

A NEW RACE OF DICRURUS FROM THE ISLAND MOROTAI (N. MOLUCCAS)

by

A. C. V. VAN BEMMEL
(Zoological Museum, Buitenzorg, Java)

In preparing a Handlist of the birds of the Moluccan islands, I found among the material in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, a race of *Dicrurus* that needs description:

***Dicrurus bracteatus morotaiensis* nov. subspec.**

Diagnosis:

Distinguished from *atrocaeruleus* Gray (1860) — Batjan and Halmahera — by smaller culmen and wing. Habitat: Island Morotai (N. Moluccas).

Measurements in mm:

♂♂ culmen: 29; 29; 28.5; 28.5; 30
wing: 150; 148; 147; 152; 149
♀♀ culmen: 27; 29; 30
wing: 149; 147; 145.

For comparison the following measurements are given:

Halmahera: ♂♂ culmen: 32; 32; 32; 31; 33; 33; 32; 32
wing: 162; 161; 175; 169; 166; 169; 168; 168

♀♀ culmen: 32; 34; 33; 31; 31
wing: 160; 165; 168; 162; 162

sex inc. culmen: 32; 32; 31; 33
wing: 159; 167; 163; 172

Batjan: ♂♂ culmen: 31;
wing: 170;

♀♀ culmen: 31; 30; 32; 31; 30; 30
wing: 158; 163; 169; 162; 158; 161

sex inc. culmen: 31; 32; 32; 31; 31; 33
wing: 164; 169; 165; 165; 163; 172

Damar (N. Moluccas):

♂ culmen: 32

wing: 162.

Type: ♂, leg. Bernstein, 2-I-1862, Mira, Island Morotai, in the collection Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden.

The new race is placed in the species *bracteatus*, but I can see few reasons for splitting the "superspecies" *hottentottus* in different "species" like *hottentottus*, *leucops* and *bracteatus*. There are other groups in this superspecies that could claim specific rank on the same doubtful reasons.

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