

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY'S
MAMMAL SURVEY OF INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON.

REPORT No. 37, NEPAL.

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COLLECTION	No. 37.
LOCALITY	Nepal.
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COLLECTED BY	Lt.-Colonel R. L. Kennion with the assistance of the Society's Collector, N. A. Baptista.

The researches of Brian H. Hodgson in Nepal, made between 1823 and 1843, laid the foundations of Himalayan mammalogy. Owing to the imperfect and confused labelling of Hodgson's specimens a modern collection from the neighbourhood of Katmandu has been a desideratum for many years. While the work of the Mammal Survey in the adjoining countries of Kumaon and Sikkim cleared up much that was obscure, it did not supply the necessary toponymical material by means of which alone a sound judgment could be formed as to the status of the many nominal species described by Hodgson as being peculiar to Nepal. In these circumstances the present collection forms one of the most useful and interesting contributions to Indian mammalogy yet made by the Mammal Survey. In drawing up this report we have seized the opportunity to examine the Hodgson M.S. and drawings, both those belonging to the British Museum and those in the library of the Zoological Society, and to collate them with Hodgson's specimens in the national collection. This work has been done pretty thoroughly for all orders, with the exception of the Ungulates, which must be reserved for a future occasion. As a result we are able to give below a complete list of the mammals of Nepal so far as they are now known; and also a list of those species erroneously, though commonly, reputed to have been found in Nepal.

From this report it will be seen that there are still many gaps in our knowledge; and that many species, especially among Chiroptera, Insectivora and Rodentia, represented in the Survey collections from Kumaon and Sikkim are still unknown from Nepal, although they probably have representatives in the latter country. It is to be hoped that the Survey Collector will obtain these, together with material representing the species still known to us only by Hodgson's specimens.

The Committee of the Society have asked us to record here their grateful thanks to General H. H. Sir Chandra Shumshere Jung

August, while the greater part of the remainder falls in June and September. The average temperature recorded for each of the four months January, May, July and November is respectively $51^{\circ}\cdot9$, $71^{\circ}\cdot6$, 77° , and $60^{\circ}\cdot2$.

Zoologically speaking the Tarai, Siwaliks, Dhuns and the lower slopes of the Mahabharat Range are strictly oriental, at all events as regards the mammal fauna; and the mammals of this part of the country are for the most part identical with those inhabiting Bengal. Among the larger mammals, elephants, rhinoceros, sambhur and tiger are characteristic. With these, in the Tarai, occur buffalo, chital, hog-deer and swamp-deer. In the dhuns, bison replace buffalo and the characteristic swamp animals of the Tarai are, of course, absent.

At higher levels on the Mahabharat Range, in the valley of Katmandu, and on the still higher slopes to the north of that valley the character of the fauna gradually changes, the Oriental forms disappearing and being replaced by Palearctic types. Many of the species which occur in this transition region are, if not peculiar to Nepal, at least peculiar to that country and the corresponding zones of Kumaon and Sikkim. Among the characteristic large animals of the higher valleys may be mentioned burrhel, thar and true bears.

The following is a list of the stations at which mammals were collected by Lt.-Col. Kennion or Baptista. We are greatly indebted to the former for supplying us with information as to the whereabouts and altitudes of these localities.

A.—LOCALITIES IN THE TARAI (altitudes of each about 300').

1. Bankulwa Morang. In Tarai E. of Kosi River.
2. Hindulwa Morang. " " " " " "
3. Bairaglia. In Tarai on Baghmati River on Nepal-Indian frontier.
4. Baria Patherghatta. In Tarai to the North of Bairaglia.
5. Hazaria Patherghatta. " " " " " "
6. Tribinia. On Ganduk River on Nepalese-Indian frontier (possibly a Dhun locality; but altitude 300').

B.—LOCALITIES IN THE DHUNS.

7. Hetwada about 30 miles S.S.W. of Katmandu in the valley of the Rapti; altitude about 1,000'.
8. Partapur. Lower down the Rapti Valley between Hetwada and Tribinia; altitude about 700'.
9. Sunachir. " " " " " " " "

C.—LOCALITIES IN OR IMMEDIATELY AROUND THE VALLEY OF KATMANDU.

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|-----------------|-----|----|----|----|----|------------------|
| 10. Katmandu | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Altitude 4,500'. |
| 11. Changoo | ... | .. | .. | .. | .. | " " |
| 12. Hathiban | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | " 5,000'. |
| 13. Ferping | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | " " |
| 14. Chalna-Khel | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | " 5,000'? |

(111) RUSA UNICOLOR, Kerr.

The Sambar.

(Synonymy in No. 5.)

"Hodgson".

(See also Reports Nos. 11, 15, 17, 18, 22, 27.)

In Nepal most frequent in the Tarai but occurring rarely in the Lower Hilly Region. (*Hodgson.*)

Hodgson thought that this animal was represented by three distinct species in Nepal, viz., his "*jaraya, nepalensis* and *heterocerus*".

(112) RUCERVUS DUVAUCELLI, Cuv.

*The Barasingha.*1825. *Cervus duvaucelli*, Cuvier, Ossemens Foss., ed. 3, iv., p. 505.

"Hodgson".

Restricted to the Tarai in Nepal. (*Hodgson.*)

(113) CERVUS WALLICHI, Cuv.

*The Shou.*1825. *Cervus wallichi*, Cuvier, Oss. Foss. ed. 3, iv., p. 504.

"Hodgson".

Inhabits Northern hilly region of Nepal. (*Hodgson.*)

(114) MOSCHUS MOSCHIFERUS, Linn.

The Musk Deer.

(Synonymy in No. 3.)

"Hodgson".

Inhabits the Northern hilly region of Nepal and Tibet. (*Hodgson.*)

Hodgson thought there were three species of this genus in Nepal.

(115) MOSCHIOLA MEMINNA, Erxl.

The Indian Chevrotain or Mouse Deer.

"Hodgson".

(See also Reports Nos. 11, 13, 18.)

Found only in the Tarai. (*Hodgson.*)

(116) SUS CRISTATUS, Wagn.

The Indian Wild Boar.

(Synonymy in No. 5.)

Bankalwa, ♀ 1.

"Hodgson".

(See also Reports Nos. 8, 10, 11, 18, 20, 22, 27, 30.)

Hodgson thought there were two varieties of wild Boar in Nepal; and he states that they are generally distributed in that country.

"Very common all over Morang and Patherghatta".—*N. A. B.*

(117) RHINOCEROS UNICORNIS, Linn.

*The Great Indian Rhinoceros.*1758. *Rhinoceros unicornis*, Linnæus, Syst. Nat. ed. 10, Vol. i., p. 56; Blanford "Mammalia" No. 334.1801. *Rhinoceros indicus*, Cuvier, Menag. Mus. Hist. Nat., 1801, p.

1860. *Rhinoceros asiaticus*, Blumenbach, Handb. Naturgesch., eds. 12, p. 107.
 1867. *Rhinoceros stenocephalus*, Gray, P. Z. S., 1867, p. 1018.
 "Hodgson".
 (Ind. Mus. Sir E. Baring, 1875, and J. Anderson, 1880, "Nepal Tarai".)
 Restricted to the Tarai in Nepal. (*Hodgson.*)

(118) ELEPHAS MAXIMUS, Linn.

The Indian Elephant.

1766. *Elephas maximus*, Linnæus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, i., p. 48.
 1803. *Elephas asiaticus*, Blumenbach, Handb. Naturgesch., ii., p. 403.
 "Hodgson".

In Hodgson's opinion two varieties of Elephant occur in Nepal, his "*isodactylus*" and "*heterodactylus*".

Restricted to the Tarai.

(119) MANIS PENTADACTYLA, Linn.

The Eastern Pangolin.

1758. *Manis pentadactyla*, Linnæus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, i., p. 36; Wroughton, J. B. N. H. S., xxvii., p. 613, 1920.
 1836. *Manis aurita*, Hodgson, J. A. S. B., v., p. 234; Blanford Mamm., No. 400.
 "Hodgson".

Generally distributed in Nepal. (*Hodgson.*)

In addition to those mentioned above many species have been added to the Nepal List by Blanford, Wroughton, or others, merely upon the basis of specimens in the Hodgson Collection inaccurately labelled "Nepal". A list of these species is given below. Some of them may occur in Nepal, but at present there is no definite evidence of such occurrence.

Species asserted to be from Nepal but in reality from other countries:—

Name,	Type locality.
<i>Barbastella darjelingensis</i> , Hodgs.	Darjiling.
<i>Plecotus homochrous</i> , Hodgs.	Sikkim (probably).
<i>Tupaia belangeri chinensis</i> , And.	Sikkim (probably).
<i>Soriculus caudatus</i> , Horsf.	Darjiling.
<i>Soriculus leucops</i> , Horsf.	Darjiling.
<i>Felis marmorata</i> , Martin	Sikkim (probably).
<i>Paradoxurus strictus</i> , Horsf.	Sikkim (Wroughton, J. B. N. H. S., xxv., p. 51).
<i>Vulpes ferrilatus</i> , Hodgs.	Lhasa, Tibet.
<i>Mustela strigidorsa</i> , Gray	Sikkim.
<i>Mustela temon</i> , Hodgs.	Nepal. (But his type is probably from Sikkim.)
<i>Arctonyx collaris</i> , F. Cuvier	Sikkim.
<i>Tamiops macclellandi</i> , Horsf.	Sikkim (probably).
<i>Caprolagus hispidus</i> , Blyth	Sal Forest of Sikkim, 1847.
<i>Ochotona curzoniæ</i> , Hodgs.	Sikkim.
<i>Equus kiang</i> , Moorcroft	Tibet.

In conclusion we should wish to draw attention to the fact that a Collection of Mammals from the Ganduk Basins, *i.e.*, the region lying between Kumaon and Katmandu, would be of very great value.