

ON A VARIETY OF *GOURA CORONATA*.

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While the Curator was engaged in re-arranging the foreign bird collection, he brought under my notice a mounted specimen of *Goura coronata* which was entirely different from another typical example of this species in a different part of the case. The specimen under consideration is in markings and size similar to the well-known form of Crowned Pigeon, but almost the entire plumage, except the white wing-speculum and apical tail-band, had a distinct blackish wash, only a few small places about the head, breast, wings and tail revealing here and there the bluish slaty-grey plumage, the chestnut tips of the upper wing-coverts and band across the back, also being much darker. The locality of the specimen is unknown, and after a careful comparison I concluded it was a melanistic variety of *Goura coronata*. Subsequent research by the Assistant Taxidermist revealed another skin in the foreign collection. This specimen was received in 1897 as a donation from the Director of the Botanic Gardens, Sydney, the habitat recorded in the register as Java, being undoubtedly erroneous. With the exceptions pointed out in the mounted example, the remainder of the plumage may be described as deep sooty bluish-black including the head and crest plumes. The only indications of the normal bluish slaty-grey plumage of *Goura coronata*, may be seen in some places on the quills and tail feathers. It measures—Total length 24·5 inches, wing 12·75, tail 9·2, exposed portion of bill 1·3, tarsus 3·5, and is distinctly smaller than typical examples of *Goura coronata*. Whether the dark plumage is due to climatic influence, confinement, or typical of a distinct species, I am unable to say, but I purpose to distinguish the latter specimen under the name of *Goura coronata*, var. *nigra*.