
An unusual altitudinal record of Brownish Twistwing *Cnipodectes subbrunneus*

Bernabé López-Lanús

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El Alitorcido Pálido *Cnipodectes subbrunneus*, al este de la Cordillera de Los Andes en Ecuador y Colombia, se distribuye hasta los 400 m.s.n.m. El 14 de octubre de 1998 se registró esta especie a 1,900 m (1,500 m más arriba de su límite altitudinal conocido), cerca de las Cabañas San Isidro, Municipio Baeza, Provincia del Napo, en la ladera oriental de los Andes de Ecuador. Este registro probablemente corresponde a un caso aislado de vagabundismo, pero no obstante amplía considerablemente el rango altitudinal de la especie.

Brownish Twistwing *Cnipodectes subbrunneus* occurs to 400 m on the east slope of the Andes¹, and in Ecuador is largely restricted to humid Amazonian rainforest, with apparently no records from the east slope foothills² (N.Krabbe pers. comm.). West of the Andes it is known to occur to 1,200 m¹. On 14 October 1998 the author observed, at 2 m, a Brownish Twisting at c.1,900 m, near Cabañas San Isidro (00°35'S 77°53'W, 1,700–2,000 m, Parroquia Cosanga, Municipio Baeza, Napo province), in the lower part of a gully with secondary forest and a dense understorey. Its identification was based on the uniform plumage, being largely brownish contrasting with the dull rufous tail; reddish iris; lack of wing-covert bars; and similar size to Royal Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus coronatus*, but smaller without a crest. In addition, the species' distinctive sharp and persistent *fiuuu* vocalisations, as described in Hilty & Brown¹, were tape-recorded (to be deposited in the Wildlife Section of the National Sound Archive, London). This record represents a notable altitudinal range extension: 700 m above the previous highest record on the west slope and 1,500 m higher than the previous highest east slope occurrence. Future studies in this area may ascertain whether this individual was a vagrant or whether the species is permanently present at this altitude; given that the Cabañas San Isidro area has regularly been visited by many ornithologists and birdwatchers over the last few years, the first-named option appears probable.

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References

1. Hilty, S. L. & Brown W. L. (1986) *A guide to the birds of Colombia*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
2. Ridgely, R. S., Greenfield, P. J. & Guerrero G. (1998) *An annotated list of the birds of mainland Ecuador*. Quito: Fundación Ornitológica del Ecuador, CECIA.

Bernabé López-Lanús

Proyecto Ognorhynchus, Carrera 4. Nro. 5-48, Salento, Quindío, Colombia.

E-mail: bernabe@telearmenia.net.co or lopezlanus@yahoo.com.