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(WITH TEN PLATES.)



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Carapace :

Length over curve, 62 inches = 1550 mm.

„ in straight line, 49½ inches = 1238 mm.

Breadth over curve, 60 inches = 1500 mm.

Hab. Therese Island, St. Anne's Channel, Seychelles Islands.

The carapace of the *T. gigantea* used for comparison measured 49 inches in a straight line, = 1225 mm. It is true *T. gigantea* of Schweiger, of which *T. hololissa* Günther is a synonym. This form inhabited the smallest of the three Aldabra islands, while *T. gigantea elephantina* inhabited the northern large island, and *T. daudini* is still found on the southern large island. *T. soumeirei* inhabited one of the smaller islands either of the Seychelles or neighbouring groups.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON BIRDS FROM N.W. AUSTRALIA.

By ERNST HARTERT, PH.D.

(Plate 1.)

Amytornis woodwardi Hart.

(Plate I. fig. 1, ♂ ad.)

IN *Nov. Zool.* 1905, p. 225, I mentioned a series of a bird under the name *Amytornis housei*. Mr. Bernard Woodward, curator of the Perth Museum, has now kindly sent me a specimen of the true *A. housei*, and I find it quite distinct from our series. I therefore described the birds from the Alligator River, Arnhem Land, under the name of *Amytornis woodwardi*, in honour of Mr. Woodward (*Bull. B. O. Club* xvi. p. 30, November 1905). In *Amyt. housei*, originally described as *Amytis housei* (Rep. Kimberley Exped., App. B, 1902) the tail is much shorter (in the specimen before me 91 mm., against 106 to 114 in *A. woodwardi*), the throat is striated with black and white, each feather being white with black margins, the malar region similarly marked, the chest, breast and abdomen are light chestnut, the former only being slightly marked with buff shaft-lines, the vent and under tail-coverts blackish with rufous shafts, and the upper wing-coverts chestnut with whitish shaft-lines. In other respects *A. housei* is much like *A. woodwardi* (cf. *Bull. B. O. Club* xvi. pp. 30, 31).

Amytis housei is well figured on Pl. XIII, *Emu* iv.

The generic name of these peculiar little birds has been rather unlucky. They were named *Amytis* by Lesson in 1831, but as this name had been preoccupied by Savigny in 1826 for a genus of worms, Stejneger in 1885 created the name *Amytornis*, which fact being overlooked by Oberholser, this author made another substitute for *Amytis*, namely *Diaphorillas*, in 1899.

In 1901 Mr. Milligan described a new species under the name *gigantura*. This name was changed first for *megalura* and then for *megalurus* by Sharpe (*Zoological Record* for 1901, p. 68, and *Hand-list* iv. p. 246) under the belief that *gigantura* was a "vox hybrida." Fortunately, however, the original name is composed of two genuine pure Greek words, and "*megalura*" as well as "*megalurus*" are therefore under any circumstances useless synonyms. The fear of Mr. Milligan (cf. *Victorian Naturalist* xx. p. 138) that Dr. Sharpe "forestalled" him with his name *megalurus* is of course unfounded!