

are fine purple in the middle ; tail long,\* cuneiform, obtuse, coloured as the quills ; legs very strong, dusky black.

This beautiful bird is found on the Plains near the borders of Rivers in the Province of Acra in Guinea, and is said to live principally on fruits of the Plantain,† it is very rare, for with every pains taken by M. Isert, he could only obtain one specimen.

I have ventured to join this with the Royal Cuckow of the Leve-rian Museum, as it seems to agree, except in the disposition of the toes, which in the engraving are placed two before and two behind ; this, however, may be reconciled by supposing the bird capable of placing them in two different positions at will, a circumstance observed also in the Touraco, and some other birds ; however, the assertion of M. Isert, that the toes were situated as his figure represents, ought to have weight, as he took his description from a fresh killed bird.

A drawing, said to have been taken from a specimen in the Museum of the late Sir Ashton Lever, has some time since been shewn to me, which appears to be this bird. The length full two feet ; breadth three ; bill in shape like the foregoing, covered with a cere as far as the nostrils, the upper mandible having a notch near the tip ; length of the bill one inch and a half ; depth one inch ; diameter at the base three quarters of an inch ; it differs from the first described in being attached at the back part, and not elevated from the base ; the head at top is somewhat crested, dusky ; round the eye black ; chin pale flesh-colour ; hind part of the neck and back pale dusky blue ; the under parts of the body pale yellowish brown ; thighs and vent rufous ; tail cuneiform, dusky blue ; base of two or more of the outer feathers white, across all a broad black bar near the end ; the outer quill shortest, the eighth longest of all, and

\* M. Isert says the tail has only nine feathers ; this might be the case in his specimen, but as we know of no bird in which the tail feathers are not even in number, we may suspect that it originally had ten, or even more, when in complete feather.

† *Musa Paradisiaca et Sapientum.*