





When I first observed a spur from the subcostal in form 1 of the above species, I supposed that it was an ordinary monstrosity; but finding that exactly one-sixth of the specimens in the Museum collection possessed the same character, more or less developed from the same nervure, I thought it a fact of some significance and worthy of being recorded. It is well known that the greater number of the genera of diurnal Lepidoptera are founded upon neural characters, and in the genus *Ithomia* the species are separated chiefly by slight modifications in the venation of the hind wing. If, then, any species can be proved to exhibit inconstancy in the venation of its hind wings, it must, at the least, cast the shadow of a doubt upon the value of species which are precisely alike in every character but this.

Secondly. I think the above modifications interesting, as showing how characters do occur which, if of any advantage to the species, may be further developed by natural selection, and thus result in forming distinct genera. In a paper which I have recently published upon the genera of the Pierinæ (a subfamily which I maintain to be most constant in neurulation) I have found it necessary to divide the genera into three groups, distinguished from each other by the number of branches to the subcostal nervure in the front wings; an additional branch to the subcostal in the hind wings would be quite as important a character, and would have the effect of widely separating two genera, otherwise allied, in any systematic arrangement founded upon structural characters.

## 7. Description of a New Indian Lizard of the Genus *Calotes*.

By Dr. A. GÜNTHER, F.Z.S. &c.

(Plate XLV.)

Mr. Jerdon has brought home with him a considerable number of examples of Khasyan *Calotes*, and has convinced me that two species have been hitherto confounded under the name of *Calotes maria* (Gray). The one has the scales of the throat of rather small size; the supertympanic series of spines is at a distance from the tympanum; the nuchal spines are narrow, slender, very rigid, and not flexible; besides, this form has never a black streak through the eye. To this form belongs the largest of the four typical examples of *Calotes maria*, which name, therefore, must be retained for it. Mr. Blyth's diagnosis of his *Calotes platyceps* agrees entirely with this form, and not with the next, as supposed by Mr. Jerdon (Proc. As. Soc. Bengal, 1870, p. 77).

The second form, Mr. Jerdon informs me, remains always of smaller dimensions; the nearly perfect identity of coloration of certain specimens with others of *C. maria* is a very surprising fact, the differences from this species being solely structural. Its gular scales are large; the supertympanic series of spines is immediately above



the tympanum; the nuchal spines are low, broad, triangular, strongly compressed laminæ; specimens with black radiating streaks through the eye are very common. This form requires to be named; and I have great pleasure in dedicating it to Mr. Jerdon, who of late years has worked so successfully to supplement and correct the observations made by him many years ago. This species will stand as *Calotes jerdoni*.

For the accompanying illustration (Plate XLV.) I have chosen specimens with different ornamental colours, the bright coloration of the head of the male of *C. maria* being peculiar to this sex during the breeding-season.

8. On Venezuelan Birds collected by Mr. A. Goering. By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., and OSBERT SALVIN, M.A., F.L.S.—Part IV.\*

(Plates XLVI., XLVII.)

In our last article on Mr. Goering's collections we spoke of his intended expedition into the Sierra Nevada of Merida. The collection made by Mr. Goering during this journey has lately been received in this country, and we now proceed to give an account of it.

As we have already stated, Mr. Goering reached Merida by way of the Lake of Maracaibo and Zuliár, arriving in that city on the 5th of April, 1869. From that date until the following August the weather was unusually dry.

From Merida Mr. Goering made excursions to the Paramos de la Culata, which lie on the ridges to the north of the city, and also to the Sierra Nevada, which overhangs it on the south. He also visited the Laguna de Urao, or Natron Lake, which lies some miles to the west of Merida, and the Puente Natural, or Natural Bridge, of Copas, north-west of Merida on the River Copas, which flows into the Lake of Maracaibo, where there is a nesting-place of *Steatornis caripensis*.

Leaving Merida on the 30th of October, 1869, Mr. Goering set out to return by land to Puerto Cabello, intending to collect *en route*. But on reaching Carache a revolution broke out, which rendered it necessary for him to retreat to the Lake of Maracaibo, and so by sea to La Guayra.

In Merida and its vicinity Mr. Goering formed a collection of 135 specimens of birds, which are referable to 106 species. Amongst these, as will be seen by the subjoined list, are many of great interest to the naturalist, and not less than nine which appear to have been hitherto undescribed†. This is hardly to be wondered at when we

\* See Part I., P. Z. S. 1868, p. 165; Part II., P. Z. S. 1868, p. 626; and Part III., P. Z. S. 1869, p. 250.

† *Setophaga albifrons*.

*Diglossa gloriosa*.

*Chlorospingus goeringi*.

*Buarremon meridæ*.

*Grallaria griseonucha*.

*Ochthoëca superciliosa*.

— *nigrita*.

*Conurus rhodocephalus*.

*Urochroma dilectissima*.