

# Hodgson's ornithological articles published in the *India Review* (1836–1837)

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During the period October 1836–May 1837 Brian Houghton Hodgson, writing essentially about new birds from Nepal, published five notes in a journal sometimes cited as the *India Review* and sometimes as the *Indian Review*. Correctly, the full title of it, at its inception, was *India Review and Journal of Foreign Science and the Arts*. At least the first volume was published in Calcutta by G. Woollaston and edited by Frederick Corbyn. The monthly issues began in April 1836.

This is a rare periodical, which I believe extended until November 1842 (Ripley & Scribner 1961). It is not held by the library of the Natural History Museum in London, although photocopies of Hodgson's articles are on file at the library in Tring. It is held by the British Library in London (call no. ST 223). I cannot claim to have examined the complete series for my interest in it centred on new names proposed by Hodgson and their dates.

The issues examined, seem to lack a dated front page so I imagine there were covers but I found none. Previous authors citing Hodgson's papers have usually had difficulty with the dates, very likely due to this lack. Vaurie (1949) is an honourable exception.

Dating does however seem possible; each issue examined contained a central local news section where a date could be found. As far as it is possible to tell these dates approximate the dates of publication.

The issues included sections on General Science and within those subsections for 'Original Communications'; this is where Hodgson's papers appeared, each one stating, below its title, and his by-line, "For the *India Review*" (although possibly shorthand it would seem that this was the subtitle applicable to a part of each monthly issue).

My notes relating solely to the vital period yield the following information:

Vol.	No.	Pagination	Date found within	See page
1	7	247–304	15th October 1836	286
1	8	305–366	15th November 1836	334
1	9	367–420	15th December 1836	391
1	10	421–552	15th January 1837	459
1	11	553–620	15th February 1837	594
1	12	621–694	15th March 1837	671
2	1	1–74	15th April 1837	52
2	2	75–138	15th May 1837	128

With this information, the five papers by Hodgson in which he described new birds, one appearing in two parts, can be easily identified to the appropriate issue for citation and given a date that is approximately correct.

### Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks as usual to the staff at the British Library and at the libraries of the Natural History Museum. I should add that information on the editor and publisher of this journal were found on the website of AntiQbook [www.antiqbook.co.uk](http://www.antiqbook.co.uk) where in early July 2008 a bound copy of volume 1 was offered for sale. This was purchased by Aashesh Pittie who then very kindly provided data that could be added to the first Table.

### References

- Ripley, S. D. & Scribner, L. L. 1961. *Ornithological books in the Yale University library including the library of William Robertson Coe*. 1st ed. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Vaurie, C. 1949. A revision of the bird family Dicruridae. *Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 93 (4): 199–342.

### Hodgson's papers: column 4 gives the number of species group taxa described

Title	Date	Citation
Description of sundry new species of <i>Cinnyris</i> inhabiting Nepal	1836 (Oct.)	<i>Ind. Rev.</i> 1 (7): 272–274 7 <sup>1</sup>
On some new species of the Edolian and Ceblypyrine subfamilies of the Laniidae of Nepal.	1836 (Nov.)	<i>Ind. Rev.</i> 1 (8): 324–329 8 <sup>2</sup>
On some new species of the more typical Laniidae of Nepal.	1837 (Jan.)	<i>Ind. Rev.</i> 1 (10): 445–447 5 <sup>3</sup>
Indication of a new genus of Insesores, tending to connect the Sylviadæ and Muscipidæ	1837 (Mar.)	<i>Ind. Rev.</i> 1 (12): 650–652 3 <sup>4</sup>
Indication of some new forms belonging to the Parianæ	1837 (Apr.)	<i>Ind. Rev.</i> 2 (1): 30–34 5 <sup>5</sup>
Indication of some new forms belonging to the Parianæ (Cont.)	1837 (May)	<i>Ind. Rev.</i> 2 (2): 87–90 5 <sup>6</sup>

1 *Cinnyris Magna* (p. 272); *Cinnyris Epauletta* (p. 272); *Cinnyris Strigula* (p. 272); *Cinnyris Miles* (p. 273); *Cinnyris Nipalensis* (p. 273); *Cinnyris Saturata* (p. 273); *Cinnyris Ignicauda* (p. 273).

2 *Edolius (Chibia) Casia* (p. 324); *Edolius (Chibia) Malabaroides* (p. 325); *Edolius (Bhringa) Tectirostris* (p. 325); *Edolius (Bhuchanga) Albirictus* (p. 326); *Edolius (Bhuchanga) Annectans* (p. 326); *Edolius (Chaptia) Muscipetoides* (p. 327); *Grauculus Nipalensis* (p. 327); *Volocivora Melaschistos* (p. 328) [the central names in parentheses were given as subgeneric names].

3 *Lanius Nipalensis* (p. 445); *Lanius Tricolor* (p. 446); *Lanius Ferrugiceps* (p. 446); *Tenthaca Pelvica* (p. 447); *Tenthaca Leucurus* (p. 447).

4 *Niltava Sundara* (p. 650); *Niltava Fuligiventer* (p. 650) *Niltava Brevipes* (pp. 650, 651); *Siphia Strophata* (p. 651)

5 *Parus Nipalensis* (p. 31); *Parus Sultaneus* (p. 31); *Parus (Suthora) Nipalensis* (p. 32); *Minla Ignotincta* (p. 32); *Minla Castaneiceps* (p. 33). The previously overlooked evidence of simultaneous introduction of two names employing the binomen *Parus nipalensis* will be taken up with the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature with the request that both be conserved.

6 *Mesia Argentauris* (p. 88); *Mesia (Bahila) Calipyga* (p. 88); *Mesia (Siva) Cyanouroptera* (p. 88); *Mesia (Siva) Nipalensis* (p. 89); *Mesia (Siva) Vinipectus* (p. 89); *Mesia (Siva) Strigula* (p. 89).