

pastor, Strickland, are undoubtedly *P. indica*, Blyth. This species, distinguished, amongst other characters, from *P. rubicola* (Linn.), by its pure white unspotted rump, and its almost entirely black axillaries, was first discovered in Europe by Harvie-Brown and myself in the valley of the Petchora; Drs. Finsch and Brehm found it on the Obb; and I brought home several skins from the Yenesay. Although Severtzoff records both species from Turkestan, there can be scarcely any doubt that Pallas's birds from the Irtish and the Tobol belong to the eastern species, which must therefore stand as *Pratincola maura*, Pall. (Reise Russ. Reichs, ii. p. 708).

3. On the Identity of *Horornis fortipes*, Hodgson, *Neornis assimilis*, Gray, *Horeites robustipes*, Swinhoe, *Horeites pallidus*, Brooks, and *Horeites brunnescens*, Hume. By HENRY SEEBOHM, F.Z.S.

[Received November 7, 1878.]

CETTIA FORTIPES (Hodgson).

Salicaria — ?, Hodgson, icon. ined. nos. 900 & 928.

Horornis fortipes, Hodgson, J. A. S. Beng. xiv. p. 584 (1845).

Drymœca brevicaudata, Blyth, J. A. S. Beng. xvi. p. 459 (1847).

Horornis assimilis, Gray, Cat. Mamm. &c. Nepal coll. Hodgson, p. 30, no. 143 (1863, ex Hodgson).

Horeites robustipes, Swinhoe, Ibis, 1866, p. 398.

Neornis assimilis, Gray, Hand-list of Birds, no. 3096 (1869).

Horeites pallidus, Brooks, J. A. S. Beng. xli. p. 78 (1872).

Horeites brunnescens, Hume, Ibis, 1872, p. 109.

An examination of thirty-two skins of *Horornis fortipes*, Hodgson, *H. assimilis*, Gray, *Horeites robustipes*, Swinhoe, and *Horeites pallidus*, Brooks, leads me to the conclusion that they all belong to one species.

They agree in having the general colour of the upper parts russet (not olive) brown, somewhat yellower on the rump. The wings are brown, fringed externally with russet-brown, and margined internally with white. The tail is brown, fringed with russet-brown. An indistinct eyebrow and the underparts are buffish white, shading into ochraceous brown on the flanks, thighs, and under tail-coverts. Axillaries and under wing-coverts pale yellow. Young birds have the underparts yellower. The bill is moderately stout, dark horn-colour above, pale horn-colour below, but darker towards the tip. Rictal bristles slender. The wing is very rounded, the first primary rather more than half the length of the second, and the fifth, sixth, and seventh are nearly equal and longest. The tail consists of ten feathers only, and is rounded, its outside feathers being about 0.45 inch shorter than the longest. The foot and tarsus are robust, pale brown in colour; and the latter is very indistinctly scutellated in front. The length of wing varies in adults from 1.9 to 2.28, the tail being about one-twentieth shorter. The culmen measures about 0.5.

Brooks obtained this species in Cashmere; Mandelli has sent skins from Darjeeling; Hodgson found it in Nepal, and Godwin-Austen in Assam. Swinhoe's type from Formosa seems less remotely situated when we remember that Père David obtained the nearly allied species (*Horeites major* and *H. brunneifrons*) in China, where the species under consideration doubtless also occurs.

I place this species in the genus *Cettia*, because it agrees with the type of that genus in having only ten tail-feathers, somewhat similarly graduated, and because both species have a somewhat similar bill, and a rounded wing, not flat like that of a Thrush, but twisted like a plough-plate to fit the body, evidently adapted less for extended flight than to be out of the way when the bird is creeping through dense foliage. Both species agree in having the feathers of the rump considerably developed, and in laying eggs of a uniform dark-red colour in a cup-shaped nest.

The position of this genus is somewhat intermediate between the *Turdinæ* and the *Timeliinæ*. So far as I can see at present, I feel disposed to restrict the *Turdinæ* to birds with a comparatively flat wing, in which the first primary is almost obsolete, whilst the second is lengthened with the other primaries, forming a long pointed wing, adapted for the extended flight of species whose winter-home may be thousands of miles away from their breeding-stations. This scheme would include the Chats, Thrushes, Redstarts, Warblers, and Accentors in the *Turdinæ*, and leave the short-winged Warblers, such as *Prinia*, *Cisticola*, &c., to take their place along with the Babblers and Bulbuls in the *Timeliinæ*. This latter group of birds is characterized by having strong legs and feet, adapted for creeping through tangled foliage, whilst their wings, instead of being flat, are moulded to fit the body of the bird and to occupy as little room as possible. The conformation of the wing is ill-adapted to extended flight. The first primary is large and takes its place naturally beside the shortened second primary, so that it no longer deserves to be called a bastard primary. The other primaries are also short and graduated in length, making a short rounded wing, sufficient for birds whose annual migrations are confined to such narrow limits that they can often look down from the mountains where they breed onto the plain or into the valleys, where they find an abundant supply of winter food.

It must be admitted, however, that in many genera of the *Turdinæ* we find approaches to the *Timeliinæ*, so as to make the two subfamilies not only to come into contact with each other but sometimes to overlap, so that we may have occasionally a turdine species of the *Timeliinæ* more turdine than the most timeliine species of the *Turdinæ*. These little difficulties are very puzzling to the systematic ornithologist; but possibly they may be evidence that his system is a natural one rather than otherwise.

The following list of skins examined will show how impossible it is to draw any distinction in respect of size between the four reputed species which I propose to unite:—

Length of wing.			
in.			
2.28	Sikkim.	G. Austen.	Horornis fortipes.
2.24	Naga hills.	"	Neornis assimilis ♂.
2.2	Sikkim.	Brooks.	Horornis fortipes.
2.2	Darjeeling.	Hume.	Horeites brunnescens.
2.2	Nepal.	Hodgson.	Neornis assimilis.
2.2	Naga hills.	G. Austen.	" ♀.
2.18	Shillong.	"	"
2.18	Nepal.	Hodgson.	"
2.15	Darjeeling.	Brooks.	Horeites pallidus.
2.15	Khasa.	G. Austen.	Neornis assimilis.
2.14	Sikkim.	"	Horornis fortipes.
2.14	Shillong.	"	Neornis assimilis ♂.
2.14	Cashmere.	Brooks.	Horeites pallidus.
2.13	Shillong.	G. Austen.	Neornis assimilis ♂.
2.13	Darjeeling.	Blyth.	Drymœca brevicaudata.
2.11	Nepal.	Hodgson.	Neornis assimilis.
2.11	"	"	"
2.1	"	"	"
2.1	"	"	"
2.1	Shillong.	G. Austen.	" ♂.
2.07	Naga hills.	"	" ♀.
2.05	Munipur	"	"
2.0	Formosa.	Swinhoe.	Horeites robustipes.
2.0	Nepal	Hodgson.	Neornis assimilis, juv.
1.96	"	"	"
1.95	"	"	Neornis assimilis.
1.95	Khasi.	G. Austen.	"
1.9	Formosa.	Swinhoe.	Horeites robustipes.
1.9	Darjeeling.	Brooks.	Horeites pallidus.
1.9	Nepal.	Hodgson.	Neornis assimilis, juv.
1.88	"	"	"
1.88	"	"	"
1.81	"	"	"

4. Description of new Species of Phytophagous Coleoptera from Central and South America. By MARTIN JACOBY.

[Received November 13, 1878.]

1. LEMA SUFFRIANI, sp. nov.

Oblong, light testaceous. Head and breast black; elytra striate-punctate, testaceous, a short sutural and submarginal stripe at the base and two small spots, one before, the other behind the middle of each elytron, violaceous black.

Length $2\frac{3}{4}$ – $3\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

Head shining black, impunctate, not constricted behind the eyes, the lateral grooves very deep; antennæ nearly as long as half the body, of a uniform light rufous or testaceous colour, only the basal joint stained with piceous; thorax scarcely longer than broad, deeply



Seebohm, Henry. 1878. "On the Identity of *Horornis fortipes*, Hodgs., *Neornis assimilis*, Gray, *Horeites robustipes*, Swinhoe, *Horeites pallidus*, Brooks, and *Horeites brunnescens*, Hume." *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1878, 980–982. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-7998.1878.tb08041.x>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/90451>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-7998.1878.tb08041.x>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/73545>

Holding Institution

Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by

Natural History Museum Library, London

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>.