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## A NEW SPECIES OF FLYCATCHER FROM MINDANAO, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

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During the study of several groups of flycatchers for a contemplated revision of some of the genera of this large family, I had occasion to examine the populations of *Muscicapa hyperythra* from the Philippines. Specimens of some of these populations are not common in collections, but, thanks to the kind cooperation of the authorities of the United States National Museum and the Chicago Natural History Museum, I have been able to gather an adequate series of 13 specimens from Mindanao. This series (table 1), all the specimens of which were collected in the Mt. Apo Range in Davao Province, includes the type of *M. h. montigena*, the race found on Mindanao. Ten of these specimens belong to this form, but the other three are an unsuspected and undescribed species, the discovery of which was made possible only by the specimens recently collected by the joint expedition of the Chicago Natural History Museum and the Philippine Natural History Museum.

I propose to name the new species:

### ***Muscicapa crypta* Vaurie, new species**

**TYPE:** Adult male, Mt. McKinley, 3000 feet, Mt. Apo Range, Davao, Mindanao, Philippine Islands. In the collection of the Chicago Natural History Museum, No. 184408; original no. 852. Collected on September 20, 1946, by the joint expedition of the Chicago and Philippine museums.

**DIAGNOSIS:** See below for discussion and comparison of related forms.

**RANGE:** Known so far only from the Mt. Apo Range.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TYPE: Entire upper parts rufous brown, slightly darker on the crown, which is slightly tinged with olive, brightest and reddest on the lower back and rump, upper tail coverts bright reddish chestnut. Whole tail and outer webs of the wing feathers reddish chestnut, the rest of the wing feathers brown. A faint grayish buff loreal spot, a narrow yellowish eye ring, no superciliary stripe. Ear coverts orange buff, the rest of the sides of the face and neck rufous brown. Sides of the upper breast and flanks tinged with pale olive brown, this pigment reaching across the upper breast to form an ill-defined pectoral band. Point of chin, whole throat, and under tail coverts creamy white, abdomen white. Bill somewhat widened at base, straight, attenuated, and well ridged, blackish brown in the dried skin; nostrils exposed, rectal bristles moderately strong, reaching to about half the length of the bill. Tarsus, toes, and claws moderately strong and long, yellowish in the dried skin.

The two paratypes and only other specimens are virtually identical with the type; one unsexed adult has stouter and longer rectal bristles, and an adult female has the color of the under parts less pure.

STRUCTURE: Wing formula:  $1 < 2 < 3 < 4, 5 > 6$  (6 only slightly shorter and longer than 3)  $> 7 > 8 > 9 > 10$ ;  $2 = 10$ . Proportions in per cent: Tail to the wing: male, 68; female, 68; unsexed adult, 62. Tarsus to the wing: male, 26.1; female, 25.2; unsexed adult, 27.4. Bill to the wing: male, 27; female, 26.2; unsexed adult, 26.2. For measurements, see table 1.

Except for slight differences, *crypta* and the related forms discussed below (*M. bonthaina* and *montigena* in *M. hyperythra*) are similar in structure. The wing formula is the same except in *bonthaina*, where the tenth primary averages slightly shorter than the second instead of being equal. Too few specimens of *crypta* have been measured, but, apparently, the tail is proportionately slightly longer in *montigena*, the tarsus slightly longer in *bonthaina*, and the bill slightly longer in *crypta*. The proportions of *montigena* and *bonthaina* for 10 specimens of each are as follows: Tail to the wing: *montigena*, 65.5–75 (71.3); *bonthaina*, 66–70 (68.7). Tarsus to the wing: *montigena*, 25.8–29.1 (27.3); *bonthaina*, 27.2–30 (28.6). Bill to the wing: *montigena*, 21.4–27 (25.1); *bonthaina*, 24.2–27 (25.5).

DISCUSSION AND RELATED FORMS: The affinities of *crypta* seem to be with a small group of thicket flycatchers which include

*bonthaina*, *rufigula*, and *hyperythra*. The first two are restricted to Celebes, and the third is a very widely ranging species occurring in both Celebes and the Philippines. *M. crypta* is undoubtedly closest to *bonthaina* and, like it, is not sexually dimorphic. *M. bonthaina* differs from *crypta* by having considerably weaker feet but a slightly longer tarsus; by having the whole of the upper parts a strong greenish olive brown rather than rufous; by having the under parts from the point of the chin to the level of the lower breast bright orange, this orange area being sharply delimited from the white of the abdomen; and by having a conspicuous spot of bright orange extending from the nostrils and lores to the top of the eye.

Both *crypta* and *bonthaina* are known only from isolated mountain ranges, *bonthaina* from the Lompobatang Massif at the extreme tip of the southwestern peninsula of Celebes. These two forms may be relicts of some unsuccessful species, but at present their isolation and the contrast in the pattern of their coloration in a family that shows so much convergence seem too well marked for them to be treated as conspecific.

*Muscicapa rufigula* and *M. hyperythra* are sexually dimorphic, the males being dark bluish slate above and possessing, in *hyper-*

TABLE 1  
MEASUREMENTS OF *Muscicapa hyperythra montigena* AND *M. crypta*

Collection	Sex	Locality	Wing	Tail	Bill	Tarsus
<i>M. crypta</i>						
C.N.H.M.	♂ <sup>a</sup>	Mt. McKinley	63	43	15	16.5
C.N.H.M.	?	Mt. McKinley	58	36	13.5	16.5
A.M.N.H.	♀	Mt. Apo	63	43	14.5	16
<i>M. h. montigena</i>						
U.S.N.M.	♂ <sup>b</sup>	Mt. Apo	64	46	14.5	17.5
U.S.N.M.	♂	Mt. Apo	65	45	14.5	19
A.M.N.H.	♂	Mt. Apo	64	48	14	16.5
C.N.H.M.	♂	Mt. Apo	64	46	13.5	18
C.N.H.M.	♂	Mt. Apo	66	47	13.5	17.5
U.S.N.M.	♀	Mt. Apo	61	40	14.5	17.5
U.S.N.M.	♀	Mt. Apo	61	42	14	17
U.S.N.M.	♀ <sup>c</sup>	Mt. Apo	61	43	14	17.5
C.N.H.M.	♂	Mt. McKinley	63	46	14.5	17.5
C.N.H.M.	♀	Mt. McKinley	59	44	12	17.5

<sup>a</sup> Type of *crypta*.

<sup>b</sup> Type of *montigena*.

<sup>c</sup> Subadult.

*ythra*, a well-marked spot of white over the eye. Below, the males and females are bright orange or orange buff, the females averaging duller and paler. Above, the females are ashy gray in *rufigula* and olive brown in most of the races of *hyperythra*, but on Mindanao (*montigena*) and on neighboring Negros (*nigrorum*) the females in these populations of *hyperythra* approach the slaty coloration of the males and thus, it is interesting to note, contrast sharply with the females of *crypta*.

MEASUREMENTS: Since specimens are scarce, their measurements are given individually and their location in collections is indicated. The bill is measured from the skull. Measurements of *bonthaina* are included for comparison.

In *M. bonthaina* from the Lompobatang Massif of southern Celebes, eight adult males, including the type, and two adult females measure: Wing: males, 63–68, type, 64; females, 60, 60. Tail: males, 43–47, type, 45; females, 42, 42. Bill: males, 14–15, type, 14.5; females, 14, 14.2. Tarsus: males, 17.5–19, type, 19; females, 17, 18.

ECOLOGY: On Mt. Apo and Mt. McKinley the two species seem to have different ecological requirements as reflected by their altitudinal preferences. On Mt. McKinley *M. h. montigena* was collected at altitudes of 4800 and 6150 feet and *crypta* at 3000. On Mt. Apo, *crypta* was collected at 3000, and *montigena*, with the exception of one specimen collected at 4000, at 5400 and 6000 feet.

According to the narrative of the Chicago and Philippine museums' expeditions (Hoogstraal, 1951, Fieldiana: Zoology, vol. 33, no. 1, pp. 41–53), the 3000-foot level on Mt. McKinley is a transition zone; "Our impression of the 3,000-foot level is that it is very definitely an area of faunal intergradation between the upper and lower altitudes," whereas "from 4,800 feet to just below the peak there is a well-developed mossy forest." The specimens of *montigena* collected at 5400 feet on Mt. Apo were also collected in "dense mossy forest." I could find no information for the lower altitudes of Mt. Apo, but apparently the dense and/or mossy forest does not extend down to the 3000-foot level.