

Range extensions of Bicoloured Antvireo *Dysithamnus occidentalis* in Ecuador

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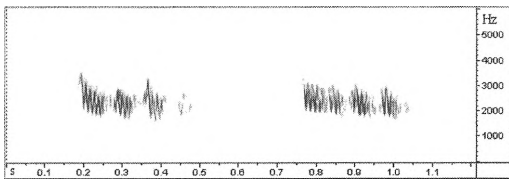
Cotinga 11 (1999): 48

Dos rangos de distribución han sido descriptos 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 en el 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 Bicoloured Antvireo *Dysithamnus occidentalis* inhabits wet forest understorey between 900 and 2,200 m in the northern Andes^{1,3}. The two subspecies—the 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Two previously unpublished specimens in the Museo Ecuatoriano de Ciencias Naturales, Quito (catalogue nos. 7037, male and 7038, female) collected by JP in November 1996 at Río Abanico,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).



Sonogram of calls of Bicoloured Antvireo *Dysithamnus occidentalis*. Left from Volcán Sumaco, eastern Ecuador (B. M. Whitney recording) and right from Carchi, western Ecuador (N. Krabbe recording).

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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