Notes on the vocalizations of Rusty-crowned Tit-spinetail
(*Leptasthenura pileata*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Rusty-crowned Tit-spinetail (*Leptasthenura pileata*). 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).

Race *cajabambae* is morphologically quite different, and has alternatively been considered a race of *L. striata* (Remsen 2015). The buzzy chatter of all races of Rusty-crowned Tit-spinetail is however quite different by ear from the more twittering rattle of Streaked Tit-spinetail. Merging race *cajabambae* into *L. striata* would thus not be logic from a vocal point of view (Fig.1).

![Figure 1: song of L. striata (top), L.p. cajabambae (middle) and L.p. latistriata](image)

Remains to check whether there is significant vocal difference between *cajabambae* vs. *pileata*/*latistriata*. 
There are very few recordings available on-line of the different races:
* cajabambae (song 1 in LNS, 6 in XC)
* pileata (only 1 in XC, if correctly identified then probably not song, 0 in LNS)
* latistriata (song 2 in XC, 0 in LNS)

Both groups have a similar ‘song’ consisting of a series of very buzzy, gravelly notes.

Measurements:
* cajabambae
  - note length: 0.06-0.09s
  - pause: 0.03-0.05s
  - pace*: 0.43-0.57s
  * pace here measured as 5 periods, the duration of 5 consecutive notes

* latistriata
  - note length: 0.05-0.07s
  - pause: 0.018-0.038s
  - pace: 0.34-0.46s

There is thus hardly any difference between the two groups. At most, the pace of cajabambae is slightly slower than latistriata, but given the low number of samples this is not much more than a possibility.

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References


Recommended citation