HAPALODERMA NARINA .

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Narina Trogon.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Trog. splendenti-viridis, ventre sanguineo; alis brunneis, secundariis et tectricibus alarum majoribus cinereo-albido pulverulentis, harum pogoniis externis metallicè viridi tinctis; rectricibus duabus intermediis saturatè purpurascenti-viridibus, duabus proximis utrinque olivascenti-viridibus, reliquis saturatè viridibus ad apices latè albis.

Rostrum flavum cæruleo tinctum; pedes pallidè brunnescenti-flavi.

Fœm. Mari similis, sed orbitis, gutture pectoreque rufo-brunneis, hóc dilutior roseoque parùm tincto, ventre et subcaudalibus saturatè roseis distinguenda.

Male.—Bill yellow, with a tinge of blue; whole of the head, throat, chest, shoulders, back, and upper tail-coverts resplendent green; breast and under surface bright blood-red; the wings brown, the greater coverts and secondaries powdered with greyish white, the outer edge of each feather having a tinge of metallic green; two centre feathers of the tail dark purplish green, the two next on each side olive-green, the three outer on each side dark green at their base, largely tipped with white; feet light brownish yellow.

Female.—The upper surface and tail closely resemble those of the male; round the eye and throat rufous brown, becoming paler on the chest, which is slightly tinted with rosy pink; lower part of the abdomen and under tail-coverts deep rose-red.

Total length $11\frac{1}{4}$ inches; bill $1\frac{1}{8}$; wing $5\frac{1}{4}$; tail $6\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi $\frac{3}{4}$.

Le Couroucou narina. Levaill. Ois. d'Afr. v. p. 73, pls. 228, 229.

Trogon narina. Vieill. N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. viii. p. 318.—Gould, Monogr. Trogon. 1st ed. pl. 26.—Finsch & Hartl. Vög. Ost-Afr. p. 155.—Finsch, Tr. Z. S. vii. p. 219.

Apaloderma narina. Swains. Classif. B. ii. p. 337.—Bp. Consp. i. p. 150.—Layard, B. S. Afr. p. 61.

Hapaloderma narina. Cab. & Heine, Mus. Hein. Th. iv. p. 165.—Heugl. Orn. N.O.-Afr. p. 176.

It is a remarkable fact that while the Neotropical and Indian regions abound with species of Trogons, Africa shows but one well-marked type; for although the two species inhabiting the latter continent are easily distinguishable the one from the other, they both belong to one form, which has been considered to belong to a distinct genus, *Hapaloderma* of Swainson. The Narina Trogon is found in Southern and North-eastern Africa, having been discovered in the former part of the continent by the well-known traveller Levaillant. Mr. Layard gives the following account of it:—"It is found throughout forests and wooded kloofs in all the eastern portions of the colony. About the Knysna it is scarce, but, wherever found, exhibits the same shy creeping habits. When apprehensive of discovery, it sits motionless on its branch until alarmed at some act of the fowler, when it precipitates itself headlong into the bush, and is instantly lost to view. It feeds on fruit and insects, and utters a loud moaning note or, perhaps, more correctly speaking, a hoot. Levaillant states that they nest in holes of trees, and lay four, nearly round, white eggs; but this requires confirmation. I have never met with any one who had seen their nests, though I made particular inquiries about them at the Knysna."

It is found in Natal, and is also met with in the Zambesi district, though here, says Dr. Kirk, "It is a decidedly scarce bird. I know of only four specimens having been seen—one in the Zambesi delta, the others at Chibisa, on the Shiré. It seems to frequent trees." Bianconi has recorded it from Southern

Mozambique; and on the west coast it has been obtained by Mr. Monteiro in Benguela and by Mr. Hamilton in the interior of Angola.

During the late Abyssinian expedition Mr. Jesse obtained an example at Taconda, which he kindly submitted to me; and I found that, though it agreed in the main with South-African specimens, it had rather a longer tail, but was not otherwise specifically separable. Dr. von Heuglin, in his work on the ornithology of North-eastern Africa, says that it frequents only the hot wooded districts on the inclines of the Abyssinian highlands, such as, for instance, the slopes of the valleys round Arlet, Moreb, the districts of Wohni and Sarago (W. Abyssinia) and Fazogl. He adds:—"I can say but little respecting the habits of this shy forest-frequenting bird from personal experience. It does not wander, as Rüppell saw it in September and October, Brehm in March, and I in the early summer. In its habits it resembles in many respects the larger *Campephagæ*—sits upright, the head drawn in and with drooping tail, in the densest foliage of high trees, and watches for insects and caterpillars, which it catches with noiseless flight. Verreaux says that its food consists of Lepidoptera, various species of *Mantis*, and flies, but seldom beetles. Its note is a loud mournful cry. It is an excellent ventriloquist, and often seems to be far distant when quite near. In South Africa it breeds in October; and the female is said to lay two or, rarely, three roundish, white, transparent eggs, and the young are said to be fledged in three weeks."

The figures represent a male and female, of the size of life.

Gould, John. 1875. "Narina Trogon, Hapaloderma narina." *A monograph of the Trogonidæ or trogons* 3, -. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.323647>.

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