



Type specimens and type localities of birds (Aves) collected by Eduard Eversmann and Christian Pander during the Negri Expedition to Bukhara in 1820–1821

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Abstract

At least nine bird species were described as new to science on the basis of material collected by Eduard Eversmann and Christian Pander during a Russian embassy headed by Aleksandr Negri to Bukhara in 1820–1821. We identified the type specimens and determined the type localities of these species, which are currently housed in natural history museums of Berlin, Germany, and Moskva, Russia. We suggest that, if only two subspecies of *Otus brucei* are recognized, the larger northern migratory one should be recognized as *O. b. brucei* (Hume, 1872), and the smaller southern nonmigratory one as *O. b. semenowi* (Zarudnyj & Härms, 1902), and we show that the name *semenowi* has been misapplied to the population from the Tarim Basin. We designate a lectotype for the nominal species *Scops obsoleta* Cabanis.

Key words: nomenclature, taxonomy, Middle Asia, *Turtur ermanni*, *Otus brucei*, *Podoces panderi*

Introduction

In 1820 Alexander I (1777–1825, Tsar of Russia in 1801–1825), sent an embassy to Sayyid Amir Haidar (†1826), Emir of Bukhara. The embassy was headed by Aleksandr Negri (1784–1854), a Greek-Russian politician and scholar. Christian Heinrich Pander (1794–1865), a German-Latvian-Russian scholar, was appointed to the embassy as a naturalist. When the embassy crossed Orenburg, Russia, on its way from Sankt-Peterburg, Alexander Eduard Friedrich Eversmann (1794–1860), a German-Russian naturalist, joined it as a merchant. The expedition to Bukhara was primarily a political and trading mission, not a scientific expedition. Nonetheless, both Pander and Eversmann were able to collect a number of birds (and other natural history specimens) during the journey in places not previously visited by naturalists (Fischer 1821; Lichtenstein 1823a).

Pander's collection (25 species of birds) was forwarded to Moskva, Russia, where it was described by Fischer (1821), while Eversmann's collection (54 species of birds) came to Berlin, Germany, where it was studied by Lichtenstein (1823a; see also Lichtenstein 1826). The collections are still deposited in the Zoological Museum, Moskva (ZMMU) and Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin (ZMB), respectively.

The aim of the present paper is to revise nomenclatural and, where appropriate, the taxonomic status of bird species described on the basis of specimens collected during the Negri expedition, and to specify their type localities and dates of collection. This study was based on manuscripts deposited in the archives of the ZMB, hand-written inventory registers of the bird collection at the ZMB (see Steinheimer 2005: 2–3 for their overview), previously published accounts, and specimens of “Turkestan” birds collected during the Negri expedition and deposited in the ZMB.