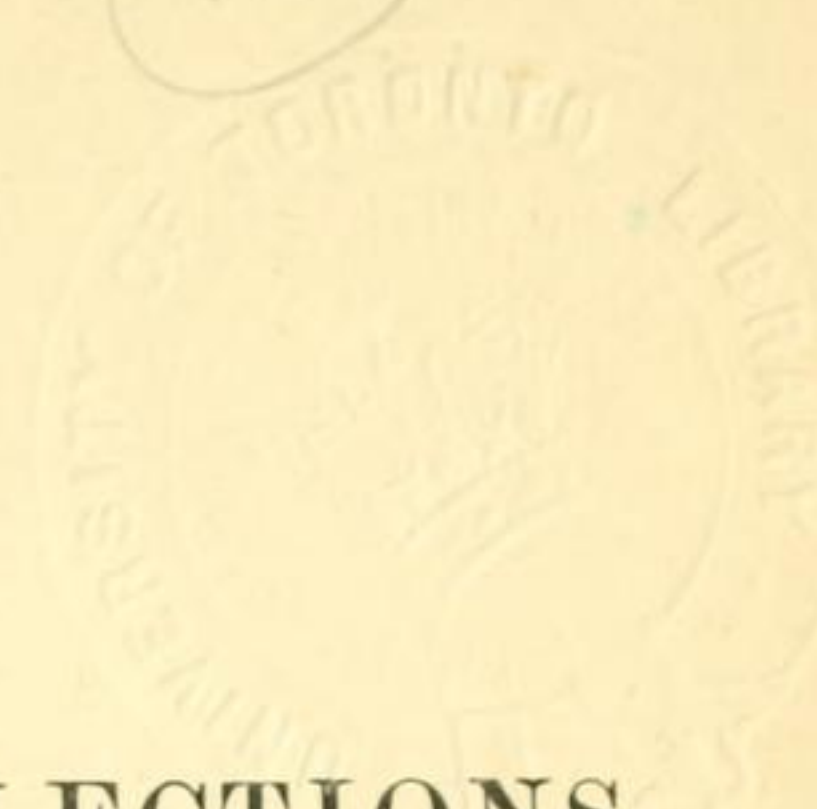


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British Museum (Nat Mus.): Dept. of Zoology

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REPORT
ON THE
ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
MADE IN THE
INDO-PACIFIC OCEAN
DURING THE
VOYAGE OF H.M.S. 'ALERT'
1881-2.

5246

LONDON:
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1884.

specimens are certainly very closely allied to the latter, but have rather a clearer grey throat and a more pronounced cheek-stripe; but in any case it appears to me better to place *P. limbata* in the genus *Stigmatops*, along with its congener *S. ocellaris*, and not to consider it a *Ptilotis*, as Dr. Gadow has done. His plate in the 'Catalogue' gives too much of a brown colour to the bird, and the orange spot behind the eye is too strongly pronounced.

Nor can I agree with Dr. Gadow concerning his *G. chloris*, the only actual specimens of which in the British Museum are the two from Mysol, those from the Aru Islands and Lombock being true *S. ocellaris*.

33. *Ptilotis notata*, Gould.

Gould, *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* xx. p. 269 (1867); Ramsay, *t. c.* p. 189.

Ptilotis analoga, pt., Gadow, *t. c.* p. 227.

- a. ♂. Prince of Wales Island, Aug. 1881.
- b. ♂. Thursday Island, July 7, 1881.

This is the species which Count Salvadori unites under the name of *P. analoga* (Reichenb.) in his 'Ornitologia della Papuasias' (vol. ii. p. 327), and in all his identifications he is followed by Dr. Gadow, who even goes further than Count Salvadori in his suppression of species, and adds *P. flavirictus* of the latter author as a final offering to the manes of the dominant form, *P. analoga*. It seems doubtful, however, to me whether Dr. Gadow has really ever seen the true *P. flavirictus* of Count Salvadori, which is from the Fly River, the specimens which he supposes to belong to that species being from South-eastern New Guinea: Salvadori refers all his specimens from this part of the island to *P. analoga*.

Putting aside the question of the length of bill, which certainly varies very much, even in specimens from the same locality, the shape of the ear-tuft ought not to be overlooked; and we find that there are two distinct forms, the birds from Dorey, Mysol, and Waigiou having an elongated yellow ear-tuft. This is accompanied by a very Bulbul-like character, viz. a fluffy rump with strongly marked subterminal shades of blackish brown, the lateral feathers tipped with white, and reminding one of *Pinarocichla* or *Polioptilus*.

All specimens examined by me from other localities have a rounded yellow ear-tuft instead of a longitudinal one, and may be classed under three headings:—1st. *P. aruensis*, nob. (*Hab.* Aru Islands), where the rump is mottled, as in the New-Guinea birds; and 2nd, *P. notata*, Gould. The latter species embraces two forms, a large one and a small one (*P. gracilis*, Gould), the last-named being apparently only found in South-eastern New Guinea and the Cape-York Peninsula. Neither of the two forms of *P. notata* show the mottling on the rump of *P. aruensis* or *P. analoga*.

I may add that the specimens from Cape York, referred by the