

ed 23, Greater Red-headed 10, Brown-headed Tree 2, Sooty-headed Tree 3, Chestnut-backed Scimitar 3, Striped Wren 1, Small Wren 2, Yellow-breasted Tit 21, Fluffy-backed 5, Grey-throated Tree 8, Grey-headed Tree 17, Black-necked Tree 7, Red-rumped Tree 16, Red-winged Tree, 7, Common Nun-thrush 10, White-bellied Crested 1. **Warblers:** Fly-eater 6, Streaked Fantail 1, Lesser Brown Wren-warbler 4, Yellow-bellied wren-warbler 7, Black-necked Tailorbird 10, Long-tailed Tailorbird 3, Red-headed Tailorbird 5, Ashy Tailorbird 5. **Flycatchers:** Spotted Fantail 5, Pied Fantail 5, Grey-headed 10, Verditer 3, White-tailed Blue 5, Mangrove Blue 2, Maroon-breasted 1, Orange-breasted 1, White-throated Jungle 3, Black-naped 6, Paradise 6, Mangrove Whistler 1, Sultan tit 1, (missed the Velvet-fronted Nuthatch). **Flowerpeckers:** Crimson-breasted 5, Yellow-throated 9, Yellow-vented 3, Plain 2, Scarlet-backed 4, Orange-breasted 1. **Sunbirds:** Plain-coloured 1, Brown-throated 16, Ruby-cheeked 3, Blue-naped 1, Copper-throated 1, Scarlet 2. **Spider-hunters:** Little 32, Long-billed 4, Greater yellow-eared 1, Lesser Yellow-eared 4, Grey-breasted 7, White-eye 4. **Starlings:** Glossy tree-starling 4, Common Myna 15, Tiong 15. **Weavers:** Tree Sparrow 50 +, Weaver Finch 75 +, Sharp-tailed Munia 10, White-headed Munia 40 (missed the Black-headed and Spotted Munias). **Drongos:** Large Racquet-tailed 15. **Orioles:** Black-naped 2, Black-headed 2. **Crows:** White-winged Black jay 6, Large-billed 8, House 25.

At Fraser's Hill and Cameron Highlands, Mr. Fisher saw additional species bringing his total up to 234 in two weeks. The usual list for Malaya includes 575 species incorporating sea and shore birds as well as the inland species, so he saw nearly half of Malaya's birds. Considering only the forms other than sea or shorebirds his percentage was much greater than half.

So, bird conscious visitors to Kuala Lumpur get out your field glasses, there are thrills for you now and all through the year.

H. ELLIOTT McCLURE.

U.S. Army Medical Research Unit,
Institute for Medical Research,
Kuala Lumpur.

Monkeys at Waterfall Gardens, Penang

During twenty-one years service in these gardens I have observed a number of plants which serve as food for the monkeys, Long-tailed Macaque, *Macaca irus*, (Kera) which roam at will here.

They are as follows:—

- (1) Young shoots of many palms such as *Cyrtostachys lakka*, sealing wax palm, *Ptychosperma McArthurii*, *Ptychosperma Sanderriana*, *Chrysalidocarpus lutescens* and *Phoenix* sp. Young shoots of *Calathea*, *Heliconia* spp. and other foliage plants. Young shoots of lawn grasses especially *Paspalum conjugatum*, buffalo grass.
- (2) Leaves of the shrub *Memecylon coeruleum* and the white-leaf variety of *Hibiscus*. The latter was reported by another member of the staff.
- (3) Flowers of a number of species; these included *Bauhinia Blakcana*, a small flowering tree, the climber *Ipomoea learii*, Morning glory, the shrub *Calliandra emarginata* and *Calliandra surinamensis* which is a spreading bush. *Afgekia sericea* and several varieties of *Lantana* including *Lantana camara* which scrambles also had their flowers taken. Other members of the staff report having seen the flowers of *Arachnis Maggie Oei* and *Anthurium spadix* being eaten.
- (4) The young fruits of a number of trees including *Eugenia grandis* (Jambu Laut), *Sandoricum indicum*, a tall fruit tree, *Diospyros discolor* (Buah Mentega), another fruit tree; and Mangosteen *Garcinia Mangostana*. Some of the garden varieties of *Hibiscus* had the ovaries eaten.

K. C. CHEANG,
Horticultural Officer.

Botanical Gardens,
Penang.
October, 1961.

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Rhino Horn Cups

The admirable piece by Mr. Eric Alfred on "Imitation Rhino Horns", in your January 1961 issue (Vol. 15, 1-2; pp. 39-40), deserves additional comment. He may not realise that what is being faked is probably not the horn as such for aphrodisiac purposes. To pass it off as that it is not necessary to present a whole horn — only to market the powder or tiny fragments, so highly is this material valued and ...

only by the Chinese!). This is commonly done, and only the other day I came across a Tibetan in full dress — a delightful, jolly, gay fellow he was — in a small village 30 miles from here, selling indeterminable bits of "rhino horn", as blessed by the Dalai Lama, at \$2.00 a fragment. This is common practice.

The "fakes" illustrated by Mr. Alfred (Plates XVIII and XIX) are, I believe, of better antiquity and belong to a period when one of the most precious things in the East was a *whole* Rhino Cup — a complete horn, shaped, hollowed and smoothed and often elaborately carved. Until quite recent times *this* was the prime value of rhino horn on good shape. Medicinal and other uses were subsidiary. To the rhino cup, more than any one other factor, we owe the present parlous state of rhino in South East Asia generally and the near-extinction of the Two-horned in Borneo particularly.

Partly because perfect horns large enough to shape and carve were relatively few, the possession and use of such cups became the mark of mandarin richness. The finest cups were in the Imperial household. It is for use as cup that the whole horn is often offered; the "gouging" of undersurface noted by Mr. Alfred (Pl. XIX, 2) is also found in some genuine "finished" cup — which are often left retaining a very rough texture — largely, I suspect, to suggest that they are "genuine".

Indeed, to distinguish genuine and fake rhino when in finished cup form, is beyond the capacity of most orientalists and collectors, and is not necessarily easy even for a zoologist — owners of fine cups rather resent one chipping or taking sections! Some years ago, at an auction in Sothebys of Bond Street, a magnificent horn, carved with the immortals in a boat, was catalogued as Rhino. I had a word with their chief oriental expert and auctioneer, Mr. Kiddell, before the show began, pointing out to him that no rhino on earth could have a horn that shape, and that the outlines and ridges made it unmistakably water buffalo, heat-treated (the usual method) to resemble rhino. In consequence, when the lot came up, he generously stated this element of doubt. This not only flattered my judgment but my home. The dealers present jibbed; and I got a lovely object at a low price. Such is the inverse *mystique* of rhino, even in Mayfair. Had they accepted this as "genuine" rhino the price would have been £200 or so, I'd say.

The earlier mystique in Sung and Ming China derived both from the beauty of the treated, polished, sometimes superbly carved horn itself and from the protective magic vested therein. A rhino cup detected poison! It would cause any injurious liquid to go frantically abubble. The nearer you got to Peking's Peacock Throne, the higher the potential ratio of knock-out drops per litre. Chinese history could



Three Rhino Cups, of probably Bornean Rhino Horn.

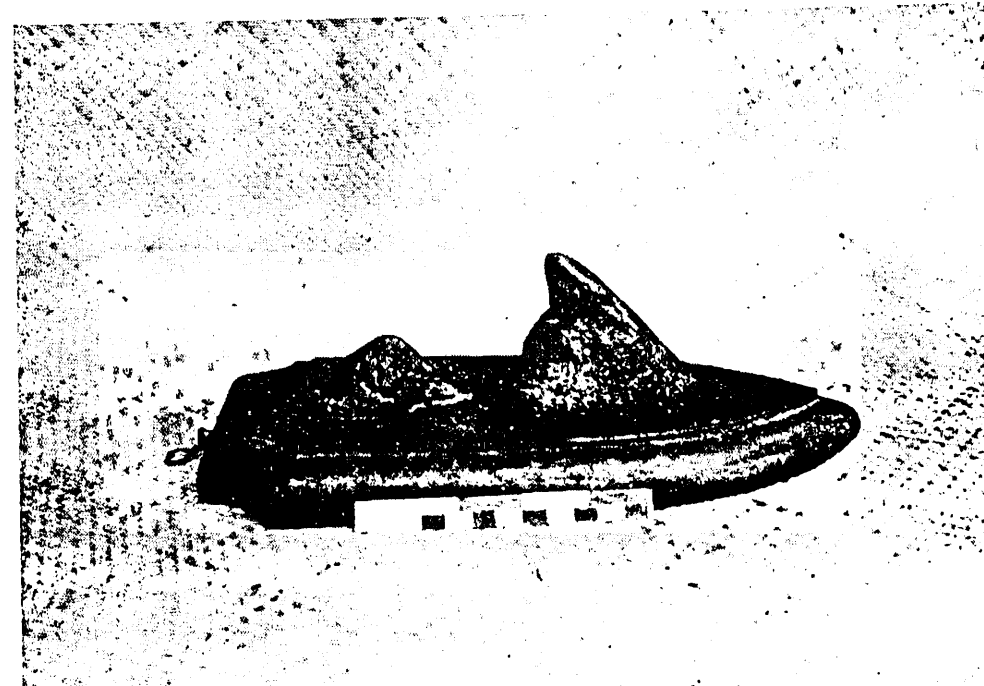




Fig. 1 shows the synclinal trough (superimposed with broken lines) off Pepys road. Also seen is the slump structure of the more shaly rock (white). See "A glimpse of the Sedimentary Structure of Singapore" page 57.



hardly have got on without this device as liquidator in a cumbrous triumvirate of oligarchy, bureaucracy and eunuchracy.

"Sure" detection therefore had to have its safety value too. Emphasis was therefore placed on using the curved tip to make a cup which could *not* be put down on any surface, and must by associated ritual be drained in one gulp. This specialised form of *yamsing* acted as a form of natural selection. A princeling or high grade concubine without the split timing to detect between brim, bubble and lip went down, 'bottoms up'.

Our knowledge of rhino cups is still, however, very incomplete. The finest museum collection is in Germany but the leading authority is Mr. Soame Jenyns, of the British Museum who aroused my interest over a decade ago. Now I have one of the larger private collections, including two well-known examples which have been widely shown. Most of my collection came from Europe but I obtained one specimen, a poor one, in Singapore and two in Hong Kong. Two were also obtained in Hong Kong for the embryo Brunei museum. I have here some 15 Rhino cups as well as a wide range of other horn carvings, "fake" rhino and straight non-rhino. My wife or I will be glad to shew these (and the above mentioned buffalo horn boat) to any-one interested who comes our way.

By the way, rhino *cup* faking is still a living craft. The collector's price for a good cup is enough to make it worth while for men with enough knowledge not just to imitate rhino *horn*, (as in Mr. Alfred's illustrations), but to imitate *old rhino cups* by working on real rhino horns in imitating the old style. Quite by chance, with my friend Sidney Bernstein, I went into an antique shop near his home in Kent to find, in a back room, a man working with a power lathe, on a real rhino horn, making a Ming cup! He was delighted when I disclosed my interest and let me have an earlier effort for £5. It looked little like the genuine article. But it sure is a genuine fake.

TOM HARRISON.

Sarawak Museum,
May, 1961.

Erites medura de Niceville
A species new to Malaya.

Three species of this genus are mentioned in Corbet and Pendlebury 1956 (*E. angularis*, *E. argentina* and *E. elegans*), all of which are local and retiring; living in thick jungle. I found a small area of such jungle in Selangor in which both *E. angularis* and *E. argentina* were present.