

REMARKS ON CHALCITES MALAYANUS (RAFFLES)

by

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Till now it was assumed that the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, and Celebes are inhabited by the typical race of *Chalcites malayanus*. At Prof. Stresemann's request I compared the beautiful series collected by Heinrich in Celebes with the material in the Leiden Museum and it proved that the above mentioned region is inhabited by more than one race. Especially in series these races are well recognizable. Material was kindly sent me on loan by the British Museum, the Buitenzorg Museum, and the Raffles Museum.

Chalcites malayanus malayanus (Raffles)

Cuculus malayanus Raffles, Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. 13, 1821, p. 286 (Malay Peninsula).

The upperparts are greenish tinged, in some specimens with a more or less bronze gloss. The forehead with a varying amount of white. The underparts are barred, the breast with several thin bars, the abdomen with heavier and broader bands especially on the flanks. At the moment I consider the Sumatra birds as belonging to the typical race too. The upper- and underparts correspond with those of Malayan birds, though in 2 of the 3 Sumatra birds the white on the forehead extends slightly further back than in the birds from the Malay Peninsula.

Seven specimens from the Malay Peninsula. Wing 93—98, tail 60—65, culmen 13—15 mm.

Three specimens from Sumatra. Wing 91 + x — 97, tail 61—64, culmen 13 mm.

Chalcites malayanus albifrons nov. subsp.

Upperparts as in Malayan and Sumatra specimens, but the forehead with more white. This colour mostly runs over and behind the eyes, which

gives the head a very white appearance. Underparts with thinner bands than in the nominal race and the middle of the abdomen often nearly white.

Ten specimens from Java. Wing 94—98, tail 60—63, culmen 13—14 mm.

Type: A ♂ collected on 14-10-1908 at Batavia (Jacobson coll.).

***Chalcites malayanus aheneus* nov. subspec.**

Upperparts with a strong bronzy gloss, which separates most Borneo birds immediately from the former. Very little white on the forehead, in one specimen only the white is rather well developed, but is restricted to the region before the eyes. The bars on breast and abdomen about as in Malayan specimens, but slightly heavier.

Ten specimens from Borneo. Wing 91—97, tail 59—63, culmen 13—15 mm.

Type: A ♂ from Bandjermasin, South Borneo, collected August 1844 (Schwaner coll.).

One specimen from Kina Balu, North Borneo (coll. British Museum) is not included in the above series. It differs from the others in having the head much darker (bluish green) and the rest of the upperparts greener, though of a much darker colour than in Malayan specimens. It may be that the northern mountains of Borneo are inhabited by a separate race, but more material is necessary to make this certain.

***Chalcites malayanus jungei* Stres.**

Chalcites malayanus jungei Stresemann, Ornith. Monatsber., vol. 46, 1938, p. 148 (Oeroe, Latimodjong Mts., Celebes).

The birds occurring in Celebes are smaller than those from the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java, and Borneo. The upperparts are rather variable in colour, in some specimens these are strongly bronze tinged, in others more green but of a darker colour than in *malayanus* or *albifrons*. Bars below numerous and thin. No white on the forehead, which is greyish.

Sixteen specimens from Celebes. Wing 88—94, tail 50—62, culmen 13—15 mm.

In their review of the genus *Chalcites* Hartert and Stresemann (Novit. Zool., vol. 32, 1925, pp. 158—174) listed, though with hesitation, *crassirostris* as a race of *malayanus*. It is better, however, to regard *crassirostris* as a separate species. *Crassirostris* is quite different from the other races

of *malayanus* and moreover in the Leiden Museum we have skins, which certainly belong to *malayanus*, from the following localities: Ternate (1), Amboina (1), Goram (2), Boeroe (1), Wetter (1). From *crassirostris* specimens of the following localities are present: Halmahera (1), Amboina (1), Kisser (1), Kei Islands (1), Sorong, New Guinea (2). All this is old material and young specimens are included. With this scarce material I am unable to discuss the racial relationships, but I note these facts only to give a hint for further research on *Chalcites* from these regions.
