

MYSTERIOUS CREATURES A Guide to Cryptozoology

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Badak Tanggiling

One-horned, rhinoceros-like HOOFED MAMMAL of Southeast Asia.

Etymology: Malay (Austronesian) word.

Variant name: Scaled rhinoceros.

Physical description: Length, 10 feet; slightly larger than the Sumatran rhino. Only one horn. The female is sometimes hornless.

Distribution: Sumatra, Indonesia.

Significant sighting: The hunter J. C. Hazewinkel shot eight of these animals in the 1920s.

Present status: The only currently known species of rhino in Sumatra is the two-horned Sumatran rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*).

Possible explanation: The single-horned Javan rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) may have persisted in Sumatra until the 1940s.

Sources: Joseph Delmont, *Catching Wild Beasts Alive* (London: Hutchinson, 1931); J. C. Hazewinkel, "A One-Horned Javanese Rhinoceros Shot in Sumatra, Where It Was Not Thought to Exist," *Illustrated London News* 93 (December 23, 1933): 1018–1019; Willy Ley, *The Lungfish and the Unicorn* (New York: Viking, 1941); Karl Shuker, *Extraordinary Animals Worldwide* (London: Robert Hale, 1991), pp. 162–163.

Badigui

Dinosaur-like animal of Central Africa, similar to the MOKELE-MBEMBE.

Etymology: Banda-Bambari (Ubangi) word.

Variant names: Diba (Gbaya/Ubangi), Guaneru, Ngakula-ngu (Banda/Ubangi, "water devil"), Songo (Gbanziri/Ubangi).

Physical description: Serpentine. Snakelike markings, lighter underneath. Flat, snakelike head. Neck, 10–12 feet long.

Behavior: Aquatic. Browses on tree branches without leaving the water. Strangles hippopotamuses but does not eat them.

Tracks: Leaves a furrow 3–5 feet wide.

Distribution: The Brouchouchou (near Ippy) and Gounda Rivers, Central African Republic; possibly Equatorial Guinea.

Significant sightings: About 1890, a Banda-Mbrès tribesman named Moussa saw a Badigui eating the large leaves of a tree (genus *Mitragyna*) near a stream in the Bakala District of Central African Republic. Its head was a bit larger than a python's, and its neck was much longer than a giraffe's. The skin was as smooth as a snake's, with similar markings.

In 1928, a Badigui crushed a field of manioc belonging to the chief of Yetomane, Central African Republic, and left wide tracks. About the same time, it killed a hippopotamus in the River Brouchouchou.

Lucien Blancou's gun bearer Mitikata told him that, in about 1930 near Ndélé, Central African Republic, he had seen an Ngakula-ngu's tracks, which were as wide as a truck.

Sources: Bernard Heuvelmans, *On the Track of Unknown Animals* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1958), pp. 463, 466–467, 470, 475–477, 482; Bernard Heuvelmans, *Les derniers dragons d'Afrique* (Paris: Plon, 1978), pp. 262–266, 388, 395.

Bagge's Black Bird

Unidentified BIRD of East Africa.

Physical description: Black. As large as a sheep.

Behavior: Alarm call is like the bellow of a bull.

Distribution: Lake Bujuku, south of Mount Speke in the Ruwenzori Range, Uganda.