

A Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi* from Minziro Forest Reserve: the first documented record for Tanzania

On 27 January 2018 I was camped below a large mature fig tree adjacent to an abandoned track on the western edge of Minziro Forest Nature Reserve at 1°05' S, 31°25' E.

The fig was fruiting and busy with birds and both Grey-cheeked Mangabey *Lophocebus albigena* and the *dogettii* race of the Blue Monkey *Cercopithecus mitis*. African Green Pigeons *Treron calvus* were numerous, with Great Blue Turaco *Corythaeola cristata*, Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui*, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*, Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus*, Slender-billed Greenbul *Andropadus gracilirostris*, and Black-and-white Casqued Hornbill *Bycanistes subcylindricus* present in varying numbers. On the following morning I photographed what I believed to be a Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi* in the canopy of the fig tree. There were at least three, but I was concentrating on obtaining photographs and did not note exactly how many were present. Four of the photographs were submitted to the East African Rarities Committee and were accepted as the first record for Tanzania. One of these images is Fig. 1.

The basic green colour, the yellow base to the lower mandible, the size of the bird, length of bill, habitat, and behaviour all fit what is known of this bird.



Figure 1. Little Green Sunbird in Minziro Forest Reserve (photo: N. Baker).

The Ugandan Atlas (Carswell *et al.* 2005)

includes Malabigambo FR in the range of this species quoting Friedmann & Williams (1969). Malabigambo FR is contiguous with Minziro Forest Reserve—essentially it is the same forest. The international border at one degree South passes through the forest.

In July 1987 we caught another bird that I thought was this species, but unfortunately suitable photographs were not taken. Without doubt, this species is a low-density resident in Minziro Forest Reserve even though I did not find it during my earlier visits in 1993, 2000 and 2016.

References

- CARSWELL, M., POMEROY, D., REYNOLDS, J & TUSHABE, H. 2005. *The Bird Atlas of Uganda*. Oxford: British Ornithologists' Club / British Ornithologists' Union.
- FRIEDMANN, H. & WILLIAMS, J.G. 1969. The birds of the Sango Bay Forests, Buddu County, Masaka District, Uganda. *Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History Contributions in Science* 162: 1–48.

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