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Abstracts

FEATURE ARTICLES

BEHAVIOR AND PHYLOGENETIC POSITION OF *PREMNOPLEX* BARBTAILS (FURNARIIDAE)

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Abstract. The *Margarornis* assemblage includes four genera: *Margarornis*, *Premnoplex*, *Premnornis*, and *Roraimia*, all thought to be closely related. Differences in vocalizations and habitat use between *Premnoplex brunnescens* (Spotted Barbtail) and *P. tatei* (White-throated Barbtail) are consistent with their full species status. In light of the weak anatomical (hindlimb musculature) evidence supporting the inclusion of *Premnornis* in the *Margarornis* assemblage, the convergence-prone nature of characters associated with climbing habits, and the differences in their nests and foraging behavior, I propose that *Premnornis* is not a member of the *Margarornis* assemblage and that *Premnoplex* is closely related only to *Margarornis*. These results are supported by recent molecular phylogenetic analyses. Although *Roraimia* differs in plumage, tail shape, and song from other members of the *Margarornis* assemblage, it must be provisionally included in the assemblage until evidence clarifies its phylogenetic position.

Key words: barbtails, behavior, convergence, morphology, nest, *Premnoplex*, *Premnornis*.