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## THE NAME OF THE WHITE-EYE FROM RENDOVA ISLAND (SOLOMON ISLANDS)

by

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Of the various races of white-eyes that inhabit the central group of the Solomon Islands, the race from the island of Rendova was the first to become known to science.

Tristram (1882) recorded this race, which he indentified with *Tephras olivaceus* Ramsay, described the previous year from the "Solomon Islands", without an exact indication of its type-locality (Ramsay, 1881). Tristram (l.c.) stated that the species was a typical member of the genus *Zosterops*, and that, consequently, *Tephras olivaceus* Ramsay became preoccupied by *Zosterops olivacea* auct. (*Certhia olivacea* L.) from Réunion. Therefore he proposed the new name *Zosterops rendovae*, his comment being as follows:

"This bird has already been described by Mr. Ramsay ... as *Tephras olivaceus*, sp. nov. Whether the characteristics of the genus *Tephras*, as laid down by Hartlaub, are sufficient to separate it from *Zosterops* may be open to doubt; but this bird agrees with *Zosterops* and not with *Tephras* ... There being already a *Z. olivacea*, I have felt it necessary to substitute another name for this very interesting species ...".

Only a few months later Salvadori (1882) remarked that the species that Tristram had before him when he gave the name *Zosterops rendovae*, was distinct from *Tephras olivaceus* Ramsay; but instead of naming the birds recorded by Tristram, he was apparently of the opinion that *Z. rendovae* could be used for those, whereas he proceeded to give another new name to *Tephras olivaceus* Ramsay: *Zosterops ramsayi* Salvadori.

It is not to the purpose to follow up the unfortunate series of new names given to *Tephras olivaceus* Ramsay, but it must be remarked that the use of the name *Z. rendovae* by Salvadori and many subsequent authors for the bird from Rendova, is incorrect, as the Copenhagen Decisions on Zoological Nomenclature, 1953, § 142, explicitly state that:

“Where a specific name, when first published, is expressly stated to be a substitute (e.g. by the use of such expressions as “nom. nov.”, or “nom. mut.”) for a previously published name but is at the same time applied to particular specimens, the species to which the name applies is in all circumstances that to which the previously published name is applicable”.

Hence it is evident that *Zosterops rendovae* is a new name for *Tephras olivaceus* Ramsay, and thus becomes the valid name for the species now known as *Zosterops ugiensis* (Ramsay), 1882.

The white-eye from Rendova Island has apparently never been named, and I propose for it:

***Zosterops kulambangrae paradoxa* mihi**

Type: ♂, 15-2-1904, Rendova, Solomon Islands, A. S. Meek coll., Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) reg. 1905.11.25-26.

Diagnosis: Differs from *Z. kulambangrae tetiparia* Murphy from the neighbouring island of Tetipari by its entirely yellow under surface; differs from *Z. kulambangrae kulambangrae* Rothschild & Hartert from Kulambangra, New Georgia, Vangunu, and Gatukai (Central Solomon Islands) by the absence of a white eye-ring. A full description of these forms is given by Murphy (1929), to whose paper I may refer for further particulars.

In accordance with “Recommandation” § 143 of the Copenhagen Congress I described the race as new, choosing a type specimen from the material now before me.

The group of races inhabiting the Central Solomon Islands, hitherto united under the specific name *Z. rendovae* (nec Tristram, 1882), must now bear the specific name *Z. kulambangrae* Rothschild & Hartert, 1901.

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