

# THE FAUNA OF DURIAN AND THE RHIO-LINGGA ARCHIPELAGO.

By

Dr. K. W. DAMMERMAN,

(Buitenzorg Museum).

---

## I. The Fauna of Durian.

After we had studied the new fauna of Krakatau we looked for an island not devastated by volcanic eruptions during at least the last centuries in order to compare the two. First we considered the island Sebesy lying quite north of Krakatau but, as already mentioned in our previous paper (Treubia Vol. III, 1) we found that the fauna of Sebesy was also destroyed to nearly the same extent as that of Krakatau by the terrible catastrophe of 1883. The other islands in the Sunda Straits had also suffered more or less from the same disaster, so we had to look still further afield for an island about the same area as Krakatau and still in normal condition. In the western part of the Java Sea and near Billiton and Banca all islands about the same size as Krakatau proved to be too low or too cultivated, so it was not before we came to the Rhio-Lingga Archipelago that we found an island satisfying to some extent the necessary conditions. As the island of Durian has about the same area as Krakatau and is placed between the bigger island of Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula (just as Krakatau is situated between Java and Sumatra) it seemed to be suitable to our purposes. Moreover, the whole island is clad with virgin forest and for a very long time no volcanic eruptions have devastated the fauna, so we could therefore expect on Durian a rich and fairly normal fauna in comparison with its area. As the fauna of Krakatau before the eruption of 1883 is unknown, we must estimate by comparison what this fauna has been before and what it may be in future.

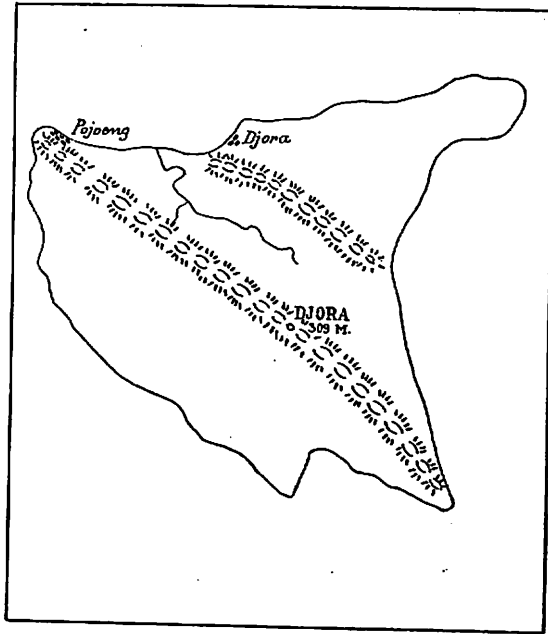
Before comparing the fauna's of the two islands it is necessary first to say something about Durian itself and its fauna.

### Geographical.

Durian, more properly Great Durian, also named Moro besar, is one of the smaller islands of the Rhio-Lingga Archipelago (See Map on p. 296). It is situated on the eastern side of Durian Straits, which is a channel much frequented by vessels running from Singapore to Banca and Java.

For vessels proceeding from the south it is an important landmark, clearly visible from a long distance owing to its height (Peak of Durian or Jora, 302 M.).

The area is 1955 H.A., whereas Krakatau is 1392 H.A., but Krakatau is much higher, its peak reaching a height of 813 M. From a faunistical point of view Durian is much better situated than Krakatau, the distance from Singapore being 60 K.M., from Sumatra 35 K.M. A continuous chain of islands, however, is connecting the Malay Peninsula with the East-Sumatra coast.



Map of Durian; 1 : 100.000.

On the 11th June 1923 we arrived with the research-vessel "Brak" at the island. The day before we had sailed along the southern part of it and observed that the island does not consist of a single peak as we deduced from the sea-chart, but of several parallel chains of hills, some rising to a height only a little less than that of the heighest peak.

All the hills are clad with original jungle, only the small patches which were cleared in former years having now relapsed into secondary forest. As we were told later on, the land was cleared by Chinese during the great war in order to grow gambir, but as the prices of this product rapidly went down after the war the cultivations were abandoned.

The coast ia partly fringed by mangroves, but this kind of forest is of some extent only along the creeks which penetrate sometimes for a long distance into the island.

On the North coast where we went ashore we found a few beaches of white sand always forming a very small strip lined with a few cocoanuts. On some of these beaches there were remains of former habitations but now the whole population of the island is located in two small kampongs, one at the north-

islands for many years. SCHOT alone, in his excellent survey of Batam (1882), devotes a special chapter to the fauna of this island, and as he has given not only vernacular and Latin names but also short descriptions, it is possible to trace almost all the animals he takes into consideration.

After another twenty years Dr. W. L. ABBOTT (between 1899 and 1903) explored the Rhio-Lingga Archipelago for the U. S. National Museum. His extensive series of mammals and birds have been worked out by MILLER, LYON, ELLIOT and OBERHOLSER. The two first-mentioned authors have also described the mammals collected by BODEN KLOSS on Batam in 1905 and 1906.

Shortly after him, during 1908, ROBINSON of the Kuala Lumpur Museum made large collections in the Rhio Archipelago, and since that time it is almost exclusively the Museums of Kuala Lumpur and Singapore which take interest in the fauna of these islands.

### F a u n a.

The Fauna of the Rhio-Lingga Archipelago is but poorly known, except for mammals and birds. Reptiles and fishes have been studied to a small extent only, but the insect fauna and other invertebrates are almost quite unknown.

#### M a m m a l i a (see List).

No less than 125 different forms of mammals have been recorded from this Archipelago but, as has already been pointed out by THOMAS and others, the many "species" described by American mammalogists should for the greater part be considered as subspecies, and even this rank may be doubtful in many instances. Of these 125 forms 57 may be reckoned true species and 68 subspecies. Of the 57 species two only are peculiar to the Archipelago, viz., *Sciuropterus amoenus* MILL. and *Crocidura maporensis* ROB. et KLOSS. At least 45 species are common to Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula; 6 species are found in the last-named country but not in Sumatra, all six belong remarkably enough to the Chiroptera. On the other hand this island has 3 species in common with the Archipelago which are missing in the Peninsula, viz.: — *Sus vittatus* MÜLL. et SCHL., *Nannosciurus melanotis* MÜLL. et SCHL. and *Tupaia tana* RAFFL.

Of the subspecies no less than 54 are confined to these islands; this high number is no matter of surprise if we consider that many authors take a fancy to make new subspecies for every new locality.

With regard to the mammalian fauna, all the larger islands, and many of the smaller ones, have been fairly well explored and in this respect the fauna of the Archipelago does not show any great differences. Of the species not present in the Malay Peninsula *Nannosciurus melanotis* and *Tupaia tana* seem to occur only in the Lingga Archipelago; on the other hand the six bats which are missing in Sumatra are confined to the northern groups of islands.

## List of Mammals known from the Rhio-Lingga Archipelago (1).

	Mal Pen.	Batam	Bintan.	Bulan.	Sugi.	Durian.	Karimon.	Kundur.	Sebang.	Bakong.	Lingga.	Singkep.	Sumatra.	Remarks.
<i>Primates.</i>														
<i>Macaca nemestrina</i> L. . . . .	+	+											+	
<i>Macaca irus</i> F. Cuv. . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	Mapor.
<i>M.i. bintangensis</i> Elliot . . . . .		+	+											
<i>M.i. impudens</i> Elliot . . . . .					+									
<i>M.i. karimoni</i> Elliot . . . . .							+							
<i>M.i. alacer</i> Elliot . . . . .								+						
<i>M.i. lingae</i> Elliot . . . . .											+			
<i>Presbytis albocinerea</i> Desm. . . . .	+	+	+					+					+	
<i>P.a. rhionis</i> Mill. . . . .			+											
<i>P.a. cana</i> Mill. . . . .								+						
<i>Presbytis cristata</i> Raffl. . . . .	+	+	+	+	+				+	+	+		+	Chombol.
<i>P.c. pullata</i> Thos et Wr. . . . .		+	+		+				+	+	+		+	
<i>Nycticebus coucang</i> Bodd. . . . .	+	+											+	
<i>Ungulata.</i>														
<i>Cervulus muntjak</i> Zimm. . . . .	+		+								+		+	
<i>C.m. robinsoni</i> Lyd. . . . .			+								+		+	
<i>Tragulus javanicus</i> Osb. . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Penuba. Setoko, Galang.
<i>T.j. stanleyanus</i> Gray . . . . .		+		+							+	+	+	
<i>T.j. formosus</i> Mill. . . . .			+											
<i>T.j. flavicollis</i> Mill. . . . .					+									Sugi bawa, Jan.
<i>T.j. lutescens</i> Mill. . . . .														
<i>T.j. nigrocinctus</i> Mill. . . . .							+	+						
<i>T.j. parallelus</i> Mill. . . . .									+					
<i>T.j. pretiellus</i> Mill. . . . .										+				
<i>T.j. preiosus</i> Mill. . . . .											+			
<i>T.j. nigricollis</i> Mill. . . . .												+		
<i>Tragulus kanchil</i> Raffl. . . . .	+	+	+				+					+	+	Penuba.
<i>T.k. rubens</i> Mill. . . . .			+									+	+	
<i>T.k. subrufus</i> Mill. . . . .												+	+	
<i>Sus barbatus</i> Mill. . . . .	+	+	+			+		+				+	+	Ungar.
<i>S.b. oi</i> Mill. . . . .		+	+			+		+				+	+	Penjait layer, Sanglar.
<i>Sus vittatus</i> Müll. et Schl. . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+		+	+	Chombol, Ungar. Abang.
<i>S.v. andersoni</i> Thos et Wr. . . . .		+	+	+			+				+			
<i>S.v. rhionis</i> Mill. . . . .					+		+				+			
<i>Rhinoceros spec. (?)</i> . . . . .	+												+	
<i>Carnivora.</i>														
<i>Felis tigris</i> L. . . . .	+		+										+	Penjait layer, Setoko.
<i>Viverra tangalunga</i> Gray . . . . .	+		+					+			+	+	+	
<i>Artogalidia trivirgata</i> Gray . . . . .	+	+	+	+				+			+	+	+	
<i>A.t. mima</i> Mill. . . . .		+												
<i>A.t. depressa</i> Mill. . . . .			+											
<i>A.t. fusca</i> Mill. . . . .				+				+						
<i>A.t. simplex</i> Mill. . . . .											+	+		
<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i> Pall. . . . .	+	+						+					+	
<i>P.h. brunneipes</i> Mill. . . . .								+					+	
<i>Artictis binturong</i> Raffl. . . . .	+		+					+					+	
<i>Lutra cinerea</i> Ill. . . . .	+						+		+				+	Setoko.

(1) To Mr. C. BODEN KLOSS who has kindly revised this list I owe many corrections and amendments.

(2) Mr. BODEN KLOSS was told by people living on Pulo Galang that there was a Rhinoceros on Abang besar.