Notes on the vocalizations of Stripe-cheeked Bulbul (*Andropadus milanjensis*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the three races of Stripe-cheeked Bulbul (*Andropadus milanjensis*). We also try to quantify the extent of any vocal differences using the criteria proposed by Tobias *et al.* (2010), as a support for taxonomic review. We have made use of sound recordings available on-line from Xeno Canto (XC) and Macaulay Library (ML).

A comparison of vocalizations per race with sonograms:

striifacies

Song:

Taita hills, Kenya

N Tanzania

C Tanzania

Alternative song:

Taita hills, Kenya

N Tanzania

olivaceiceps

Song:

milanjensis

Song:

From the above examples, for *striifacies*, there seems to be a distinct difference between the nasal voice in the Taita Hills and the more melodious notes in N and C Tanzania. Also the alternative song is seemingly different.

Example 3 of *striifacies* (N Tanzania) and example 1 of *olivaceiceps* sound very similar, with about the same rhythmic delivery. An alternative song is not documented for *olivaceiceps*, but there are very few recordings of this taxon anyway.

milanjensis is again more nasal sounding (same vocal quality as *striifacies* birds from Taita Hills), but song mostly ends with a trill (see arrows on sonograms).

Given that at least some songs of *olivaceiceps* and *striifacies* seem to be indistinguishable, one could only give a vocal score for the apparent unique alternative song of *striifacies*, but this is then by assuming this is absent in *olivaceiceps*, which given the few available recordings, is rather hypothetical.

Song of *milanjensis* is the most distinctive, and can be easily identified whenever the final trill is uttered. Besides that, it comes very close to song of *striifacies* from Taita hills. A tentative vocal score of 2-3 vs. *olivaceiceps* and 1-2 vs. *striifacies* seems likely based on the limited number of available recordings, but should be confirmed by more recordings.

Further study of the different populations of the race *striifacies* is also recommended.

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References

Tobias, J.A., Seddon, N., Spottiswoode, C.N., Pilgrim, J.D., Fishpool, L.D.C. & Collar, N.J. (2010). Quantitative criteria for species delimitation. *Ibis* 152(4): 724–746.

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