
Range extensions of Bicolored Antvireo *Dysithamnus occidentalis* in Ecuador

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Dos rangos de distribución han sido descritos para el hormiguero *Dysithamnus occidentalis* en el Ecuador. El primero se basa en especímenes colectados en el Parque Nacional Sangay, Provincia Morona-Santiago. El segundo corresponde al primer registro del Ecuador occidental y se basa en observaciones y grabaciones en el campo dentro de la Reserva Golondrina, Provincia del Carchi. Esta especie rara de bosque muy húmedo es considerada como vulnerable¹.

The rare and vulnerable Bicolored Antvireo *Dysithamnus occidentalis* inhabits wet forest understorey between 900 and 2,200 m in the northern Andes^{1,3}. The two subspecies—nominate on the Pacific slope in Valle and Cauca, Colombia, and *punctitectus* on the Amazonian slope in Napo, Ecuador—are each known from four sites and five specimens¹.

Two previously unpublished specimens in the Museo Ecuatoriano de Ciencias Naturales, Quito (catalogue nos. 7037, male and 7038, female) collected by JP in November 1996 at Río Abanico, 1,500 m (02°16'S 78°12'W), extends the species' range by 180 km to the south to the Sangay massif in Morona-Santiago Province.

On 28 May 1996, NK observed and tape-recorded at close range for five minutes a female-plumaged individual of this species in wet forest undergrowth at Reserva Cerro Golondrina, at 2,200 m (00°50'N 78°07'W) near El Corazón on the Pacific slope in Carchi Province, Ecuador. Its calls appear very similar to those tape-recorded in eastern Ecuador (see sonogram).

The subspecific relationships of the Carchi birds still requires clarification. They could be subspecifically distinct or belong with *occidentalis* from north of the dry Río Patía valley in Colombia, over 200 km to the north. Alternatively, they could belong with *punctitectus*, of which the nearest record is from below Oyacachi¹, 110 km to the south-east, having crossed the "Carchi bridge"⁴ during warm and wet periods.

References

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