
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

VOL. LXII. B board

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 virefcens, fubtus nigricans, remiges primores grifeæ, cauda brevis rotundata, apice nigro. Frons calva, crifta coccinea ex occipite orta, è 15 circiter plumulis fefquipollicaribus, refpectu capitis, fuberecta, divaricata. Rofttrum convexum breve; mandibula fuperior nigra, fupra inferiorem, margine rubro cerato, imbricata; nares oblongæ, orbitæ rubræ, oculi purpurei; ad bafin roftri myftaces aliquot albefcentes. Femora feminuda, tibiæ longæ, rubræ, graciles. Pedes tetradactyli, fifi incarnati, fubnodofi, digitus pofticus reliquis craffior, brevior, truncatusque.

Fœmina. Mare paulo minor, crifta nulla, remiges primores & teçtrices alarum rufo ferrugineæ.

Pulli. Pulli lanuginofi atri, aqua delectantes.

Vox. Mas & fœmina voce fonora frequenter fibilant.

Nidus inter gramina, arundinesque.

Victus. Oryza, pane in aqua miffa vefcitur.

The Male
from the Peninsula of Malacca.



[3]

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.