

*This recently described flycatcher is known from just three localities at the northern end of the Central Andes, Colombia, in an area that has been subjected to widespread deforestation.*

**DISTRIBUTION** The Antioquia Bristle-tyrant (see Remarks) is known from three localities in the Central Andes of Colombia, as follows (coordinates from Paynter and Traylor 1981): (*Antioquia*) El Pescado (c.7°20'N 75°23'W), 12 km below Puerto Valdivia, on the east side of the lower Cauca valley, where the type and holotype (male and female) were collected between 455 and 520 m in May 1948 (Graves 1988); Río Claro Natural Reserve, 10 km east of El Doradal on the east slope of the Central Andes near the Caldas border in the lower Magdalena valley, where the species was apparently seen in July 1987 (T. Cuadros *per* L. G. Olarte *in litt.* 1992), and whence come records in June 1990 (Stiles 1990); and (*Caldas*) 1 km west of La Victoria (5°19'N 74°55'W) somewhat further south in the Magdalena valley, where a bird was seen at 750 m in 1990 (P. Kaestner *in litt.* 1992).

**POPULATION** Almost nothing is known, although the observation of four birds together in a small clearing at the Río Claro reserve (Stiles 1990) suggests that at least locally this flycatcher may not be uncommon, albeit in an increasingly small area of remaining habitat (see Threats).

**ECOLOGY** The bristle-tyrant has been recorded from the foothills of the Central Andes between 450 and 750 m (see Distribution), where it inhabits tall second growth and clearings (Stiles 1990, P. Kaestner *in litt.* 1992). At El Pescado, the two birds were found in tall second growth, within an area of pasture, second growth and primary forest on the ridges (Graves 1988). At the Río Claro reserve, four birds were observed in a clearing caused by two trees having fallen some years earlier: this clearing was regenerating, with trees and bushes 2-4 m tall in the middle and surrounded by trees 6-8 m high (Stiles 1990). The birds foraged actively in the foliage, making short sallies to catch small insects from the undersurfaces of leaves and branches (Stiles 1990). The male collected on 15 May 1948 was in breeding condition (Graves 1988).

**THREATS** Owing to imprecise knowledge of this species's distribution and ecological requirements, the threats it faces are difficult to assess with any confidence; however, the middle and lower Magdalena and Cauca valleys have been heavily deforested since the nineteenth century, and the clearance of the floodplain and foothills of the middle Magdalena valley has been almost total during the last 30 years (Graves 1986).

**MEASURES TAKEN** The Antioquia Bristle-tyrant has been found in the small (80-100 ha) Río Claro Natural Reserve (Stiles 1990), although the status of this reserve is unknown, and is in an area undergoing heavy logging activity (L. G. Olarte *in litt.* 1992). Forested watersheds in some municipalities may provide some protection (F. G. Stiles verbally 1991), as shown by observations at La Victoria, but the Serranía de San Lucas, with all seven threatened species that have been recorded there (see Measures Proposed), remains totally unprotected.

**MEASURES PROPOSED** A clearer definition of this species's ecological requirements and distributional status is urgently required. As the species may originally have inhabited a continuous band of foothill forest around the northern Central Andes (including the Serranía de San Lucas: Stiles 1990), the bird should be searched for in remnant patches in this area; all such remnants should be mapped and given some form of protection (see equivalent section under Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia castaneiventris*). The priority areas appear to be the forest above La Victoria, and that at the Río Claro reserve: both of these should enjoy more formal protection, with extensions to all (any) forest patches in their immediate vicinity; the species occurs alongside with the threatened White-mantled Barbet *Capito hypoleucus* in this area, and any conservation initiatives should consider the needs of both. In the vicinity of Valdivia, the Antioquia Bristle-tyrant has been recorded sympatrically with five other threatened species, namely Blue-billed Curassow *Crax alberti*, White-mantled Barbet, Recurve-billed Bushbird *Clytoctantes alixii*, Black-and-gold Tanager *Buthraupis melanochlamys* and Red-bellied Grackle

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*Hypopyrrhus pyrohypogaster*, and their needs should be considered in any initiatives undertaken in this area.

**REMARKS** The Antioquia Bristle-tyrant, although collected for the first time in 1948, was only described as a new taxon in 1988, as the two specimens were mistakenly identified as Yellow Tyrannulet *Capsiempis flaveola leucophrys* (Graves 1988).