

**Confirmation of the date of description of a broadbill (*Calyptomena*, Aves) published in *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London***

Conflicting dates of publication have been used for the name *Calyptomena whiteheadi* Sharpe. The type is held by the American Museum of Natural History and the museum's type catalogue (LeCroy and Sloss, 2000) dates the name from 1888. In an inventory of the types of the family Eurylaimidae Dekker *et alii* (2000) gave the date as 1888, but Dickinson and Dekker (2002) revised it to 1887, based on the evidence of Duncan (1937) who reported that part III of the relevant volume (for the year 1887) of *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* ran from p. 502 to p. 558, and that part IV began on p. 559.

Dickinson (2003: 335) retained 1888, although the corrigendum (Dickinson and Dekker, 2002) had just appeared. This was unfortunate, and suggests that a brief explanation would provide a useful cautionary tale.

An examination of a bound copy of this volume of *Proceedings* showed that p. 558 had a running head reading "The Secretary on additions to the Menagerie. [Nov. 15;]", and the second half of the page contained two notices about these additions which were evidently the opening items at the meeting on 15 November 1887. As the description of *Calyptomena whiteheadi* is confined to the top portion of p. 558, it would seem that the confusion has been created by the running head, despite the fact that this page is the verso of p. 557.

In the circumstances it was felt desirable to revisit the evidence examined by Duncan (1937). An unbound set of parts for this volume with relevant wrappers was inspected. The wrapper of part III gave a continuation of the list of contents, beginning with a short paper by Sclater (p. 502) through to the last of 13 numbered papers, Sharpe's description of *Calyptomena whiteheadi*, on p. 558. The unbound set also demonstrated that originally the lower half of p. 558 was blank and that the running head read "Mr. R. B. Sharpe on a new *Calyptomena*. [June 23;".

Thus Duncan (1937) was correct, and pp 557 and 558 must subsequently have been reprinted, with the report of the 15 November 1887 meeting added. It may, of course, be regretted that Duncan (1937) did not signal this, and perhaps there are other similar cases. Apparently such reprinting was not an unusual arrangement at the time, and bookbinders must have been used to receiving such volumes with appropriate instructions.

The date 1887 must therefore be used for *Calyptomena whiteheadi* Sharpe.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My thanks are extended to the Zoological Society's Library and to the Librarian, Ann Sylph, in particular.

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Received: 8 November 2003. Accepted: 10 December 2003.

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