

Erratum

A yellow '*Hippolais*' warbler trapped at Ngulia re-identified as Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*

On 19 November 1995 a yellow '*Hippolais*' warbler was trapped at Ngulia Lodge. Its wing length of 70.5 mm was short for an Icterine Warbler *H. icterina* and a rather rounded wingtip clearly excluded that species. The second primary (counting ascendantly) was close in length to the sixth, the first primary was much longer than the primary coverts, and the third to fifth primaries were emarginated. These wing and other measurements were all within the range of Melodious Warbler *H. polyglotta*. They also fitted well for Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *H. pallida* (now *Iduna pallida*), but this was discounted because of the yellow washed underparts and strong olive tone to the upperparts. A small blood sample was preserved and its *cyt b* was analysed in the laboratory of Dr Andreas Helbig at Greifswald, Germany. Word was subsequently received that the bird was *H. polyglotta*, and the record was detailed in *Scopus* 20: 43–45 as a first for East Africa. Following the untimely death of Dr Helbig in 2005 a listing from his laboratory indicated that the Ngulia sample had come not from *H. polyglotta* but from *I. pallida*. Melodious Warbler was therefore omitted from the fourth edition of the *Checklist of the birds of Kenya* (2009) Nairobi: Bird Committee EANHS, with an explanation on p. 41. The blood sample was retrieved and has now been kindly reanalysed in the Heidelberg laboratory of Dr Michael Wink. Its mitochondrial *cyt b* gene has been confirmed as matching that of *I. pallida*. The bird could conceivably have been a hybrid with an *I. pallida* mother, but was more likely just a most unusual yellow variant of Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *I. pallida elaeica*. Melodious Warbler must be removed from the East African list.

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