

Almost totally unknown, this antpitta has been found only at the type- locality in El Tamá National Park in the Andes of western Venezuela, where it has been recorded just twice (during the mid-1950s); deforestation in the area has been proceeding rapidly.

DISTRIBUTION The Táchira Antpitta is endemic to the Andes of westernmost Venezuela where it is apparently known from just four specimens (in COP, USNM: see Remarks), collected in February 1955 and March 1956 at Hacienda La Providencia (c.7°38'N 72°15'W; Paynter 1982) on the río Chiquita, south-western Táchira.

POPULATION Only four specimens (all males) have been collected, these all being taken at the type-locality: there are apparently no sightings since the collection of the second two (A. B. Altman *in litt.* 1988), despite some specific searches in the area (three days were spent at the site looking for this species during September 1990: M. Pearman *in litt.* 1991).

ECOLOGY All the specimens (in COP, USNM) were collected between 1,800 and 2,100 m, Meyer de Schauensee and Phelps (1978) suggesting that the species inhabits the subtropical zone where it forages alone in the mossy undergrowth of high, dense cloud-forest. Nothing else is known.

THREATS The Táchira Antpitta must be considered threatened owing mainly to ignorance of its status: it possesses a putatively tiny range and has not been seen for 35 years. While the forest at the type-locality is essentially virgin above 1,600 m, and receives little or no disturbance (M. Pearman *in litt.* 1991), with so little known about the distribution or ecological requirements of the species, possible threats are difficult to assess, although deforestation in this part of the Venezuelan Andes has been proceeding rapidly and El Tamá National Park is highly threatened (see equivalent section under Rusty-faced Parrot *Hapalopsittaca amazonina*).

MEASURES TAKEN Hacienda La Providencia is within the El Tamá National Park (139,000 ha: IUCN 1992).

MEASURES PROPOSED Further searches are needed in the region of the type-locality in order to assess the current status and ecological requirements of the Táchira Antpitta, after which the species should be looked for in suitable habitat elsewhere to determine its distributional and conservation status. Forests in this region are in urgent need of enforced protection: any fieldwork or other conservation initiatives should be integrated with those undertaken for the Rusty-faced Parrot and Hooded Antpitta *Grallaricula cucullata*, with which this species appears to be sympatric (see relevant accounts, and also equivalent section under Táchira Emerald *Amazilia distans*).

REMARKS Meyer de Schauensee (1966) mentioned that the species is known from just three specimens, although there are apparently three males in COP (one collected on 10 February 1955, and two during March 1956), and a male (the type-specimen) in USNM (also taken on 10 February 1955).