



Correspondence

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:1E76820A-DE24-4123-9E22-18DFD7C5DCB9

On the correct holotype and type locality of *Cercomacra sclateri* Hellmayr 1905 (Aves: **Thamnophilidae**)

VAGNER CAVARZERE^{1,2,4}, MARY LeCROY³, RAFAEL SOBRAL MARCONDES^{1,2},
THIAGO VERNASCHI VIEIRA DA COSTA^{1,2} & LUÍS FÁBIO SILVEIRA²

¹Pós-Graduação, Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade de São Paulo, Caixa Postal 11.461, Cep 05422-970, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

²Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, Caixa Postal 42.494, Cep 04218-970, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

³Division of Vertebrate Zoology (Ornithology), American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY 10024-5192, USA

⁴Corresponding author. E-mail: cavarzere@usp.br

Cercomacra cinerascens Hellmayr 1905 is a medium-sized species of antbird distributed throughout the Amazon Basin in South America. It comprises a complex of four currently recognized taxa, *C. c. cinerascens* (Sclater 1857), *C. c. immaculata* Chubb 1918, *C. c. sclateri* Hellmayr 1905 and *C. c. iterata* Zimmer 1932, all characterized by the grey coloration of males and brownish olive coloration of females, long and graduated white-tipped tails, hidden white interscapular patch and distinct stiff rectal bristles. All subspecies primarily inhabit unflooded *terra firme* forests, the former two occurring north of the Rio Amazonas and the latter two in southern Amazonia (Fig. 1, Zimmer & Isler 2003).

Cercomacra c. sclateri was described as a species by Hellmayr (1905) and is known to occur from northeastern Peru east to the left margin of the Rio Madeira, in the states of Amazonas and Rondônia, Brazil (Fig. 1, Zimmer & Isler 2003). However, a specimen (491032) deposited at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), New York, labeled as the holotype of *C. sclateri* (Fig. 2A) and listed as such in the catalogue of type specimens of birds of that institution (LeCroy & Sloss 2000), carries the locality “Igarapé-Assú”. This location is in northern Pará state, Brazil (Paynter & Traylor 1991), ca. 1,800 km distant from the range recognized for *C. c. sclateri* and within the distribution of *C. c. iterata* (Fig. 1). LeCroy & Sloss (2000:51) argued that “there is considerable confusion in the literature as to type locality and which specimen is the type” of *C. c. sclateri*. We were motivated by this confusion to revisit the relevant materials, including Hellmayr’s description and the type specimens, to clarify the holotype and type locality of this taxon.

By reviewing Hellmayr’s description, we determined that the specimen AMNH 491032 was not designated as the holotype of *C. sclateri*. LeCroy & Sloss (2000) were probably misled by the fact that Hellmayr (1905:286) began his description of *C. sclateri* by listing this specimen, which was only a record of a bird collected at Igarapé-Açu (the current spelling of the locality, Paynter & Traylor 1991) by A. Robert, whose collection Hellmayr was studying. LeCroy & Sloss (2000) did not notice that the designation of the type of *sclateri* was given in a table containing the specimens Hellmayr (1905:288) examined, in which the expression “Type of *C. sclateri*” clearly indicates an adult male collected by E. Bartlett in “Chyavetas, E. Peru” (for which the correct spelling is Chayahuitas, Stephens & Traylor 1983) on 16 July 1866. That expression clearly constitutes the original designation of a holotype under article 73.1.1 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999), hereafter, the Code.

Guided by both locality and date of collection, we located the Bartlett specimen, which also remains with the types at the AMNH under the catalogue number 491022 (Fig. 2B). Cory & Hellmayr (1924:214) and Pinto (1938, 1978) listed the correct type locality for *C. sclateri* without indicating any particular specimen as the holotype. Hartert (1922:393) had already indicated Hellmayr’s holotype and type locality. This specimen, as LeCroy & Sloss (2000:51) remark, “has always been labeled as the type in the AMNH Collection”. It still has a Rothschild type label, which had been marked “Not a type” prior to the time when LeCroy & Sloss (2000) prepared their publication (Fig. 2C).

Article 72.4.1 of the Code states that “the type series of a nominal species-group taxon consists of all the specimens included by the author in the new nominal taxon (whether directly or by bibliographic reference), except any that the author expressly excludes from the type series, or refers to as distinct variants (...), or doubtfully attributes to the taxon”, while article 72.4.5 indicates that “when an author designates a holotype, then the other specimens of the type series are paratypes”. Therefore, all specimens listed by Hellmayr and not explicitly designated as the type must be considered paratypes. We have also located those specimens (Table 1) and we perceived that a bird from Iquitos, Peru, and six others from Brazil are currently accepted to represent two different subspecies. By comparing LeCroy & Sloss’ (2000) putative

holotype (in fact a paratype) of *sclateri* (AMNH 491032) with that of *iterata* (AMNH 286595), both adult females, we concluded that they are virtually identical, and that the locality of AMNH 491032 lies within the geographical limits recognized for *C. c. iterata*. A complete taxonomic revision of the genus is currently under way and the validity of subspecies within the *C. cinerascens* complex will be discussed elsewhere (Cavarzere & Silveira in prep.).

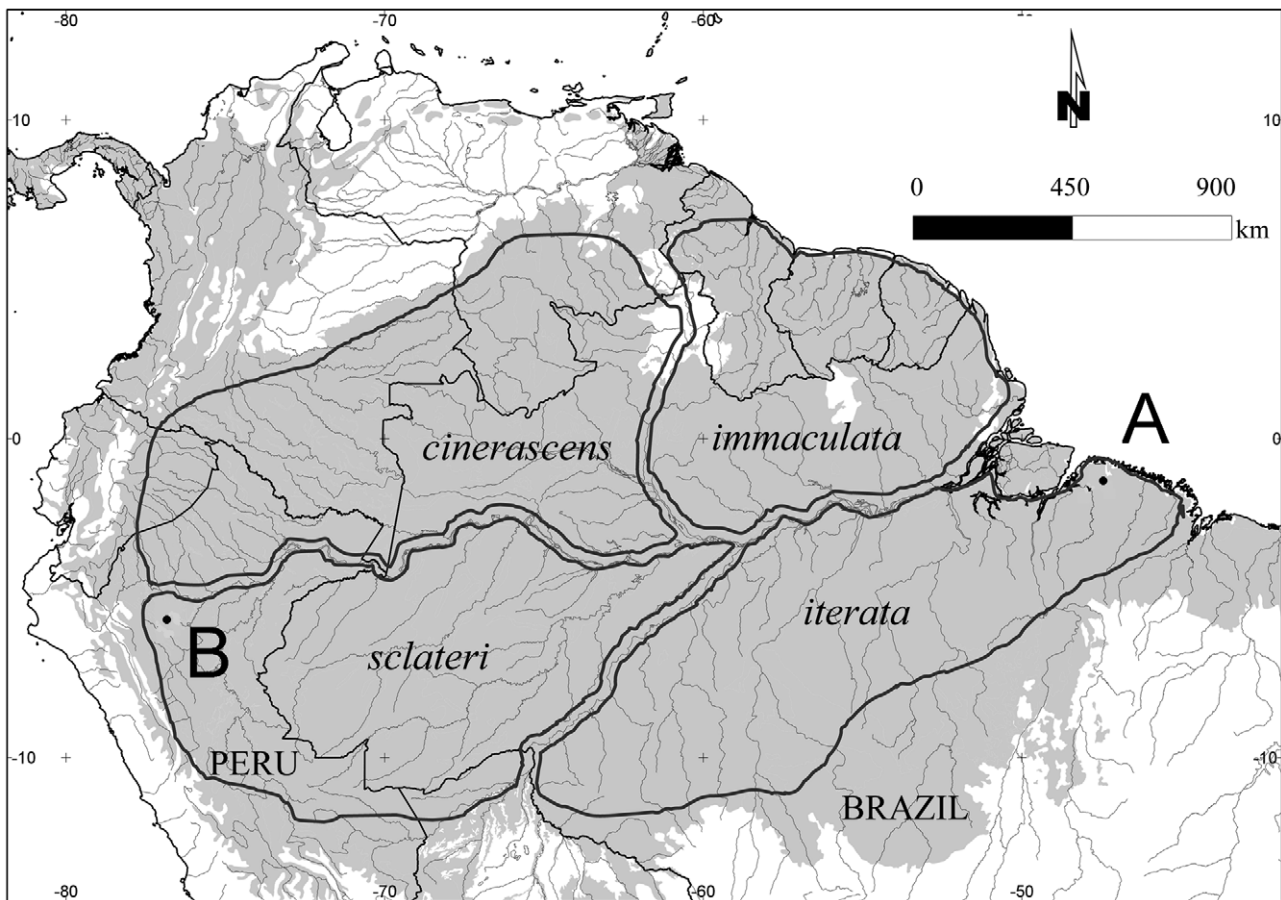


FIGURE 1. Map showing the ranges of the *Cercomacra cinerascens* species complex in South America (adapted from Zimmer & Isler 2003) and the type localities of *C. c. iterata* (Igarapé-Açu, Brazil [A]) and *C. c. sclateri* (Chayahuitas, Peru [B]). Light grey shadings indicate tropical and subtropical moist forests of northern South America.

Acknowledgments

VC, RSM and TVVC benefited from Collection Study Grants to visit the AMNH. VC was also supported by Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo FAPESP (2010/11798-5) and LFS receives a grant from Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq, 313818/2009-6). We thank the staff at the AMNH for the reception during our visit, and Gláucia Del Rio, Guilherme Garbino, Marco Rego and Vitor Piacentini for reviewing this manuscript. Drs. Sylke Frahnert (Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin), Gerald Mayr (Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt), Renate van den Elzen (Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn) and Anita Gamauf and Berg Hans-Martin (Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Vienna) kindly provided essential information on *Cercomacra* skins deposited under their care. Léo Novaes produced all images. Two anonymous referees assisted with meticulous observations.



FIGURE 2. (A) LeCroy & Sloss' (2000) putative holotype (AMNH 491032) of *Cercomacra sclateri* Hellmayr, (B) the holotype (AMNH 491022) designated by Hellmayr (1905) and (C) Erroneous "Not a type" notation on the Rothschild type label of Hellmayr's holotype.

TABLE 1. Current museums and taxonomic placement of the original type series of *Cercomacra sclateri* Hellmayr 1905. The “#” symbol indicates the actual order in which these specimens appear in Hellmayr’s table of examined specimens. Acronyms: AMNH: American Museum of Natural History, New York; BMNH: Natural History Museum, Tring; NMW: Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Vienna; SNG: Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt. Coordinates are taken from Stephens & Traylor (1983) and Paynter & Traylor (1991).

#	Sex	Locality (verbatim)	Locality (updated)	Date of collection	Coordinates	Type status	Museum	Catalogue number	Current taxonomic placement
1	"♂" ad.	Iquitos, NE Peru	Iquitos, Loreto, Peru	iv 1884	03°46'S 73°15'W	Paratype	SNG	39299	<i>C. c. cinerascens</i>
2	"♂" ad.	Chyavetas, Peru	Chayahuitas, Loreto, Peru	16 vii 1866	05°27'S 76°48'W	Holotype	AMNH	491022	<i>C. c. sclateri</i>
3	"♂" vix ad.	Chyavetas, Peru	Chayahuitas, Loreto, Peru	29 vii 1866	05°27'S 76°48'W	Paratype	AMNH	491023	<i>C. c. sclateri</i>
4	(♂) ad.	Chyavetas, Peru	Chayahuitas, Loreto, Peru	No date	05°27'S 76°48'W	Paratype	BMNH	1989.9.20.402	<i>C. c. sclateri</i>
5	(♂) ad.	Upper Ucayali	Upper Ucayali, Peru	No date	Inexact locality	Paratype	BMNH	1989.9.20.404	<i>C. c. sclateri</i>
6	(♀) ad	Chyavetas	Chayahuitas, Loreto, Peru	1867	05°27'S 76°48'W	Paratype	BMNH	1989.9.20.400	<i>C. c. sclateri</i>
7	"♂" ad.	Borba, Madeira	Borba, Amazonas, Brazil	18 vii 1830	04° 24'S 59°35'W	Paratype	NMW	15.345 (sub <i>C. c. sclateri</i>)	<i>C. c. iterata</i>
8	"♂" ad.	Borba, Madeira	Borba, Amazonas, Brazil	3 v 1830	04° 24'S 59°35'W	Paratype	NMW	15.346 (sub <i>C. c. sclateri</i>)	<i>C. c. iterata</i>
9	"♂" ad.	Villa Bella de Mattogrosso	Vila Bela de Santíssima Trindade, Mato Grosso, Brazil	3 xi 1826	15° 00'S 59° 57'W	Paratype	NMW	15.343 (sub <i>C. c. sclateri</i>)	<i>C. c. iterata</i>
10	"♀" ad.	Borba	Grosso, Borba, Amazonas, Brazil	18 vii 1830	04° 24'S 59°35'W	Paratype	NMW	15.347 (sub <i>C. c. sclateri</i>)	<i>C. c. iterata</i>
11	"♀" ad.	Salto do Giraó, Madeira	Salto do Jirau, Rondônia, Brazil	16 x 1829	09°20'S 64°43'W	Paratype	NMW	15.348 (sub <i>C. c. sclateri</i>)	<i>C. c. iterata</i>
12	"♀" ad.	Igarapé-Assú, Pará	Igarapé-Açu, Pará, Brazil	28 iv 1904	01°07'S 47°37'W	Paratype	AMNH	491032	<i>C. c. iterata</i>

References

- Chubb, C. (1918) Descriptions of new forms of South American birds. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologist's Club*, 38, 83–87.
- Cory, C.B. & Hellmayr, C.E. (1924) Catalogue of the birds of the Americas. Part 3. Pterotochidae, Conopophagidae, Formicariidae. *Field Museum of Natural History Publication*, 223, 1–369.
- Hartert, E. (1922) Types of birds in the Tring Museum. B.Types in the general collection. *Novitates Zoologicae*, 29, 365–412.
- Hellmayr, C.E. (1905) Notes on a collection of birds made by Mons. A. Robert in the district of Pará, Brazil. *Novitates Zoologicae*, 12, 269–305.
- ICZN (1999) *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (4 ed.). London: The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature.
- LeCroy, M. & Sloss, R. (2000) Type specimens of birds in the American Museum of Natural History. Part 3. Passeriformes: Eurylaimidae, Dendrocolaptidae, Furnariidae, Formicariidae, Conopophagidae, and Rhinocryptidae. *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History*, 257, 1–88.
- Paynter, R.A. & Traylor, M.A. (1991) *Ornithological gazetteer of Brazil* (1 ed.) Boston: Museum of Comparative Zoology.
- Pinto, O.M.O. (1938) Catálogo das aves do Brasil e lista dos exemplares que as representam no Museu Paulista: 1ª. Parte, Aves não Passeriformes e Passeriformes não Oscines excluída a Fam. Tyrannidae e seguintes. *Revista do museu Paulista*, 22, 1–566.
- Pinto, O.M.O. (1978) *Novo Catálogo das Aves do Brasil*. São Paulo: Empresa Gráfica da Revista dos Tribunais.
- Sclater, P.L. (1857) Descriptions of twelve new or little-known species of the South American family Formicariidae. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, 25, 129–133.
- Stephens, L. & Traylor, M.A. (1983) *Ornithological gazetteer of Peru* (1 ed.). Boston: Museum of Comparative Zoology.
- Zimmer, J.T. (1932) Studies on Peruvian birds VII. The genera *Pygiptila*, *Megastictus*, *Dysithamnus*, *Thamnomanes*, *Cercomacra*, and *Phlegopsis*. *American Museum Novitates*, 558, 1–25.
- Zimmer, K. & Isler, M. (2003) Family Thamnophilidae - typical antbirds. In: J. d. Hoyo, A. Elliot & D.A. Christie (Eds), *Handbook of the Birds of the World: broadbills to tapaculos*. Lynx, London, pp. 448–531.