

This tiny flycatcher is endemic to (and common in) a particular type of bamboo in south-east Brazil where, however, it is currently known from only four localities.

DISTRIBUTION The Fork-tailed Pygmy-tyrant (see Remarks) has been found only in a few localities in the states of Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, south-eastern Brazil. The occurrence of the species in Espírito Santo has been claimed (Ruschi 1953) and repeated (Meyer de Schauensee 1966, 1982, Traylor 1979, Sibley and Monroe 1990), but is not accepted here.

Minas Gerais The only record of the species is from the Serra da Mantiqueira in the south of the state, near Itatiaia National Park (G. T. de Mattos *in litt.* 1987).

Rio de Janeiro The species occurs near Santa Maria Madalena at Desengano State Park between 400 and 850 m, where isolated individuals or pairs have been found regularly since August 1986 (J. F. Pacheco *in litt.* 1987, verbally 1988, B. M. Whitney *in litt.* 1991), having previously been recorded from Cantagalo (Cabanis 1874, von Ihering 1900a) and Nova Friburgo (Cory and Hellmayr 1927) in the same mountainous region. Two specimens in MNRJ were collected in June 1941 near Parati, on the lower coastal slopes (under 500 m) of the Serra do Mar (Berla 1944), and it still occurs there (J. F. Pacheco *in litt.* 1991, B. M. Whitney *in litt.* 1991). Three specimens were collected in July and August 1950 at 1,200 m in the Itatiaia National Park (Pinto 1954b), and the species was observed there in 1990 (D. Finch *per* B. C. Forrester *in litt.* 1992).

São Paulo The species was recorded at Matodentro in 1818 (von Pelzeln 1868-1871) and at Ubatuba (on the northern coast) in February, March and April 1905 (Pinto 1944, 1954b; specimens in AMNH, MCZ, MZUSP, USNM), and is still present at the latter locality (B. C. Forrester *in litt.* 1990, D. Willis *in litt.* 1991, M. Pearman *in litt.* 1992, TAP).

POPULATION Although the species has been considered rare (Berla 1944, Pinto 1954b) and possibly “in real danger” (Scott and Brooke 1985), it is tiny and inconspicuous, so might be often overlooked (C. E. Carvalho *in litt.* 1987), and indeed in one privately owned patch of forest at Ubatuba (Fazenda Angelina) it was considered the commonest bird in its particular habitat, with one pair every 100 m (D. Willis *in litt.* 1991, M. Pearman *in litt.* 1992), and again at Parati in the right habitat it is locally common (B. M. Whitney *in litt.* 1991). Nevertheless, its very limited range and specific habitat needs clearly render the bird very local, since it has eluded many ornithologists who have visited parts of its range.

ECOLOGY This species occurs primarily in bamboo thickets in forest undergrowth and along edges, and its normal habitat may be such thickets growing on natural landslides (TAP): it has been noted to prefer “large-leaved” species of bamboo both at Parati and Desengano, being at lower densities where this bamboo itself is less dense, and nearly or completely absent in stands of smaller-leaved bamboo (B. M. Whitney *in litt.* 1991), and birds have been found in bamboo thickets in forest undergrowth where the White-collared Foliage-gleaner *Anabazenops fuscus* and Drab-breasted Pygmy-tyrant *Hemitriccus diops* also occur (C. E. Carvalho *in litt.* 1987, J. F. Pacheco *in litt.* 1987). Near Ubatuba (Fazenda Capricórnio and at the base of Pico de Corcovado) the species occurs exclusively in extensive thickets of what is presumably the same type of bamboo (possibly *Merostachys*) at the edges of second-growth forest, often in fairly open places with only scattered small trees that barely form a continuous canopy (D. Willis *in litt.* 1991, TAP). Birds there have been found singly, with territorial individuals c.50-100 m apart; three birds observed at length stayed within small areas of c.100 m², and most foraging over a period of 30 minutes on different days occurred within c.50 m² (TAP). When foraging, birds perch mostly 1-4 m above ground on thin bamboo branches (but “3-14 m up in *Guadua* bamboo and adjacent second growth”: M. Pearman *in litt.* 1992; and “usually 8 m up in the tops of bamboo”: B. C. Forrester *in litt.* 1992), usually not in mixed-species flocks, taking small arthropods with frequent darting short-distance (less than 1 m) sallies laterally or diagonally upward to long, hanging bamboo leaves (30+ observations, including a few directed to non-bamboo foliage: TAP; also B. M. Whitney *in litt.* 1991). Prey thus gleaned included two small green caterpillars and (from a stem) a small katydid (TAP). Specimens with insects in the stomach have been collected in second-growth with vine tangles and thorny bushes (Berla 1944). There are no breeding data.

THREATS None is known, though forest clearance would presumably be detrimental to the species. Desengano State Park, largely unprotected, has been under serious threat from extensive deforestation (C. E. Carvalho verbally 1987). The slopes below Pico do Corcovado south of Ubatuba hold numerous patches of bamboo on steep landslides surrounded by tall forest, but these patches persist only for a few decades at most before flowering and dying off, so that the Fork-tailed Pygmy-tyrant and other bamboo specialists of the region must disperse in search of other areas; despite some deforestation possibly having led to an increase in bamboo in recent years, the overall loss of forest means that in the long term bamboo specialists will become severely constrained.

MEASURES TAKEN The Fork-tailed Pygmy-tyrant is protected under Brazilian law (Bernardes *et al.* 1990). Its occurrence in Itatiaia National Park and possibly other protected areas along the Serra do Mar, where much apparently suitable habitat remains, gives some prospect for its long-term survival.

MEASURES PROPOSED Surveys are needed to determine the status of the species and to confirm its current presence in the Itatiaia National Park. The Bocaina National Park on the border between Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo states needs to be fully investigated. Effective forest measures are required at Desengano State Park, and along the lower slopes of the Serra do Mar. This bird would be targeted under a programme of research on (threatened) bamboo specialist birds in Atlantic Forest (see equivalent section under White-bearded Antshrike *Biatas nigropectus*).

REMARKS When in *Ceratotriccus* this species occupied a genus of its own (Cory and Hellmayr 1927), but the general trend has been to consider it a distinctive representative of *Hemitriccus* (Traylor 1979, Sibley and Monroe 1990).