

A SPORTING TRIP

THROUGH

ABYSSINIA

A NARRATIVE OF A NINE MONTHS' JOURNEY FROM
THE PLAINS OF THE HAWASH TO THE SNOWS
OF SIMIEN, WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE
GAME, FROM ELEPHANT TO IBEX, AND
NOTES ON THE MANNERS AND
CUSTOMS OF THE NATIVES

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WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND MAP

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APPENDIX III

MAMMALS¹—BY THE HONOURABLE WALTER
ROTHSCHILD, PH.D., F.Z.S.

It was owing to the interest aroused by the question of the identity of Ruppell's reedbuck, that I undertook to write this appendix on the mammals collected by Mr. Powell-Cotton. He brought back specimens of thirty-five species, and in this paper I have enumerated thirty-seven species more or less in detail. At the end I have also added a few rough notes by Mr. Powell-Cotton on certain other animals. Although there were no new species or sub-species in the collection, it was of the greatest interest, and the task of zoologists in working out the species sent to them from abroad would be infinitely easier, if all collectors brought together such magnificent series and made such careful notes. The collection is essentially that of a hunter and explorer, and not such a one as a professional zoological collector might have got together, for there is an entire absence of the smaller insectivora and rodents, and many well-known small mammals of other groups are missing; but the collection is undoubtedly one of the finest ever brought out of Abyssinia. The most interesting species are certainly the ibex (*Capra walie*), the "wolf" (*Canis simensis*), and the mantled baboon (*Theropithecus gelada*), of all of which the fine series sent quite cleared up the history, so far as their appearance and

¹ Measurements in inches; weights in pounds.

Height.—In a straight line from a stick placed perpendicularly at the withers to the heel of the fore-foot.

Girth.—Taken directly behind the fore-legs.

Length.—Along curves from muzzle, to a line drawn across front edge of horns, or ears, in the case of hornless animals), to root of tail, to end of tail.

Weight.—Taken with Salter's spring balance, as the animal fell, if it did not exceed 250 lbs., if heavier, then cut up and the portions weighed.

development are concerned. Many zoologists will find fault with the nomenclature I employ, but not only do I consider it the only right one, but I also wish, by drawing attention, by the use of trinomials, to the existence or possible existence of well-defined local races in large mammals as well as in small ones, to the fact that there is much work still left to be done among the well-known larger mammals for those who cannot hope to get many such startling novelties to describe as the *Okapia johnstoni*. I have, therefore, in every case where I thought it might be of use, introduced key-lists of the various races of the given species, described from other parts of Africa. In other cases I have given lists of all the described species of the genus found in Africa, so as to induce sportsmen and others to hunt for them all over that continent, and so enable us to form a correct and final opinion as to the relationship of each of such species.

Guerza guereza (Rupp.).

(Native name, "Goraza.")

Ruppell was the first to describe this exceedingly handsome monkey in 1835, and it has since been divided into three races as follows:—

1. *Guerza guereza typica*.—Abyssinia.
2. *Guerza guereza occidentalis*. Congo and Unyoro.
3. *Guerza guereza caudata*.—East Africa.

Total shot, 6.—4 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 young.

No. and Sex.	Locality.	Date.	Girth.	Length.	Weight.
53 ♂	1	6.2.00	16	27½-57	.
54 (young)		"			
55 ♀	1	7.2.00	15	26½-51	18½ lbs.
59 ♂	1	"	15½	28-59	24 lbs.
61 ♂	1	10.2.00	15½	25½-53	
62 ♂	1	"	16	25½-55	23 lbs.

1. Managasha forest.

Mr. Powell-Cotton says: "Extremely local; I shot these in the forest of Managasha, from which the wood-supply for Adis Ababa is drawn. I found them in high cotton-trees, whose branches, clothed in white lichen, cast deep shadows; the colour of the animal corresponding so well with its surroundings, that unless it moved it was very hard to make out, even with glasses. It has a peculiar, bird-like call which guides one to the place, but when once it has sighted danger it is silent, and hides itself in some deep shadow, where it will remain motionless for some time. Only in one other place, one march south of Dungoler, did I see or hear of any other colony of them, and here they appeared to be very few."

Phacochoerus aethiopicus.—Southern Africa, south of the Zambesi.

Total shot, 1.—♂.

No. and Sex.	Locality.	Date.	Out of Gums.				Length.	Weight.
			R. Tusk.	L. Tusk.	Height.	Girth.		
155 ♂	1	3.6.00	7 · 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ · 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	34	40	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ · 50.76	212
			1. Towards Metemneh.					

Charged three times when wounded; a very plucky beast.

Were seen at Somadu, Gurto, on the Hawash, at Shimerler Jowee, and towards Metemneh. The Abyssinians are very fond of the meat.

Diceros bicornis (Linn.). Two-horned Rhinoceros.

(Native name, "Ora-rish.")

Mr. Powell-Cotton never found rhinoceros during his entire trip, but remarks that they are said to exist south-east of Kassala. This species of rhinoceros was formerly divided into two species, *Rhinoceros bicornis* and *Rh. keitlou*, the former having the front horn much longer than the back one, while the latter had the back horn equal to or longer than the front horn. It has since been proved that these differences in the horn are individual and not specific differences, but it is curious that some years ago a considerable number of whole skins, and skeletons, and loose skulls, and horns of rhinoceros, came to England from "Abyssinia," and they all were of the *keitlou* type.

Elephas africanus oxyotis (Matsch.). Soudanese Elephant.

(Native name, "Zohon.")

Although for many years past it was noticed by such keen observers and hunters as F. C. Selous, A. H. Neumann, and others that the elephants in different parts of Africa showed marked differences, zoologists have hitherto chosen to consider these differences as purely individual, and that there was only one race of African elephant. It remained therefore for Dr. Matschie, with his usual energy, to go into the question from an unbiassed point of view, and on the 16th of October 1900, at a meeting of the "Gesellschaft naturforschender Freunde" in Berlin, he separated four races of elephant as follows:—1. *Elephas africanus capensis*, Cuv., from Africa, south of the Zambesi; 2. *Elephas africanus cyclotis*, Matsch., from Kamerun and West Africa; 3. *Elephas africanus oxyotis*, Matsch., from North-East Africa; and 4. *Elephas africanus knochenhaueri*, Matsch., from East and South-East Africa. At the same time Dr. Matschie said that he was sure, if more material could be collected, that the Congolese and Angola elephants would prove yet a different race, and also that there would be found two or three other races in other parts of Africa.

The differences of the four races are as follows:—