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A NEW SUBSPECIES OF *ANTHREPTES MALACENSIS* (SCOPOLI) FROM THE SOELA ISLANDS (AVES, NECTARINIIDAE)

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For over a century the sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis* has been known to occur on the Soela Islands where it reaches the eastern limit of its distribution, and when Shelley (1877) named *Anthreptes celebensis*, now known as *Anthreptes malacensis celebensis*, he included the Soela Islands in its range.

In subsequent years apparently only Hartert (1898) has in the briefest possible way discussed specimens from the Soela Islands, stating that they were: "quite like Celebes specimens". At this the matter has rested with the result that in the latest list (van Bemmelen, 1948) the Soela Islands are still included in the range of *Anthreptes malacensis celebensis*.

When Stresemann (1932) restricted, in the Celebes, the range of *A. m. celebensis* to the southern peninsula, and described the birds from north, east and southeast Celebes as a new subspecies, *Anthreptes malacensis citrinus*, the identity of the Soela birds with *A. m. celebensis* was no longer likely from the zoogeographic point of view. Therefore I was not surprised to find that our series of *Anthreptes malacensis* from the Soela Islands shows clear differences from the two Celebes subspecies (which are very similar to each other), which justify separation as a moderately well-marked subspecies.

***Anthreptes malacensis extremus* subspecies nova**

Diagnosis. — Differs in the male sex from the subspecies *celebensis* and *citrinus* in the distinctly greener, less yellow under parts; the gular patch is

slightly more greyish brown, less warm brown in colour, all measurements average larger, the bill is not only somewhat larger but especially broader at its base. Differs from other neighbouring races, *Anthreptes malacensis convergens* Rensch (Lesser Soenda Islands), and *Anthreptes malacensis helio-calus* Oberholser (Sangihe Islands) also by being greener on the under surface, and from the last-mentioned race by smaller size.

Measurements (in millimetres) are given in the accompanying table. Stresemann (1932) recorded for large series of *citrinus* and *celebensis* wing-measurements of ♂: 64-69, ♀: 59-64, which agrees with measurements taken by me, 12 ♂: 64-69, 4 ♀: 60½-64½. Birds from the Soela Islands measure, 13 ♂: 67½-71, 7 ♀: 64-66½.

Type. ♂, Soela Besi, 17 December 1864, collected by D. S. Hoedt, Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie.

Discussion. — Originally I had intended to include the description of this new subspecies in a revision of the species as a whole, but the imminent appearance of the section Nectariniidae in "Peters' Check-List of Birds of the World" made it desirable to have a name available, while on the other hand a revision of other races appeared no longer necessary.

The name *extremus* is given because on the Soela Islands both the genus *Anthreptes* and the species *A. malacensis* reach their extreme limit of distribution.

The fact that *A. malacensis* has developed into a moderately well-marked subspecies shows once more how well-differentiated at the subspecific level the avifauna of the Soela Islands is.

Note. — I take this opportunity to mention that in a revision of one of the Nectariniidae of this region (Mees, 1965) I used the name *Nectarinia sericea* (Lesson). This name appears to be preoccupied and must be replaced by the next oldest one, *Nectarinia aspasia* (Lesson & Garnot), see Gadow (1884) and Hachisuka (1952).

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TABLE OF MEASUREMENTS

sex	locality	date	wing	tail	tarsus	culmen from skull	exposed culmen
<i>Anthreptes malacensis extremus</i>							
♂	Soela Besi	Jan. 1864	67½	39	17½	21	17¼
♂	"	"	68	38½	18	21¼	17¼
♂	"	"	70	39½	16	21¾	18
♂	"	"	68½	40	18	21½	18½
♂	"	Febr. 1864	69½	42	18	21	17¾
♂	"	"	68	38	17½	—	—
♂	"	"	69	40½	17¾	21	17½
♂	"	21.XI.1864	70	38	18	21¾	18½
♂	"	17.XII.1864	71	40	18	20¾	16½
♂	"	July 1876	69½	37½	17¾	20¾	17
♂	"	"	68	37	18½	20	17
♂	Soela Mangoli	Febr. 1864	68	39	17¾	—	—
♂	"	"	69	39	17¼	—	—
♂ im.	Soela Islands	"	67	38½	17½	21	17¼
♀	Soela Besi	Jan. 1864	66	36½	18	20½	17¼
♂	"	"	65	36½	17¾	20	17¾
♀	"	"	65	36	17½	20	17
♀	"	Febr. 1864	65	36	18	20½	17
♀	"	July 1876	64	35½	18	20	16½
♀	"	"	66½	36½	17½	19½	17
	"	"	64½	37	—	—	—
<i>Anthreptes malacensis citrinus</i>							
♂	Gorontalo	ca. 1841	66	35	16	18½	15¼
♂	"	"	65½	37½	15	19	16
♂	"	27.IV.1863	66½	38	16	19	16¼
♂	"	28.IV.1863	66	37	16¼	18¾	15
♂	"	3.V.1863	66	36	16½	18¾	15½
♂	Kema	23.VIII.1864	67½	38	16	19½	17
♂	N. Celebes	ca. 1883	68	38½	16¾	18	15¾
♂	"	"	67	36½	—	—	—
♂	"	"	69	39½	16	19¾	16
♂	Paleleh	2.IX.1917	65	38	15½	20	16½
♂	Boemboelan	18.X.1939	64	37	15¾	19	16
♀	Gorontalo	ca. 1841	64½	36	16	19½	15¾
♀	"	28.IV.1863	60½	33	16	17½	15
♀	"	2.V.1863	64½	35	—	19	16
♀	N. Celebes	ca. 1883	63	35	17	19¾	16¾
♂	Moena	7.VIII.1909	65	36½	16	20	17
<i>Anthreptes malacensis celebensis</i>							
♂	Makassar	1877	68	40	16	18½	15¼
♂	"	4.IX.1897	69	41	16	—	—
♀	"	1877	64	32½	16	18¾	15¾
<i>Anthreptes malacensis heliocalus</i>							
♂	Sanghir	15.XII.1865	75	46	18½	—	—