

NOTA BREVE

## A NEW POPULATION OF THE HOODED ANTPITTA (*Grallaricula cucullata*: Grallaridae) FOR THE COLOMBIAN CENTRAL ANDES

### Una nueva población del Tororoi Cabecirufu (*Grallaricula cucullata*: Grallaridae) para los Andes de Colombia

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#### ABSTRACT

We report a new population of the Hooded Antpitta (*Grallaricula cucullata*) in the Central Andes of Colombia, a threatened bird species inhabiting montane cloud forests in Colombian and Venezuelan Andes. We present capture-rate data, which suggest the occurrence of a resident with the highest population size reported for this bird species.

**Keywords:** Colombian Andes, *Grallaricula*, Quindío, threatened species.

#### RESUMEN

Presentamos una nueva población del Tororoi Cabecirufu (*Grallaricula cucullata*), una especie de ave amenazada de los bosques montañosos nublados de los Andes de Colombia y Venezuela. Presentamos datos de tasas de captura que indican la presencia de una población residente con el tamaño poblacional más alto reportado para la especie.

**Palabras clave:** Andes colombianos, especies amenazadas, *Grallaricula*, Quindío.

The small birds of the genus *Grallaricula* comprise eight species that inhabit Andean forests of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. The natural history for most species of this genus is scarce (Krabbe and Schulenberg, 2003; Niklison *et al.*, 2008). The Hooded Antpitta, *Grallaricula cucullata* (Sclater, 1856), is found in Colombia and Venezuela, and it is hard to see because of small size and sudden movements. There are only few vouchers of this species in ornithological collections and some field observations (Gertler, 1977; Ridgely and Tudor, 1994; Salaman *et al.*, 2002; Downing, 2005; Salaman *et al.*, 2007; Ayerbe-Quiñones *et al.*, 2008). Currently, the Hooded Antpitta is categorized as vulnerable worldwide (Birdlife International, 2011); however, it is considered as near threatened in Colombia, where its numbers have decreased due to deforestation (Renjifo *et al.*, 2002). It is a small plump Antpitta with bright orange bill, bright orange-rufous head and throat, olive-brown above, grey below with narrow white crescent across chest, white belly, and lower breast (Hilty and Brown, 1986; Ridgely and Tudor, 1994). This species can be more usually detected by mist netting than by direct sights and their voice is unknown (Ridgely and Tudor, 1994).

The Hooded Antpitta inhabits dense understory of humid Andean montane mature and secondary forests between 1500 and 2700 m a.s.l., and it has a discontinuous distribution in the three Andes ranges of Colombia (*G. cucullata cucullata*) and in Táchira and Apure states, Venezuela (*G. cucullata venezuelana*) (Hilty and Brown, 1986; Ridgely and Tudor, 1994; Birdlife International, 2011). In Colombia, its range extends from Cauca to Antioquia department (Fig. 1). Records of this species are based on field collections, with most records in Cauca and Huila (Fig. 1, Table 1). Local extinctions have been reported for the Hooded Antpitta in the Farallones de Cali (Collar *et al.*, 1992), but there are recent reports near to this locality (Downing and Hickman, 2004). Here, we present a new population for the Hooded Antpitta in the Central Andes.

**Table 1.** Distributional data and observations of *G. cucullata* in Colombia.

Locality	Code	Elevation	Observations	References
Alto del Escobero, San Sebastián, Municipality of El Retiro, Antioquia	A	2475	Detected by Julio Cesar Saenz and SAO bird-watchers between 2003 to 2004	RNOA (2013)
Santa Elena, 8 km east of Medellín, on east slope of Central Andes, Antioquia	B	2000-2200	Male and female (BMNH) were collected in 1878. Detected by Alberto Arias Figueroa and SAO birdwatchers between 2000 to 2004	Collar <i>et al.</i> , (1992), RNOA (2013)
Rio Blanco Natural Reserve, Municipality of Manizales, Caldas	C	2600	Detected by Sergio Ocampo and SCO birdwatchers between 2002 to 2009	RNOA (2013)
Vereda Boquía, Finca Los Andes, Municipality of Salento, Quindío	D	2100-2400	Ten birds were captured in mist nets in 2010	This study
Ucumari Natural Reserve, west slope of Central Andes, Municipality of Pereira, Risaralda	E	2400	Six individuals were banded between April 1998 and February 1999	Beltrán W. (data unpublished)
Cerro el Retiro, Municipality of Ubalá, Vereda Campo Hermoso, Cundinamarca	F	2000	One bird caught and another collected (ICN) in 1998	Salaman <i>et al.</i> , (2002)
Km 27 on the Cali-Buenaventura highway on the west slope of the Western Andes, Valle del Cauca	G	1800	One bird seen singing in understory in a small forest patch	Downing and Hickman (2004)
Ríolima, eastern slope of West Andes, near San Antonio and west of Cali, Valle del Cauca	H	1800-1900	One male (AMNH) collected in 1878	Collar <i>et al.</i> , (1992)
Serranía de los Picachos, Caserío Guayabal, Finca Andalucía, Municipality of San Vicente del Caguán, Caquetá	I	1800	One bird caught and collected (IAvH) in mature forest	Bohórquez (2002)
Serranía de los Churumbelos, southern east Andes in Municipality of Santa Rosa, Cauca	J	1900-2200	Three birds were captured in mist nets (two collected, ICN) and one seen in 1998-1999	Salaman <i>et al.</i> , (1999)
Serranía de los Churumbelos-Municipality of Santa Rosa, Cerro La Mica- Nabú, Cauca	K	1900	One bird seen and another collected in 1997 and 1998 (ICN)	Salaman <i>et al.</i> , (2007)
Reserva Natural Los Yalcones, Vereda La Castellana, Municipality of San Agustín, Huila	L	2330	Two birds collected in mature forest by IAvH researchers in 2005	IAvH-A (2013)
Cueva de los Guácharos National Park, on the west slope of the southern East Andes, Huila	M	1800-2000	Six birds collected (and one seen) between 1975 and 1977.	Gertler (1977)
Vereda La Argentina, between Balseros and Naranjos river, Municipality of San Agustín, Huila	N	2120	Three birds were collected in mature forest by IAvH researchers in 2005	IAvH-A (2013)
La Candela on the east slope of the Central Andes, 8 km south-west of San Agustín, Huila	N	1900-2200	Male and female in 1912 (AMNH), two birds collected in 1942 (ANSP) and one male in 1952 (USNM)	Collar <i>et al.</i> , (1992)
Sector Pesebre, Municipality of Palestina, Huila	O	2150	Four birds were collected in mature forest by IAvH researchers between 2001 to 2003	IAvH-A (2013)

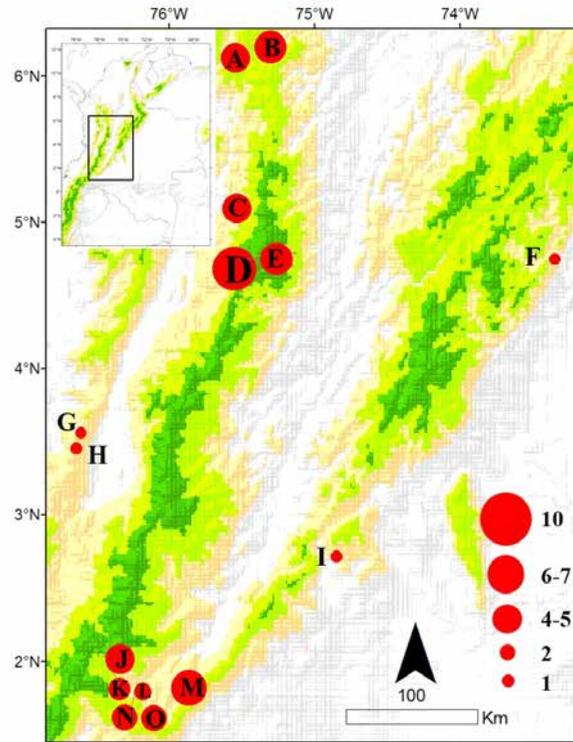
This species was previously reported by Arbeláez-Cortés *et al.*, (2011) in Quindío department, but in this work, we present the evidence of the highest population size found for this species.

Between February and June 2010 at the Finca Los Andes, Vereda Boquia, Municipality of Salento, Quindío Department, on the western slope of Central Andes of Colombia (4°41'N 75° 33'W, 2400 m a.s.l.), we found a small permanent population of Hooded Antpitta (Fig. 2). The area comprises 262 ha of fragmented natural forests intermixed with *Pinus* spp., and *Eucalyptus* sp. plantations, near to La Patasola Natural Reserve, which are owned by Smurfit Kappa Cartón de Colombia (Fig. 2). We set up ten mist nets for four days twice a month, in different sites of secondary and mature forests (2630 hours/net). We caught ten individuals of *G.*

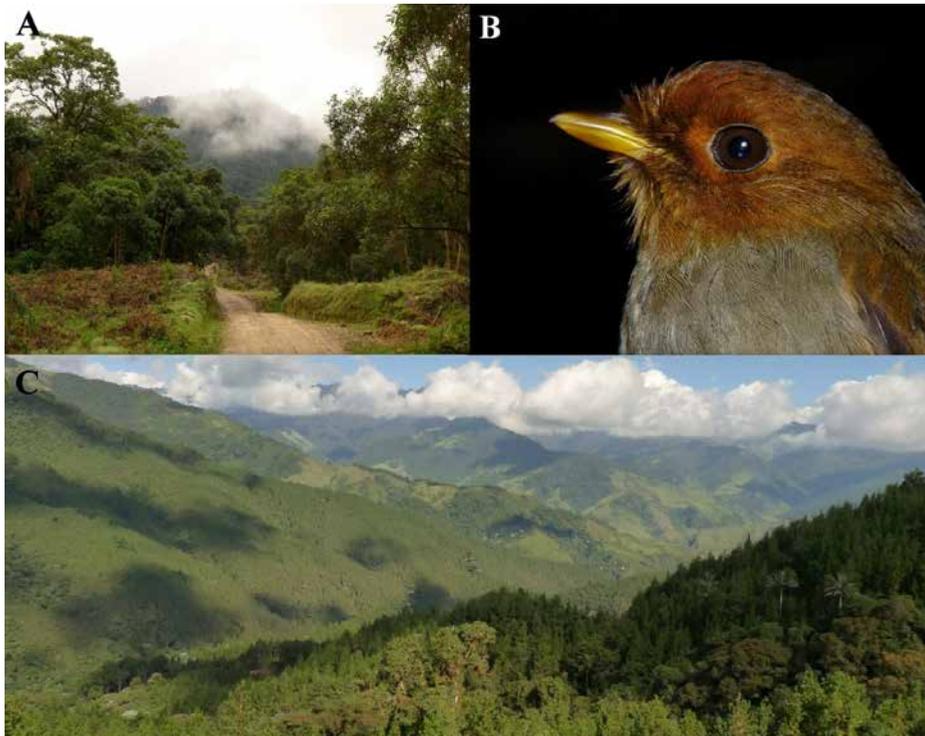
*cucullata*, one of them recaptured. The tip of one tail feather of each bird was cut to facilitate the individual recognition. Then, birds were released near sites of captures.

None caught bird showed any evidence of breeding or molting. We detected the Hooded Antpitta mainly during the mist netting and in one occasion, an individual was observed in the understory, perching near the ground. Almost all individuals were caught in mature forests (90% of total) and during the mornings between 6:30h to 10:30h (80% of the total). We caught between one to five birds per sampling, with a higher rate on May 16 when four adults and a sub adult were caught, indicating that this species is resident and breeding in the area.

The high rate of captures of *G. cucullata* in this locality contrasts with the low number of reports in other localities



**Figure 1.** Distribution of the Hooded Antpitta (*G. cucullata*) in Colombia. Circle size represents the number of records and letters indicates the localities codes (Table 1).



**Figure 2.** Habitat of the Hooded Antpitta (*Grallaricula cucullata*) at the Vereda Boquia, Municipality of Salento, Quindío. **A.** Andean cloud forest patches. **B.** One individual of *G. cucullata* mist-netted during the fieldwork. **C.** Landscape view with a eucalyptus and pines plantation matrix.

(Bohórquez, 2002; Renjifo *et al.*, 2002; Salaman *et al.*, 2002; Downing, 2005), where only one to six individuals were caught during a short sampling period or during several years. For example, in Serranía de los Churumbelos, Cauca (3800 hours/net) four individuals were captured (Salaman *et al.*, 2002); in Ucumarí Natural Reserve, Risaralda (unknown effort), six individuals were banded between April 1998 and February 1999 (W. Beltran, data unpublished); in Cueva de los Guácharos National Park, Huila, two individuals were captured (2150 hours/net); and in Serranía de los Picachos, Caquetá (1136 hours/net) one bird was captured.

Our data could be indicating that the population size of the Hooded Antpitta in Salento, Quindío is relatively high. In that way, our record is key because this area is important for conservation of a permanent population of this species as it is located in the Important Bird Area La Patasola (IBA CO051) near to Los Nevados National Park. However, the Hooded Antpitta could be threatened as consequence of the increased timber extraction in pine plantations (*Pinus* sp.) carried out by Smurfit Kappa Carton Colombia in the study area. The information collected in this study suggests that the species might have a continuous distribution in the Central Andes of Colombia, and it can be also found in other Andean forests (Fig. 1), that have not been explored in detail.

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