

this genus to Dr. G. E. Dobson, who has had the advantage of seeing in Paris the types of *Geogale aurita*, the form to which, merely from Prof. Milne-Edwards's description, I had originally thought it most nearly allied.

With regard to the arrangement of the flexor tendons of the hind feet, on which Dr. Dobson* has recently laid much stress, it would appear that this part in *Microgale* is still in a rather early and undifferentiated condition, the two muscles in question, the *flexor hallucis longus* and the *flexor digitorum longus*, not having become fully separated, as their tendons are united in the sole of the foot, and form but one broad tendinous mass, which splits up again into five digital slips.

On a new Species of Sand-Martin (*Cotile*) from Madagascar.
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[Read March 2, 1882.]

THE Rev. Deans Cowan has lately been exploring the Forest of Ankáfana in the Betsileo country, Madagascar, and has brought thence a very large and interesting collection in all branches of natural history. Amongst the birds there is an apparently undescribed species of *Cotile*, which I propose to call, after its discoverer,

COTILE COWANI, sp. n.

Adult female. General colour above dark sooty brown, slightly paler on the lower back and rump; wing-coverts like the back, the inner greater coverts and inner secondaries rather lighter and with slightly paler margins; primary-coverts and quills very dark brown; tail-feathers very dark brown, with narrow paler edgings, the outermost feathers very narrowly fringed with white; lores blackish; ear-coverts and sides of face dark sooty brown, the cheeks and throat ashy brown; remainder of under surface of body dark ashy brown, including the thighs; lower abdomen whitish; under tail-coverts pure white; axillaries and under wing-coverts dark ashy brown like the breast, the edge of the wing with paler ashy margins to the feathers; quills dark brown

* Monograph of the Insectivora, p. 67 &c. (1882).

below, rather more ashy along the inner web. Total length 4·8 inches, culmen 0·25, wing 3·65, tail 1·9, tarsus 0·4.

Hab. Ankáfana Forest, Betsileo, S.E. Madagascar. Native name "Firizinga."

This species comes nearest to *Cotile paludicola* of South Africa, but differs in the following particulars:—

1. The general colour above is altogether darker, and approaches more to blackish brown.

2. In the adult South-African bird the brown colour commences at the chin and spreads over the whole fore neck and breast in one uniform tint, the lower breast and entire abdomen and under tail-coverts being pure white. In the Madagascar species the general aspect of the under surface is uniform ashy brown, with a little white on the lower abdomen, and the under tail-coverts are white. The throat, however, is light ashy, contrasting with the dark colour of the rest of the under surface; and in this contrast consists the principal distinguishing character of *Cotile Cowani*.

I may add that Mr. Deans Cowan brought a large series of this new Martin, and I have carefully compared them with a series of *C. paludicola*.

The young bird differs from the adult in having rufous margins to the feathers of the upper surface, wing-coverts, and secondaries, while the throat and breast are also suffused with rufous.

There is no difference in colouring in the sexes. The male measures, total length 4·7 inches, wing 3·65, tail 1·9, tarsus 0·4.



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