



***Geocerthia*, a new genus of terrestrial ovenbird (Aves: Passeriformes: Furnariidae)**

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The avian genus *Upucerthia* was until recently considered to consist of nine species (Sibley and Monroe 1990, Dickinson 2003, Remsen 2003) of mainly terrestrial ovenbirds, commonly known as earthcreepers. Recent molecular studies of the genus (Chesser *et al.* 2007, Fjeldså *et al.* 2007) indicated that *Upucerthia*, as traditionally constituted, was highly polyphyletic, its nine species apparently belonging to four distinct lineages. Four species of *Upucerthia* – *albigula*, *jelskii*, *validirostris*, and the name-bearing species *dumetaria* – formed a well-supported clade sister to *Cinclodes* (Chesser *et al.* 2007, Fjeldså *et al.* 2007). Of the five other species of *Upucerthia*, *U. andaecola* and *U. ruficaudus* formed a clade with *Eremobius phoenicurus* and *Chilia melanura*, all of which were subsequently transferred to the genus *Ochetorhynchus* (Chesser *et al.* 2007, Fjeldså *et al.* 2007). *Upucerthia harterti* and *U. certhioides* formed a distinct clade and were placed in the newly erected genus *Tarphonomus* (Chesser and Brumfield 2007). The position of the final species, *U. serrana*, was not well resolved, although it appeared to form part of a clade including the genera *Cinclodes* and *Upucerthia sensu stricto* (Chesser *et al.* 2007, Fjeldså *et al.* 2007).

As part of a project to reconstruct the species level phylogenetic relationships of the Furnariidae from DNA sequences, we gathered additional molecular data for species in these and related genera, and determined conclusively that *U. serrana* is sister to a clade consisting of sister genera *Cinclodes* and *Upucerthia* (Fig. 1). Because *Cinclodes* and *Upucerthia* are cohesive and distinctive genera containing multiple species (*Cinclodes* consists of thirteen species, *Upucerthia* of four), we consider lumping of these well-established genera untenable. Consequently, we describe a new genus for *U. serrana* as follows:

***Geocerthia* Chesser and Claramunt, genus nov.**

Type species. *Upucerthia serrana* Taczanowski, 1875.

Included species. *Geocerthia serrana* (Taczanowski, 1875) *comb. nov.*, Striated Earthcreeper.

Diagnosis, morphology. Large earthcreeper (19–20 cm, 44–52 g, Remsen 2003). Bill longish, decurved; face grizzled brown and whitish; whitish superciliary; crown medium-dark brown with pale streaking, especially on forehead; back medium brown with faint pale streaking; wings, tail, and uppertail coverts rufous; throat whitish; underparts dull gray-brown with prominent pale streaking. *Geocerthia* differs from true *Upucerthia* earthcreepers, which have long, thin, highly decurved bills, by its comparatively shorter and stouter decurved bill and its overall darker plumage. Distinguished from all *Cinclodes* and *Upucerthia* species by its rufous wings, uppertail coverts, and tail. Lacks the wing-band typical of *Cinclodes* species.

Etymology. From the Greek *geo* (earth) and *certhia* (treecreeper), referring to the terrestrial habits of *G. serrana* and to its bill, which resembles those of the treecreepers. The construction of the name is a direct parallel to the English name earthcreeper. The name is feminine.

Molecular analyses. A molecular analysis of furnariid species revealed that *Geocerthia* is sister to a clade composed of all species of *Cinclodes* and all species of *Upucerthia sensu stricto*, which in turn are sister taxa. To demonstrate that *Geocerthia* and *Upucerthia* are not sister genera, we present an analysis of a subset of taxa from the larger study. Taxon sampling for this subset (Table 1) included representatives of *U. serrana*, all other species of the traditional genus *Upucerthia* (*Upucerthia*, *Tarphonomus*, *Ochetorhynchus*), two species of *Cinclodes*, and single species of the genera *Furnarius*, *Leptasthenura*, *Synallaxis*, *Certhiaxis*, *Pseudocolaptes*, *Philydor*, *Thripadectes*, *Automolus*, and