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## A NEW RACE OF THE HONEY-CREEPER, *DIGLOSSA CYANEA*, FROM VENEZUELA

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Material in the American Museum of Natural History and in the Phelps Collection, Caracas, Venezuela, shows the following new subspecies from the central Coastal Cordillera in the Caracas region. With this exception, the species, in its Venezuelan range, appears to be confined to the Andean Cordillera in the Mérida region.

In the list of specimens examined, those in the Phelps Collection are so characterized; the remaining material is in the American Museum of Natural History.

Names of colors are capitalized when direct comparison has been made with Ridgway's "Color standards and color nomenclature."

### *Diglossa cyanea towarensis*, new subspecies

TYPE: From Colonia Tovar, Aragua, Venezuela; altitude 1900 meters. No. 323079, American Museum of Natural History. Adult male collected November 15, 1937, by E. Thomas Gilliard; original number 285.

DIAGNOSIS: Nearest to *D. c. dispar* of Perú and Ecuador but differs in having the black areas of forehead and chin more restricted. From *D. c. cyanea* of Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador it differs in having the blue color less violaceous.

RANGE: Known only from Colonia Tovar in the Coast Range of the Caracas region, at altitudes of 1800 and 1900 meters.

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE: Crown Cadet Blue, passing into the Dark Cadet Blue of nape, back, and uropygium; forehead, chin, and sides of face black, with a tinge of blue on the auriculars.

Under parts Orient Blue × China Blue; under tail-coverts margined with white. Wings Fuscous; outer margins of the primaries (except the outermost) edged on basal half or more with a lighter blue than the back; secondaries with similar outer margins reaching near the tip and of a darker blue than that on the primaries; tertials with these margins much broader; upper wing-coverts with the exposed surfaces like the back; under wing-coverts grayish, blue on the carpal margin. Tail Fuscous, under surface paler; outer margins of rectrices, except the outermost, uniform with back. Bill (in dried skin) black; feet dark brown. Wing, 77 mm.; tail, 62; exposed culmen, 13; culmen from base, 16; tarsus, 21.5; width of frontal band in mid line, 5.

REMARKS: Sexes alike. Size similar to that of *cyanea*. Range of measurements: two adult males (including type): wing, 76, 77 (76.5) mm.; tail, 50, 59 (54.5); culmen from base, 16, 18 (17); one adult female: wing, 72; tail, 59.5; culmen from base, 17; two adults of undetermined sex: wing, 68, 76.5 (72.2); tail, 55, 61 (58); culmen from base (one specimen), 16. Measurements of *D. c. cyanea* from the Bogotá region and Antioquia: five adult males: wing, 74–78 (75.8); tail, 58.5–68 (61.9); culmen from base, 17–19 (17.6); five adult females: wing, 69–73 (70.8); tail, 54–62 (57.5); culmen from base, 17–19 (18.8).

The senior author (1942, Amer. Mus. Novitates, no. 1203, p. 7) has called attention to the fact that the birds of the Caracas region might be different. He said: "A single specimen from Colonia Tovar, near Caracas, Venezuela, sexed as a male, and apparently adult, is unusually light in color and has a faint touch of bluish on the lower auriculars. More material from this region is needed to determine the significance of the characters noted."

The additional material now at hand from the Phelps Collection confirms the constancy of the difference in general color compared with *cyanea*, but not the blue in the auriculars.

#### SPECIMENS EXAMINED

*D. c. towarensis*.—VENEZUELA: Colonia Tovar, 1 ♂ (type), 1 ♂<sup>1</sup>, 1 ♀<sup>1</sup>, 2 (?)<sup>1</sup>.

*D. c. cyanea*.—VENEZUELA: Páramo El Escorial, 2 ♂, 1 ♂ [juvenile], 2 ♀; Nevados, 1 ♂; Valle, 1 (?); Páramo de la Culata, 1 ♂; "Mérida," 1 (?). COLOMBIA: 62<sup>2</sup>. ECUADOR: 30<sup>2</sup>.

*D. c. dispar*.—PERÚ: 10<sup>2</sup>. ECUADOR: 10<sup>2</sup>.

*D. c. melanotis*.—PERÚ: 34<sup>2</sup>. BOLIVIA: 18<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Specimens in the Phelps Collection, Caracas.

<sup>2</sup> For sexes and localities, see Zimmer (1942, Amer. Mus. Novitates, no. 1203, p. 7).