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The characters and range of *Pogoniulus chrysoconus extoni*
(Layard), 1871
by P. A. Clancey

Received 22nd April 1974

The races of the small barbet *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* (Temminck) of the savannas of Ethiopian Africa were considered by Grant (1915), Sclater (1924), Macdonald (1938), Chapin (1939) and White (1965). Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1955) dealt with the eastern and southern races, Clancey (1961) reviewed the variation evident in the southern African populations in some detail, and the local situation in Zambia and Rhodesia was considered by Irwin and Benson (1967). The arrangements of White and Mackworth-Praed & Grant are based on the conclusions of Macdonald, checked against British Museum and other material, while Sclater followed Grant.

Ross (1970), in his recent interesting exercise on the southern African populations of both *P. chrysoconus* and *P. pusillus* (Dumont), demonstrates that a proportion of the South African population of the former has the coronal patch orange-yellow or bright orange as opposed to yellow, and that there is a distributional hiatus between the southern population and those occurring on the Rhodesian plateau, west to northern South-West Africa and Angola. These findings suggested to me that the current wide application of the name *Barbatula extoni* Layard, 1871: Kanye, south-eastern Botswana, to the populations of this barbet occurring as far north as the plateau of Angola (Traylor 1963), Zambia (Benson *et al.* 1971), south-eastern Zaire, and western and southern Tanzania (Mackworth-Praed & Grant, *loc. cit.*) was almost certainly incorrect and that the subspecies *P. c. extoni* was probably best restricted to south-eastern Botswana, the Transvaal south of the Limpopo R. valley, and north-western Orange Free State.

Through the courtesy of Dr. A. C. Kemp, Ornithologist of the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, I have been able to examine in the Durban Museum a series of one hundred Transvaal specimens of *P. chrysoconus* collected since 1960 by Mr. O. P. M. Prozesky, forming part of the extensive material commented on by Ross. Careful study of this long series in conjunction with the skins in the Durban Museum shows conclusively that *P. c. extoni* requires to be restricted to south-eastern Botswana at Kanye and Gaborone, the Transvaal and the north-western Orange Free State. These southern populations of *P. chrysoconus* differ markedly in series from samples of the populations occurring along the Moçambique littoral in being much larger, with wings of ♂♀ 61–67, *versus* 55–60.5 mm (see also Table I below), blacker above with the dark interstices over the dorsal head confluent, the frontal patch orange-yellow or orange in a proportion of specimens, and in being more olivaceous dusky below. Compared with material of the plateau populations from Rhodesia, west to South-West Africa and Angola they show no statistically significant difference in size, but differ appreciably on colour characters, exhibiting criteria comparable to those enumerated in the comparison with Moçambique littoral birds.

With the restriction of the use of the name *extoni* to the plateau population occurring south of *c.* 23° S., the paler populations with broader and whiter dorsal streaking, a more glaucous coloured rump and much lighter ventral surfaces present further north in southern Africa (north of *c.* 21° S.) make it necessary to use the name *P. c. rhodesiae* Grant, 1915: Chambezi

Valley, north-eastern Zambia. When recognised by workers, *rhodesiae* has been generally utilised for the populations of high rainfall regimes extending from the plateau of Angola, east across the northern half of Zambia and the Katanga (Zaire) to northern Malawi and western and southern Tanzania. Chapin (1939) mentions it as ranging to the Ruzizi Valley. In my revision of the southern African populations I brought the range of *rhodesiae* south to the miombo biome of Rhodesia. While it is possible to demonstrate that the xeric elements present in southern Angola and northern South-West Africa, east to the Caprivi Strip, northern Botswana and the western edge of Rhodesia are ventrally paler than Zambian topotypes of *rhodesiae*, I believe that the essential facts of the variation are not lost by merging the several xeric populations grouped by me in *extoni* in 1961, in an enlarged subspecies *rhodesiae*. *P. c. extoni* as here interpreted was scarcely represented in collections when I discussed the species fourteen years ago, and its characters as defined in this note were not appreciated on the basis of the small and unsatisfactory samples then available.

The characters and ranges of the subspecies forming the *extoni* group of forms will now stand as follows:

(a) *Pogoniulus chrysoconus extoni* (Layard), 1871: Kanye, south-eastern Botswana

Frontal patch chrome or light cadmium yellow to more orange and even flame scarlet; upper-parts sooty black, coarsely streaked with greenish white, the head-top often almost wholly sooty black; rump dull greenish. Below, with throat Sea-foam Green (Ridgway, 1912, pl. xxxi), the breast buffish Reed Yellow (pl. xxx). Size large: 21 ♂♀ from south-western Transvaal with wings 61–67 mm.

Range: South-eastern Botswana, the Transvaal south of 23° S. lat., and north-western Orange Free State.

Note: Of the Transvaal samples studied 20 per cent had the frontal patch markedly orange or pale scarlet.

TABLE I

The wing-length variable in Transvaal samples of *Pogoniulus chrysoconus extoni*

<i>Localities</i>	<i>n</i> ♂♀	<i>range</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>SD</i>
S.W. Transvaal: Barberspan, Groot Marico, Zeerust, Swartruggens, Rustenburg, etc.	21	61–67	63.7	1.64
Northam	7	62–67	64.0	2.07
Derdepoort	12	61.5–66	63.1	1.34
Ellisras	7	61.5–67.5	64.2	2.00
Magaliesberg	17	63–67	64.9	1.44
Hartebeestpoort Dam	14	61.5–67.5	64.0	1.92
Hanglipberg	10	61–66	63.8	1.65
S.E. Transvaal: Nelspruit, Malelane, Barberton, etc.	10	60–65	62.8	1.32
Kruger National Park	4	59–64.5	61.5	2.27

The drop in size shown by the south-eastern Transvaal and Kruger National Park samples should be noticed. The single Kruger National Park specimen with a wing as low as 59 mm (T.M. No. 35,813) likewise exhibits the pale ventral colouration of the Mccambique littoral race, *P. c. dryas*.

(b) *Pogoniulus chrysoconus rhodesiae* Grant, 1915: Chambezi Valley, north-eastern Zambia

Frontal patch deep chrome yellow. Upper-parts paler than in *extoni*, the streaking whiter and broader, and head-top always broadly streaked white;

rump paler and more glaucous. Below much paler; throat Martius Yellow (pl. iv), and breast about Massicot Yellow (pl. xvi) or more buffy. Wings with brighter yellow surfaces. Size ranging smaller: wings of 20 ♂♀ from Rhodesia and Zambia 61–66, m. 62.6, SD 1.43 mm.

Range: Angola and northern South-West Africa, east to the Caprivi Strip, northern and north-eastern Botswana, the plateau of Rhodesia, Zambia, the Katanga (Zaire), northern Malawi, and western and south-western Tanzania, thence north to the Ruzizi Valley.

(c) *Pogoniulus chrysoconus dryas* Clancey and Lawson, 1961: Panda, Inhambane, Moçambique

Similar to *rhodesiae* above, but on the underside paler over the throat, this merging insensibly into the lighter breast which exhibits little or no buffish overlay. Size much smaller: wings of 12 ♂♀ 55–60.5, m. 58.4, SD 1.88 mm.

Range: Moçambique, northern Rhodesia west to about the Kariba Basin, southern Malawi, and Southern Province, Tanzania. Taken at Nuanedzi, Kruger National Park, eastern Transvaal, on one occasion (24 November 1960).

(d) *Pogoniulus chrysoconus mayri* White, 1946: Dundo, Lunda, Angola.

Generally with less starkly whitish streaking to the dorsum than in the case of *rhodesiae*. Below, with the throat slightly deeper yellow and the breast more overlaid with yellowish buff or ochraceous. Size as in *dryas*: wings of ♂♀ 55–60 mm (from original description).

Range: The Kasai, Zaire, and Lunda district, Angola.

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Another specimen of *Neodrepanis hypoxantha*

by C. W. Benson

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Salomonsen (1965: 108–110) gave an account of the nine specimens of this species, originally distinguished by him (1933), or subsequently, from those of the better known *N. coruscans* Sharpe. A tenth was reported by Benson (1971: 3).

Tristram (1889: 212) listed a ♂ specimen of *N. coruscans* from east of Antananarivo (=Tananarive), collected by W. D. Cowan in July 1881. Its