



## Correspondence

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### On the correct holotype and type locality of *Cercomacra sclateri* Hellmayr 1905 (Aves: **Thamnophilidae**)

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*Cercomacra cinerascens* Hellmayr 1905 is a medium-sized species of antbird distributed throughout the Amazon Basin in South America. It comprises a complex of four currently recognized taxa, *C. c. cinerascens* (Sclater 1857), *C. c. immaculata* Chubb 1918, *C. c. sclateri* Hellmayr 1905 and *C. c. iterata* Zimmer 1932, all characterized by the grey coloration of males and brownish olive coloration of females, long and graduated white-tipped tails, hidden white interscapular patch and distinct stiff rectal bristles. All subspecies primarily inhabit unflooded *terra firme* forests, the former two occurring north of the Rio Amazonas and the latter two in southern Amazonia (Fig. 1, Zimmer & Isler 2003).

*Cercomacra c. sclateri* was described as a species by Hellmayr (1905) and is known to occur from northeastern Peru east to the left margin of the Rio Madeira, in the states of Amazonas and Rondônia, Brazil (Fig. 1, Zimmer & Isler 2003). However, a specimen (491032) deposited at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), New York, labeled as the holotype of *C. sclateri* (Fig. 2A) and listed as such in the catalogue of type specimens of birds of that institution (LeCroy & Sloss 2000), carries the locality “Igarapé-Assú”. This location is in northern Pará state, Brazil (Paynter & Traylor 1991), ca. 1,800 km distant from the range recognized for *C. c. sclateri* and within the distribution of *C. c. iterata* (Fig. 1). LeCroy & Sloss (2000:51) argued that “there is considerable confusion in the literature as to type locality and which specimen is the type” of *C. c. sclateri*. We were motivated by this confusion to revisit the relevant materials, including Hellmayr’s description and the type specimens, to clarify the holotype and type locality of this taxon.

By reviewing Hellmayr’s description, we determined that the specimen AMNH 491032 was not designated as the holotype of *C. sclateri*. LeCroy & Sloss (2000) were probably misled by the fact that Hellmayr (1905:286) began his description of *C. sclateri* by listing this specimen, which was only a record of a bird collected at Igarapé-Açu (the current spelling of the locality, Paynter & Traylor 1991) by A. Robert, whose collection Hellmayr was studying. LeCroy & Sloss (2000) did not notice that the designation of the type of *sclateri* was given in a table containing the specimens Hellmayr (1905:288) examined, in which the expression “Type of *C. sclateri*” clearly indicates an adult male collected by E. Bartlett in “Chyavetas, E. Peru” (for which the correct spelling is Chayahuitas, Stephens & Traylor 1983) on 16 July 1866. That expression clearly constitutes the original designation of a holotype under article 73.1.1 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999), hereafter, the Code.

Guided by both locality and date of collection, we located the Bartlett specimen, which also remains with the types at the AMNH under the catalogue number 491022 (Fig. 2B). Cory & Hellmayr (1924:214) and Pinto (1938, 1978) listed the correct type locality for *C. sclateri* without indicating any particular specimen as the holotype. Hartert (1922:393) had already indicated Hellmayr’s holotype and type locality. This specimen, as LeCroy & Sloss (2000:51) remark, “has always been labeled as the type in the AMNH Collection”. It still has a Rothschild type label, which had been marked “Not a type” prior to the time when LeCroy & Sloss (2000) prepared their publication (Fig. 2C).

Article 72.4.1 of the Code states that “the type series of a nominal species-group taxon consists of all the specimens included by the author in the new nominal taxon (whether directly or by bibliographic reference), except any that the author expressly excludes from the type series, or refers to as distinct variants (...), or doubtfully attributes to the taxon”, while article 72.4.5 indicates that “when an author designates a holotype, then the other specimens of the type series are paratypes”. Therefore, all specimens listed by Hellmayr and not explicitly designated as the type must be considered paratypes. We have also located those specimens (Table 1) and we perceived that a bird from Iquitos, Peru, and six others from Brazil are currently accepted to represent two different subspecies. By comparing LeCroy & Sloss’ (2000) putative