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## A NEW SUB-SPECIES OF *RHINOMYIAS GULARIS* JUNGLE FLYCATCHER (AVES: MUSCICAPIDAE) FROM PA DI'IT, KELABIT HIGHLANDS, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

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### ABSTRACT

A new sub-species of flycatcher is described from the Pa Di'it waterfall. located east of Kelabit longhouse of Pa Dalih and between the Apad Runan and Apo Duat mountains in northern Sarawak. *Rhinomyias gularis kamlae* has a body length of 158 mm. This bird closely resembles the flycatcher *R. gularis* in its body plumage, size and weight, although its tail and tarsus are striking and instructive. Mantle, back and scapulars dark brownish to olive tinged rusty, crown darker and browner. Lores and above eyes pale buffy-white. Lower face, ear coverts and eye-ring dark rufous-brown. Centre of chin and throat pale buffy-white. Breast with broad dark greyish-brown band. Flanks and upper belly pale brownish-grey, lower belly and vent white tinged grey. Differs from its congeners in its short tail and longtarsus.

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INTRODUCTION

The genus *Rhinomyias* consist of eight medium-sized to large species. *Rhinomyias* was revised by Vaurie in 1953. Some measurements of *R. gularis*, *R. umbratilis* and *R. ruficauda isola* were adapted from Vaurie (1953) for comparative study. Paul Sweet provided data of related bird skins held at the American Museum of Natural History.

Vaurie (1952) discussed the relationship of the various species of *Rhinomyias* and noted that some races of *R. gularis* diverge quite

widely from related species. Chasen and Kloss (1930) have questioned whether *gularis* is correctly placed in *Rhinomyias*. The habitat given by Vaurie (1952) of this species was high elevation mossy forest. *R. gularis* was noted as a white-browed jungle flycatcher in Smythies (1968). *R. gularis* was listed as Kinabalu jungle flycatcher in Delacour (1947). This bird was observed in high montane forest in Trus Madi, Tama Abus, Mulu and Kinabalu at 3000 to 7000 feet (Smythies, 1957). The Philippine forms *goodfellowi*, *albigularis* and *insighis* were previously sub-species of *R. gularis* but are now upgraded to full species, and *R. gularis* is endemic to Borneo (MacKinnon & Phillipps, 1993). Morphological description of the genus *Rhinomyias*, *Trichastoma*, *Malacocinda*, *Malacoptera* and *Pellorneum* were available in several reports (Ali & Ripley, 1969; King *et al.*, 1975; and Inskipp, 1996).

Although the new bird fits *R. gularis* very closely in plumage, some data on *Trichastoma* are provided for comparison. In *Trichastoma*, the tip of bill overhanging, with notch near tip. Bill depressed at nostril. Rictal bristles strong and moderate to long. P1 little more than half P2, P2 less than P3, P4 longer. Tarsus slender, equal to or less than one-third tail. Bill from nostrils more than half tarsus. Bill short, straight, culmen longer than tarsus. Wing short, longer than tail, not very rounded, tail very short. P1 small, less than half of longest primary.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sreedharan (*pers. comm.*, 1996) had watched and observed this new bird on three occasions at the Pa Di'it waterfall in October 1996. The bird was behaving and feeding much like a babbler, very close to the ground, in a thicket where a barking deer (*Muntiacus* sp.) used to play around in. A mist net (mesh size 25 mm) was set up in this thicket at 0600 hours on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 1996. The new bird was netted at 0800 hours the same morning. Measurements on the live bird were made after its capture. Length measurements were taken with a dial caliper and weight with a portable hand-held spring weighing scale. The specimen was brought back to the