are known to the natives of India by the general name of the Green Pigeon : they frequent gardens and inhabit mango groves and banian trees (the *Ficus Indicus*), to the thick foliage of which they seem particularly attached, and when sheltered therein their plumage so nearly accords with the general colour and tint of the leaves, that they are with difficulty perceptible. Those varieties which are found on the western coast feed principally on the berry of the Sago Palm and the fruit (fig) of the *Ficus Indicus*. At the season when this fruit and the mango are ripe, they are good eating, although the flesh has rather a strong game flavour much resembling the English Plover.”

Although this bird has been already made known to science, it has been thought proper to illustrate it in the present work, as well for the purpose of recording it as an inhabitant of the higher parts of India, from which it has not hitherto been received, as because it was considered desirable to point out a contrast between the present well-known and the foregoing novel species.

The top and sides of the head are ash colour ; the neck and chest golden with a greenish tinge ; the shoulders vinaceous purple ; the whole of the back and wing-coverts olive green ; quills blackish brown margined along their outer edge with yellow ; the tail dark ash colour ; the under surface of the body is pale olive green ; the thighs bright yellow.

Gould, John. 1831. "Vinago militaris [Tab. LVIII]." *A century of birds from the Himalaya Mountains* –. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.323544>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/132967>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.323544>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/323544>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries

Sponsored by

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

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>.