the upper mandible while an incision is made by the lower mandible" (Skutch 1954 in Moynihan 1963). Nectar, with or without small insects which may have drowned in it, is then sucked or lapped up by the U-shaped and brushy tongue (Vuilleumier 1969).

" The great advantage of this mechanism is that it enables the *Diglossa* to "tap" long tubular flowers that would not otherwise be manageable or useful to them, and would instead be reserved for birds with longer bills. Most flowers are not seriously damaged by the process. They are only marked by small slits. The openings are persistent, however, a fact which is not without consequences for many species of the local community, perhaps including the plants. " (Moynihan 1979).

P. guisei does not have a specially adapted beak, but it does have a decurved bill which could conceivably be used to pierce flowers. Rand and Gilliard (1967) state that the length of the culmen in *P. guisei* is 27 mm. I have no knowledge of the tongue structure o length in *P. guisei* but it seems probable that this species could not reach the nectaries in the flowers of this particular species of *Rhododendron* without access from the side.

I could find no reference in the literature to any previous record of flower piercing by birds in Papua New Guinea. B. Coates (*pers comm*) confirmed that he knew of no previously documented instance of flower piercing by birds in the country.

Conclusions: although it is now clear that flower piercing does occur in Papua New Guinea, at least on *Rhododendron* spp. and that the honeyeater *P. guisei* certainly uses the pierced flowers, little more can be safely assumed from this one observation. This raises a number of questions : Which flowers (if any) other than *Rhododendron* spp. are pierced ? How common is flower piercing in Papua New Guinea, and in what environments does it occur ? Which species pierce the flowers ? Which birds might opportunistically visit already pierced flowers ? How often are pierced flowers revisited ? These are all questions which spring to mind (*and which would repay observers looking out for the behaviours indicated- Editor*).

Abstract : *This is claimed as the first documented record of the use of a pierced flower by a honeyeater in Papua New Guinea.*

Acknowledgements
I am grateful to Dr. G. Stocker, Director of the Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute, for identifying to generic level the plant involved in this observation. I am also grateful to B. Coates for discussion on flower piercing with reference to Papua New Guinea.

Author's address: 123, Kennedy Terrace, Paddington, Brisbane, Queensland 4064, Australia.
(Received June 1996)

TWO NEW SPECIES FOR MISIMA ISLAND, MILNE BAY PROVINCE

By Len Tolhurst

During early August 1995 I spent several days on Misima Island in Milne Bay Province, and saw two Rainbow Bee-eaters (*Merops ornatus*) on the north coast, in hilly country back from the coast near Singana Village. The birds were in bush or secondary growth.

According to Coates "Birds of Papua New Guinea" Volume 1 page 438 this species "doesn't seem to have been recorded from eastern satellite islands". The distribution maps therein also show no previous sightings from the Louisiade Archipelago.

Still on Misima Island, at Bwagasia the main town, I heard the distinctive call of the Bush-Hen (*Amaurornis olivaceus*). This bird was calling at dusk in scrub growth near a little used road. I am familiar with the call of the species, as for many weeks a family of them lived near my back yard at Pacific Adventist College near Port Moresby. The nest was located with one bird sitting on eggs. Again reference to Coates Volume 1 indicates that there are no records from Misima Island, thus this may be the first record of the species here.

Author's address: Pacific Adventist College, Private Mail Bag, Boroko, NCD 111, Papua New Guinea.
(*Received March 96*)

AZURE KINGFISHER (*Alcedo azurea*) CHOKING ON AN OUWEN'S GOBY (*Sicyopterus ouwensi*)

By A. C. Redmayne

On the afternoon of 16 th October 1995, while walking along the Oh River. A fast flowing boulder stream at the Crater Mountain Biological Research Station- Wara Sera study site (6 43675 S 145 05 5755 E) at 850 m a. s. l. I observed an Azure Kingfisher (*A. azurea*) in obvious distress. The bird was exhausted and unable to fly. Closer examination showed that it was choking on a fish.

I collected the bird and took it back to the research station, removed the fish and identified it as an Ouwen's Goby which was 98 mm in length and 13.6 g in weight. The Azure Kingfisher weighed 40.0 g, had a bill length of 45.6 mm and a wing length of 76.0 mm. It showed no signs of moult and no brood patch. After the fish was removed it rapidly recovered and was duly released.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the Haia Landowner Committee for permission to work in the Crater Mountain Wildlife Management Area. These observations were made whilst assisting on a NYZS / The Wildlife Conservation Society sponsored project.

Reference

Allen, G. 1991. **Freshwater Fishes of New Guinea**. Publication number 9 of the Christensen Research Institute.

Author's address: Zoology Dept. Otago University, P. O. Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand.
(*Received January 1996*)