Notes on the vocalizations of Plain Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum concolor*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Plain Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum concolor*). 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).

Our main interest is to compare voice of the disjunct races *concolor* and *virescens* with the remaining races. Both these races were elevated to species rank in The Ripley Guide (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), in part based on voice.

An overview of vocalizations:

*concolor* (Nilgiri)
Presumed song (n=2) a fast series of short high-pitched notes

![Spectrogram of *Dicaeum concolor* song](image1)

Call: a raspy short note

![Spectrogram of *Dicaeum concolor* call](image2)

There are no recordings available on-line from the Andaman Islands (*virescens*).

To be compared with vocalizations of the other races (some selected examples):
Song: a fast series of short high-pitched notes

Call: very short chip notes

With only a few available recordings of race *concolor*, vocal differences are hard to assess. Song seems to fall within the range of variability of other races. Call of *concolor* sounds like "tzick" or "tzrick" while other races seemingly have a less raspy "chip".

Difference in call:

*concolor*  
Other races: Myanmar  
Assam
*concolor* has a slightly longer call note with a different shape (steeply upslurred and gently downslurred, vs hardly any slur) and base frequency apparently slightly higher-pitched. As this is not the primary vocalization, a score of 1-2 could be allowed (quantified by difference in duration and max. freq.).

As for race *virescens*, voice is described as markedly different in The Ripley Guide. Song is described as a high-pitched musical "sit-sew..sit-sew...", but this may well be homologous to a vocalization type also known for other races e.g.:

N Vietnam

![Sonogram of N Vietnam](image1)

Taiwan

![Sonogram of Taiwan](image2)

Equally so, high-pitched call notes described for *virescens* (pitch 5-7kHz, duration 0.1s) may well have equivalent in other races, e.g.:

Vietnam

![Sonogram of Vietnam](image3)

Malaysia

![Sonogram of Malaysia](image4)

All in all, no firm conclusions can be drawn for *virescens*. Without a more comprehensive comparison or depiction of sonograms, the statement it is 'markedly vocally distinct’ can’t be verified.
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References


Recommended citation