MICRORECULUS.

Microcerculus (section of Cyphorhinus), Selater, Cat. Am. B. p. 19 (1862); Baird, Rev. Am. B. i. p. 113 (1864). (Type Turdus bambla, Bodd.)

This name was first used by Mr. Selater to designate a section of Cyphorhinus, and afterwards employed in a generic sense by Prof. Baird, who, however, was unable fully to describe some of the characters, owing to the imperfection of his specimens.

Like Cyphorhinus, Microcerculus has a compressed bill, high at its base, but not so high or so much compressed as in that genus. The form of the nostril is quite different, being partially covered by a membrane; the nostril itself touches the lower edge of the nasal fossa, and is comma-shaped, the tail of the comma pointing forwards. No septum or division is visible externally; and therefore the nostril appears single, and not double, as supposed by Prof. Baird. The tail in Microcerculus is very short, hardly exceeding half the wing.

In general dimensions this genus is considerably less than Cyphorhinus, differing, too, in the prevailing dark brown colour of its plumage.

Six species of Microcerculus are now known. These are distributed as follows:—Guiana has M. bambla peculiar to itself; in Eastern Ecuador M. albicircularis is alone found; Peru and Colombia share M. marginatus; whilst to the interior of Venezuela, near the Colombian frontier, M. squamatus appears to be restricted; then we have our two Central-American species, M. luscinia of the Colombian State of Panama and M. philomela of Northern Vera Paz. Microcerculus, like Cyphorhinus, is absent from South-eastern Brazil.

1. Microcerculus philomela. (Tab. V. fig. 3.)

Rüaseno, Salv. Ibis, 1861, p. 144.

Supra brunneus, plumis anguste negro marginatis, pileo et uropygio obscurioribus; subitus fuliginosus, plumis medialiter nigris et negro terminatis, gula palliato, hypochondriis brunneis negro transversatis; alis caudaque nigris, alarum tecticibus majoribus maenula jarva subapicali ochraceo-alba notatis; rostro nigris; pedibus fuscis. Long. tota 4-0, ale 2-3, caudae 1-0, tarsi 0-85, rostri a rictu 0-8. (Descri. exempl. typ. ex Vera Paz. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. Guatemala, Choctum, forests above Lanquin, forests between Cahabon and San Luis (O. S. & F. D. G.).

This interesting little species seems to be restricted to the vast forests of Northern Vera Paz, which lie between the Coban highlands and the department of Peten. It was during an expedition in search of Quezals, in the mountains above Lanquin, that Salvin first came across it, hearing its remarkable song, but unable to secure specimens. These were afterwards obtained by a native collector between Choctum and Chiseec, and described in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society.'

The bird was