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A NEW BERNERIA FROM MADAGASCAR

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A SMALL series of *Berneria madagascariensis* from eastern Madagascar, recently acquired by the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, shows conclusively that the bird from the western part of the island belongs to a very distinct form which we propose to call

***Berneria madagascariensis inceleber* subsp. nov.**

Type, no. 78,115, M. C. Z., adult male, Bemara Gorges, Upper Siribihina River, western Madagascar, collected July 3, 1915, by F. R. Wulsin.

Characters. — Similar to *Berneria madagascariensis madagascariensis* (Gmel.)¹ of eastern Madagascar, but smaller and with a more slender bill and colors much paler. Above, much paler and more grayish olive-green. Beneath, very much paler yellow; this is Baryta Yellow in the new form, Lemon Chrome in true *madagascariensis*.

¹*Muscicapa madagascariensis* Gmelin, Syst. Nat., I, pt. 2, 1789, p. 940. Ex Brisson, Orn., III, 1760, p. 482, pl. 24, fig. 5. Madagascar.

MEASUREMENTS (in millimeters)

B. m. madagascariensis. — Two males: wing, 89.5, 90; tail, 86, 86.5; bill (from base of forehead), 28; tarsus, 24.5, 25 mm. Two females: wing, 74.5, 76; tail, 70, 72.5; bill, 23, 24; tarsus, 23, 24 mm.

B. m. inceleber. — Two males: wing, 86,¹ 88; tail, 80,¹ 85; bill, 27.5,¹ 27.5; tarsus, 24,¹ 24 mm. Two females: wing, 73, 74; tail, 68, 71; bill, 23; tarsus, 21, 22 mm.

Brisson's description of his "Grand Figuier de Madagascar," the primary reference of Gmelin's *Muscicapa madagascariensis*, leaves no doubt that this name refers to the more deeply colored form of this species, inhabiting eastern Madagascar, to which we hereby restrict the use of Gmelin's name.

While we have not seen the type of Lesson's *Rampbocaenus viridis*² which, according to Milne-Edward and Grandidier,³ was sent to the Paris Museum by Delalande, the description fits the eastern bird and it therefore may be considered a synonym of *madagascariensis*.

The color characters separating *B. m. madagascariensis* from *B. m. inceleber* are very striking, and might almost be regarded as of specific value; however, the differences are entirely those of *degree*. Similar degrees of difference are exhibited also by many other species of birds in Madagascar, which show a pale form in the west and a richly colored one in the east.

¹ Type.

² *Traité d'Orn.*, 1831, p. 377.

³ *Hist.*, etc., de Madagascar, XII, Ois., tome I, 1879, p. 350, note.