

**FIRST SPECIMENS FOR COLOMBIA OF *FURNARIUS TORRIDUS* (FURNARIIDAE) AND  
*MYRMOOTHERULA ASSIMILIS* (THAMNOPHILIDAE)**

**Primeros especímenes para Colombia de  
*Furnarius torridus* (Furnariidae) y *Myrmotherula assimilis* (Thamnophilidae)**

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**ABSTRACT**

I report the first specimen records of two species for Colombia, for which only sight records are published for the country. Specimens of *Furnarius torridus* (Furnariidae) and *Myrmotherula assimilis* (Thamnophilidae), were taken near Leticia, Department of Amazonas, in July 1974 but were not identified until recently due to lack of comparative material.

**Key words:** *Furnarius torridus*, *Myrmotherula assimilis*, Colombia, distribution, specimen records.

**RESUMEN**

Doy a conocer los primeros especímenes de dos especies, *Furnarius torridus* (Furnariidae) y *Myrmotherula assimilis* (Thamnophilidae) para Colombia, de las cuales hasta ahora sólo se han publicado registros visuales. Ambos fueron coleccionados cerca de Leticia, Departamento de Amazonas, en julio de 1974 pero sólo fueron identificados recientemente por falta de material con que compararlos.

**Palabras clave:** *Furnarius torridus*, *Myrmotherula assimilis*, Colombia, distribución, especímenes.

In July 1974, I collected specimens of two species for which there is no previous specimen record from Colombia. Both were mist-netted on a river island known on local maps as Isla de Santa Sofia II, roughly 40 km northwest of Leticia, Depto. Amazonas. They were collected within a few meters of the bank of the Río Amazonas in dense undergrowth of *Cecropia*-dominated forest. Although I previously published new bird records for Colombia from this site (Remsen 1977), these two specimens remained unidentified for many years because of lack of comparative material in the collection that housed them. Recent inspection of the specimens allowed confirmation of the identifications:

Pale-billed Hornero (*Furnarius torridus*). An adult female was collected on 22 July 1974 (nonbreeding condition; no fat; 48.8 g; MVZ 163996). I had originally identified this as *F. leucopus* in the field because the only literature available to me in 1974 was Meyer de Schauensee (1970), which did not list *F. torridus* for Colombia, erroneously described the latter's habitat as "campos", and did not provide a way to distinguish the two in the field. Further, some literature (Cory and Hellmayr 1925, Vaurie 1980, Hilty and Brown 1986) treated *torridus* as a subspecies of *F. leucopus*. Subsequently, Robert Ridgely (pers. comm.) alerted me to the likelihood that my photographs (e.g., Fig. 1) of netted *Furna-*



**Figure 1.** Netted individual of *Furnarius torridus* at Isla Santa Sofía II, Departamento de Amazonas, Colombia, 22 July 1974. Note the dark reddish-rufous back that does not contrast dramatically with the crown (as it does in sympatric *F. leucopus tricolor*). The breast, almost as dark as the back, is also much darker than that of *F. l. tricolor*.

*rius* from the area were almost certainly *F. torridus*, thus leading me to check the identification of the single specimen. Although I saw large *Furnarius* daily, I recorded them all in my field notes as *F. leucopus*, and at this point it is impossible to tell whether these notes refer to both species or just *F. torridus*. Therefore, the vocal descriptions of *F. leucopus* attributed to me in Hilty and Brown (1986) may refer to *F. torridus*. This species is now known to be a river island specialist (Rosenberg 1990, Remsen 2003) and given its presence along the Amazon in northern Peru and western Brazil, its presence in Colombia was expected.

The subspecies of *F. leucopus* in the Amazon region is *F. l. tricolor*, which was recently observed and collected by F. G. Stiles (pers. comm.) in young várzea forest on Isla Ronda, ca. 7 km northwest of Leticia. Given that this species and *F. torridus* are likely sympatric in the region, a note on distinguishing them may be helpful to Colombian observers. *Furnarius t. tricolor* differs from the trans-Andean forms illustrated in Hilty & Brown (1986) mainly in having its crown and auricular area dull dark brown rather than gray and rufous, respectively, thus setting off its white superciliary stripe more conspicuously; its general color is bright orange-rufous, paler below (Fig. 2). *Furnarius torridus* is a darker rufous above and below; its grayish crown is not distinctly darker and its superciliary is a paler gray not nearly as contrasting or conspicuous as that of *F. l. tricolor* (Fig. 1).

Leaden Antwren (*Myrmotherula assimilis*). An adult male was collected on 19 July 1974 (nonbreeding condition; no fat; 8.3 g; MVZ 163999). The specimen remained unidentified for years until I could re-examine it. This species was a rare to uncommon resident on Isla de Santa Sofía II. It is now known to be a river island specialist, where found primarily in middle story and understory and of *Cecropia* forest (Rosenberg 1990). Given its presence along the Amazon in northern Peru and western Brazil (Zimmer & Isler 2003), its presence in Colombia was also expected. Its presence on the list of species known from Colombia (Salaman et al. 2001) was based previously only on sight records (A. M. Cuervo, pers. comm.), e.g., those in Hilty and Brown (1986). Another recent sighting of this species in Colombia was by F. G. Stiles (pers. comm.) in *Cecropia* forest on Isla Ronda on 1 November 2003.

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**Figure 2.** Netted individual of *Furnarius leucopus tricolor* at Isla Ronda, Departamento de Amazonas, Colombia, 2 November 2002. Note the paler, more orange-rufous overall coloration and the conspicuous pale superciliary stripe set off by the dark brown crown and auriculars. Photo by F. G. Stiles.

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