



Avian type specimens and their type localities from Otto Schütt's and Friedrich von Mechow's Angolan collections in the Museum für Naturkunde of the Humboldt-University of Berlin

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Abstract

A comprehensive list of all avian type specimens in the Angolan collections of Otto Schütt and Major Friedrich Wilhelm Alexander von Mechow housed in the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin (ZMB) is given for the new avian taxa originally described by Cabanis, Reichenow, Neumann, Grote and Neunzig in the late 19th and early 20th century. Each entry discusses the collection history of the specimens, the type locality, nomenclature and taxonomy.

Key words: avian types, Angola, Otto Schütt, Friedrich von Mechow, Cabanis, Reichenow, Neumann, Grote, Neunzig, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin

Zusammenfassung

In dieser Arbeit werden alle Vogeltypen aus den Sammlungen von Otto Schütt und Major Friedrich Wilhelm Alexander von Mechow, die am Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (ZMB) aufbewahrt werden, gelistet. Die Originalbeschreibungen der neuen Vogeltaxa wurden durch Cabanis, Reichenow, Neumann, Grote und Neunzig am Ende des 19. und Anfang des 20. Jahrhunderts vorgenommen. Jeder Eintrag diskutiert zudem die Sammlungsgeschichte der Exemplare, und, wenn nötig, die Typenlokalität, Nomenklatur und Taxonomie.

Introduction

This paper is the third of a recent series of publications on avian type specimens housed in the Museum für Naturkunde of the Humboldt-University of Berlin (hereafter abbreviated as ZMB). Two earlier papers have given a brief introduction of the history of the Berlin collection and the nature of the registration numbers (Cleere et al. 2005, Steinheimer 2005). We concentrate here on the travels of Otto Schütt and Major Friedrich Wilhelm Alexander von Mechow. The acquisition books of the bird collection at the ZMB list more than 250 bird specimens collected by Schütt in Angola in 1878–1879 (batch acquisition numbers ZMB B.15386–15428, each number given for one to several specimens of a species, entered in March 1879, and B.16110–16261, entered in March 1880) and over 300 bird specimens collected by Mechow in Angola in 1879–1881 (batch acquisition numbers ZMB B.16927–17032, entered in November 1881–January 1882, and unregistered specimens; cf. Mechow 1882). The collections were examined by Jean Cabanis, Anton Reichenow, Oscar Neumann, Hermann Grote and Rudolf Neunzig (see Systematic list) and a number of new taxa were described