

Discovered in 1967, this hummingbird remains known only from the vicinity of the type-locality in south-west Colombia, which, however, lies within a national park, and large tracts of forests in the area remain unexplored.

**DISTRIBUTION** The Colourful Puffleg is known only from the type-locality, Charguayaco (c.2°40'N 76°57'W, c.12.5 km north of Cerro Munchique: see Remarks), on the Pacific slope of the southern West Andes, Cauca department (Meyer de Schauensee 1967, Dunning 1970, Fjeldsâ and Krabbe 1990, with coordinates from Paynter and Traylor 1981). In the immediate vicinity of the type-locality, Negret (1991) recorded the bird from Planchón (untraced), at 2,200 m on the road above La Gallera, where a male was seen in September 1990.

**POPULATION** At the type-locality M. Pearman (*in litt.* 1990) found the species to be very localized, seeing three birds (a male and two females) on one day (1 April 1987). At the time the type-specimen was collected (April 1967), one male was taken and several others were captured and released, with two males (in AMNH, USNM) collected on consecutive days in August 1967 (Meyer de Schauensee 1967). Despite five days' searching for this species in suitable habitat within the Munchique National Park, M. Pearman (*in litt.* 1990) found none away from Charguayaco, and Negret (1991) reported just one bird (see above) after three years of fieldwork in Munchique National Park.

**ECOLOGY** Records of the Colourful Puffleg come from between 2,195 and 2,440 m (specimens in AMNH, ANSP), although M. Pearman (*in litt.* 1990) suggested that the species may show seasonal altitudinal movements. The few records of this bird have all come from subtropical wet forest and adjacent borders, one bird seen feeding at low flowers in a small clearing near forest (Meyer de Schauensee 1967, Hilty and Brown 1986). M. Pearman (*in litt.* 1990) also recorded the species feeding low down, at tiny yellow flowers, probably similar to those of the *Miconia* sp. which was recorded as a food-plant by Negret (1991). The Munchique National Park, where the type-series was collected, comprises 44,000 ha, including mostly humid (more than 3,000 mm rainfall per year) cloud-forests dominated by *Billia colombiana*, *Clusia* spp., *Persea* sp., *Hyeronima colombiana*, *Quercus humboldtii* and *Weinmannia pubescens* (CNPPA 1982, Hernández Camacho *et al.* undated).

**THREATS** Despite some clearance of the wet forest close to Cerro Munchique, little disturbance is to be expected at the type-locality. If the bird is distributed over a wider area, the present construction of the new road to López de Micay on the Pacific Coast (LGN) might represent a potential threat from deforestation and other human disturbance.

**MEASURES TAKEN** The Munchique National Park embraces the only known locality for the Colourful Puffleg (see Ecology), and the recently established Los Tambitos Nature Reserve, an area where this hummingbird might occur, also provides some protection (A. J. Negret verbally 1991).

**MEASURES PROPOSED** The distribution and ecological needs of this species are essentially unknown, and therefore the priority must be to study it at the type-locality in order to determine at what density the population exists and what its requirements are. Once this has been done, other similar areas nearby can be searched to obtain a more accurate impression of the bird's distributional status. Conservation initiatives in this area must also consider the needs of various other threatened species of bird that occur in or around the park, which at altitudes suitable for this species include Yellow-eared Parrot *Ognorhynchus icterotis*, Golden-plumed Parakeet *Leptosittaca branickii*, Giant Antpitta *Grallaria gigantea* (at c.3,000 m) and Tanager-finch *Oreothraupis arremonops* (a number of other threatened species occur within Munchique National Park at altitudes below 2,200 m, and these are listed in the equivalent section under Multicoloured Tanager *Chlorochrysa nitidissima*).

*Threatened birds of the Americas*

**REMARKS** The specimen in AMNH is labelled “Charguayaco, eight miles south of Cerro Munchique”, although subsequent authors, including Paynter and Traylor (1981), show that this locality is north of the cerro.