
PHILOSOPHICAL
TRANSACTIONS.

- I. *A Letter from James Badenach, M. D. to Mathew Maty, M. D. Sec. R. S. containing a technical Description of an uncommon Bird from Malacca.*

S I R,

Read Jan. 9, 1771. **I** Here present you a curious and uncommon species of bird, which I met with at Malacca in August 1770. The male, female, and two young ones, were purchased at that place from the natives, but died soon afterwards on

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board of ship, in the passage from that port to China. The character and history of this bird, as they then occurred to me, and were immediately noted down in my journal, in the manner of the great Linnæus, are as follows.

T A B. I.

Mas. Magnitudo perdricis vulgaris, corpus supra virescens, subtus nigricans, remiges primores griseæ, cauda brevis rotundata, apice nigro. Frons calva, crista coccinea ex occipite orta, è 15 circiter plumulis sesquipollicaribus, respectu capitis, suberecta, divaricata. Rostrum convexum breve; mandibula superior nigra, supra inferiorem, margine rubro cerato, imbricata; nares oblongæ, orbitæ rubræ, oculi purpurei; ad basin rostri mystaces aliquot albescens. Femora seminuda, tibiæ longæ, rubræ, graciles. Pedes tetradactyli, fissi incarnati, subnodosi, digitus posticus reliquis crassior, brevior, truncatusque.

Fœmina. Mare paulo minor, crista nulla, remiges primores & tectrices alarum rufo ferrugineæ.

Pulli. Pulli lanuginosi atrii, aqua delectantes.

Vox. Mas & fœmina voce sonora frequenter sibilant.

Nidus inter gramina, arundinesque.

Vitus. Oryza, pane in aqua missa vescitur.

What

The Male
from the Peninsula of Malacca.



What genus this bird is properly to be referred to, I shall not pretend to determine; but if you think this, though but imperfect account, worth the communicating to your Society, you have my leave; and I am, with respect,

S I R,

Your most obedient,

and most humble servant,

London,
October 13, 1771.

James Badenach, M. D.