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A NEW *PITTA* FROM PALAWAN,
PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

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AN apparently new species of *Pitta* from the Island of Palawan, Philippines, may be known by the following description.

Pitta persola, sp. nov.

DESCRIPTION.—Type, number 5935 (623b), University of Michigan Museum of Zoology; near Puerta Princesa, Palawan, Philippine Islands; August, 1874; Joseph B. Steere.

Whole head, throat, and sides and back of neck black; back Winter Green,¹ most of the feathers with minute black tips and some with one or two narrow, interrupted, blackish, transverse bars; tail somewhat darker green, dusky at the bases of the feathers and below; primaries black, the proximal ones slightly edged with blue-green; secondaries black, with broad bluish green margins, which increase in width and extend on the distal portion of the inner webs proximally; lesser and middle coverts, lower rump, and upper tail-coverts Winter Green, broadly tipped with brilliant silvery blue "enamel";

¹ Colors in capitals are from Robert Ridgway, *Color Standards and Color Nomenclature*, Washington, D. C., 1912, published by the author. Pp. 44, 53 color plates.

TABLE OF MEASUREMENTS

Collection	Sex	Locality	Date	Collector	In millimeters				
					Wing	Tail	Culmen Depth from base at base		
<i>Pitta bonapartena</i>									
U.S.N.M.	♀	Celebes: Temboan	Aug. 1, 1916	H. C. Raven	116 ²	42	27	12	43
249742									
<i>Pitta persola</i> (type)									
U.M.M.Z.	♀	Palawan: Puerta Princesa	Aug., 1874	J. B. Steere	97 ²	27 ²	8.5	40
5935									
<i>Pitta sordida</i>									
U.M.M.Z.	♀	"	"	"	103	34	25	10.5	36
6453									

² Molting.

greater coverts Winter Green, slightly edged with blue and crossed by a few broken obtuse blackish bars; breast and lower neck below Clear Fluorite Green, becoming dull and more buffy on belly and flanks; anterior portion of center of abdomen Pinkish Buff, shading into Safrano Pink on lower abdomen and under tail-coverts; under wing-coverts black; thighs buffy brown; bill blackish; feet dark brown; claws paler.

Wing (flat), 97; tail, 27; depth of bill at base, 8.5; tarsus, 40 mm.

REMARKS.—*Pitta persola* belongs to the same group as *Pitta bonapartena* (Mathews)³ and *Pitta sordida* (Müller),⁴ but it lacks the black abdominal patch and brilliant underparts of these two species. It differs further from *bonapartena* in smaller size, proportionately long tarsus, darker back, and more restricted blue rump patch. The nostril is narrow and almost linear, instead of broad and oblique. The green tail and black primaries immediately separate it from *sordida*, while the new species also has a longer tarsus, smaller bill, darker, more bluish back, the silvery rump and shoulder patches with a green tinge, the black of the throat concave and less extended posteriorly, and darker bill and feet. The faint barring of the greater coverts and back, mentioned in the description above, may be fortuitous, as is the case with many birds of this genus.

I am indebted to Dr. Herbert Friedmann, who kindly loaned me the National Museum's skin of *Pitta bonapartena*.

³ *Melanopitta bonapartena* Mathews, *Bull. B.O.C.*, 67, No. 308 (November 6, 1926): 40 (new name for *Brachyurus forsteni* Bonaparte, preoccupied).

⁴ *Turdus sordidus* P. L. S. Müller, *Natursyst. Suppl.* (Nürnberg, 1776): 143. Long known as *Pitta atricapilla* Lesson.

