



An unposed photograph of Semang taken from concealment in the Pahang jungle. These Negritos were under four feet six in height. A unique picture.

SIX YEARS IN THE MALAY JUNGLE

BY
CARVETH WELLS

*Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society
Associate Member Institution of Civil Engineers*

WITH A PREFACE BY
DR. FREDERIC AUGUSTUS LUCAS

*Director Emeritus of the American
Museum of Natural History*

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM PHOTOGRAPHS



London
William Heinemann Ltd.

1927

FAUNA

THE fauna of British Malaya are excelled in number of species only in parts of South America.

Elephants were once numerous, except on the islands of Singapore and Penang. The opening up of the country for rubber cultivation has much restricted their range, though even within a few miles of Kuala Lumpur damage is still done to plantations. The local elephant is not large, even when compared with other Asiatic races, and big tuskers are very rare—it is doubtful if any specimen with tusks heavier than a hundred pounds has been obtained. The Malayan elephant, however, has been persecuted for its ivory, and under existing legislation no male whose tusks appear to be less than thirty pounds in weight may be shot. Two species of rhinoceros are known. The smaller two-horned species at one time formed an article of export from the Dindings. Of the one-horned Javan variety only three or four individuals from the southern districts of Perak are extant in collections. It appears to be dying out. Like the elephant, the rhinoceros is much persecuted, as its horn and almost every portion of its anatomy com-

mand large prices from Chinese medicine dealers. More numerous is the Malayan tapir, a parti-coloured beast of ancient lineage. It possesses no trophies of sporting or commercial value, and so long as suitable forest remains unfelled it is not likely to diminish in numbers. The *seladang* or Malayan bison is almost identical with the Indian. It is now almost extinct in Selangor, rare in Perak, but fairly abundant in certain districts of Negri Sembilan and Pahang. It is met with in the Unfederated Malay States in diminished numbers, but no longer exists in the Colony. Deer of several species, *rusa*, the sambar of India, *kijang*, the barking deer and two forms of mouse deer, dainty animals hardly heavier than a hare, are common. The serow or goat antelope occurs in fair numbers in remote or almost untraversable localities. The Malayan tiger cannot compare in size with the Indian or Chinese beast. A small bear does much damage to coconut plantations. Wild dogs are rare and local. The jackal is unknown. Monkeys range in size from the *siamang*, a large anthropoid ape, and the *brok* (used for picking coconuts) to the long-tailed *lolong* and *kra* and the tailless *slow loris*, a thick-furred little beast of nocturnal habits. Malaya is the metropolis of the squirrels. They range from an animal bigger than a cat to one little larger than a small rat. Rats are

numerous and varied and are a serious agricultural pest. The Norway rat, the chief carrier of plague, is only just beginning to obtain a footing in the larger seaports. Over sixty species of bats are listed. They include the flying fox, or *keluang*, the largest of the order, with a spread of the wing of nearly five feet, which may be seen in millions amongst the mangroves of the coast. A species, which in weight, if not in size, claims to be considered the smallest existing mammal, is also a Malayan animal. Whales are only casual visitors, specimens of the lesser Indian fin whale, and possibly of the sperm whale, having been occasionally stranded on Malaya's shores. Dolphins and porpoises are common. Seals are unknown.

About seven hundred species of birds are on record. Some forty game birds and pigeons occur, the former including the argus and several other species of pheasants, the peafowl, and two small quail. From the difficult nature of their habitat these birds do not appeal to the sportsman. Pigeon afford good sport. They exist in great variety, and are distributed over the more open parts of the country. Certain forms, notably the large black and white pied imperial pigeon, are found only near salt water. The snipe shooting is almost the best in the world, and for those who will brave the mud, there is good shore shooting