

Systematic notes on Asian birds. 16.

The type of *Pitta baudii* Müller & Schlegel, 1839 (Pittidae)

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Further research into the type of *Pitta baudii* Müller & Schlegel, 1839, showed that Dickinson et al. (2000) erred in referring to the National Museum of Natural History in Leiden as the collection where a type specimen of this taxon is kept. The correction of the date of description to 1839 has revealed that the four selected specimens cannot be types. The museum received them too late. The confusion has been traced to one of the four being labelled "type". This we find refers to the illustration by J. Wolf published in June 1845. The 1839 plate was suppressed and the original type relative to this taxon as illustrated therein has not been traced; a depiction of this is therefore of considerable importance. The suppressed plate has been located and is reproduced here.

Introduction

In 'Systematic notes on Asian birds. 5. Types of the Pittidae' (Dickinson et al., 2000), a type of *Pitta baudii* Müller & Schlegel, 1839, was listed as being present in the collection of the National Museum of Natural History, Leiden. One of the four selected specimens was labelled "type" and the label seemed to refer to the illustration depicting the species that appeared with the original description. However, in rechecking them when preparing the passerine section of the type catalogue of the Leiden collection it became clear that none of these specimens could have been the artist's model for that painting and therefore they could not be syntypes. In fact, all four presumed syntypes were collected by C.A.L.M. Schwaner in Banjermasing, Borneo, and were donated to the museum in 1843, four years after *P. baudii* was described and illustrated. Our realisation of this flowed from our discovery that the name *P. baudii* dates from 1839 and not from 1845 as was commonly accepted (e.g. Mayr, 1979; Lambert & Woodcock, 1996). We also reread Müller's description and found that he stated that he had just one male specimen so *P. baudii* has a holotype by monotypy. The matter turns out, however, to be rather more complex than we expected and a detailed explanation is in order.

Plates redone

Dickinson et al. (2000) stated correctly (p. 108, footnote 8) that the first 12 pages of Müller & Schlegel's text on the Pittidae appeared with three plates in 1839 (Husson &

Holthuis, 1955). *P. baudii* was described on page 10 and it was said to be said to be illustrated in plate 2.

Dickinson et al. (2000) erred, we find, in referring to the first two of these as plates "I and II" instead of plates 1 and 2. We They were influenced by a number on the label of one "type specimen" rather than drawing the numbers from the publication. Turning to the publication we find that plates I and II were issued as substitutes for plates 1 and 2. Although seemingly a minor detail, it does however however make a big difference. Apparently the ink used in the original plates faded (Husson & Holthuis, 1955) and Temminck, who was still director of the museum, must have felt that plates 1 and 2 which were made in 1839 by A.S. Mulder (see Holthuis, 1993) could be improved and had them redrawn and repainted by Joseph Wolf, probably in 1844. Schwaner's specimens, which arrived in Leiden in 1843, were available to Wolf and he must have used these fresh specimens for his illustration of Plate II (as indicated on the label of one of the four supposed syntypes) rather than the specimen which was used in 1839 when the original plate and text were made. Evidently when the specimen label was marked "type" the author of that annotation did not realise that this was not a specimen depicted and described in 1839, and therefore not a type.

It is thought, although this is not certain,Wolf's substitute plates were issued in with the June 1845 (Husson & Holthuis, 1955) text and were numbered I and II. The label of the one of Schwaner's specimens, which was thus wrongly put aside as a syn-type, refers to plate II (painted by J. Wolf), and not to plate 2.

No specimen of *P. baudii* now in Leiden was in the museum as early as 1839. The holotype is also not in the collection of the Museum nationale d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN) in Paris (J.-F. Voisin, pers. comm.) with which museum Temminck exchanged specimens on a regular basis. The unique type of *P. baudii* must therefore be in another institution or must have been discarded. The archives in the National Museum of Natural History in Leiden have been found to contain both the original plate 1 (of *Pitta boschii* Müller & Schlegel, 1839, a junior synonym of *Pitta guajana irena* Temminck, 1836) and plate 2 (*P. baudii*).

Because plates 1 and 2, which will be rare in collections if available at all,which do illustrate a syn-type of *P. boschii* (of which two syntypes are in the Leiden collection under registration number RMNH 88845 and 88846) and the lost type of *P. baudii* have been 'lost' for publication after they were replaced by plates I and II, we reproduce these plates here.

Other museum curators who believe they might have the specimen that was depicted as *P. baudii* are invited to explore the potential with us.

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Prof. Dr L.B. Holthuis, co-author of the 1955 publication cited in this paper and still active at the National Museum of Natural History in Leiden and Dr C. Smeenk, curator of mammals, helped to solve this interesting case of confusion and commented on the draft of this paper. Thanks are also due to J.-F. Voisin for checking the collection of the MNHN in Paris for the type of *P. baudii*.

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PITTA BOSCHII.

Colour plate 1: Plate 1 of *Pitta boschii* Müller & Schlegel, 1839, as originally depicted by A.S. Mulder but suppressed by C.J. Temminck.



Colour plate 2: Plate I by Joseph Wolf of *Pitta boschii* Müller & Schlegel, 1839, published in 1845 as a replacement of the original plate 1 (illustrated here as colour plate 1).



PITTA BAUDII.

Colour plate 3: Plate 2 of *Pitta baudii* Müller & Schlegel, 1839, as originally depicted by A.S. Mulder but suppressed by C.J. Temminck.



Colour plate 4: Plate II by Joseph Wolf of *Pitta baudii* Müller & Schlegel, 1839, published in 1845 as a replacement of the original plate 2 (illustrated here as colour plate 3).

