

from the extremity of the beak to that of the tail. On the other hand, there exists a slight difference in the distribution of the small white spots which are to be found only on the throat and belly of this bird, while they are spread over the covert feathers of the wings and even on the back of the zitzil. These disparities, however, are not to be absolutely considered as specific, and this restriction might equally apply to many other colibris, of which writers on ornithology have made distinct species; while there is every reason to believe that they are, for the greater part, to be attributed to age, to sex, or to moulting; and sometimes even to extraneous causes, such as the preparations of preserved birds, and even the ignorance or the quackery of those who prepare them.

But we have nothing positive with regard to the colibri of the present article; it is evident that it is very nearly approximated to some others; there is even a sort of affinity visible between them, though it is not easy to say to which species to assimilate it. In this state of incertitude, which it is hoped the zeal of future travellers, who combine a knowledge of natural history, will dissipate, it will be sufficient simply to give the description of this