

ON AN INSULAR FORM OF *MELITHREPTUS*
BREVIROSTRIS, Vigors AND HORSFIELD.

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Melithreptus magnirostris, sp. nov.

(Plate v., figs. 1-2.)

Being at present engaged on the *Meliphagidae* for the next part of "Nests and Eggs of Birds found breeding in Australia and Tasmania," among other species, Mr. A. Zietz, the Assistant Director of the South Australian Museum, Adelaide, has kindly drawn my attention to three skins of which he writes—"You will notice three specimens of *Melithreptus brevirostris* with remarkably strong bills; the birds were shot on the 3rd October, 1901, by my son Mr. F. R. Zietz out of a flock at Eastern Cove, Kangaroo Island. This might be an insular form of the mainland species."

On the head and nape these specimens, two adult males, and an adult female, more closely resemble New South Wales examples of *Melithreptus brevirostris*, the forehead and crown being of a lighter brown, and the dull buffy-white and blackish-brown bands on the nape being but slightly indicated in comparison with South Australian specimens; they resemble the latter in having a dull white loreal streak but which is even more pronounced; the cheeks and sides of the throat of an adult male are dull white, which passes into a very faint creamy buff on the remainder of the under surface, darker on the centre of the breast and abdomen, the centre of the throat and the fore-neck having a greyish tinge, the flanks slightly washed with brown. The bills of all three specimens are distinctly larger than in continental examples. The adult male previously referred to measures—total length 5·3 inches, wing 2·75, tail 2·4, tarsus 0·65, exposed portion of bill from base of forehead where the feathers end to tip 0·55, breadth of cutting edge at centre of nostril 0·19, height of bill at centre of nostril 0·19.

Remarks.—The outer secondaries of the type are externally edged with olive, as is also found in some adult New South Wales specimens. The white cheek stripe of the specimen labelled a