



Richardson

2. Report on the Mammals obtained and observed by Mr. H. H. Johnston on Mount Kilima-njaro. By OLDFIELD THOMAS, F.Z.S., Natural-History Museum.

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(Plate XII.)

The Mammalia collected by Mr. Johnston during his late expedition to Kilima-njaro nearly all belong to common and widely distributed species; but his observations on the vertical distribution, comparative rarity, native names, &c., of the different mammals of the district are well worthy of being recorded.

The following were the species observed by Mr. Johnston, the numbers of those of which specimens were not brought home being placed within brackets.

1. *CERCOPITHECUS PYGERYTHRUS*, Geoffr.

a, b. Moshi, on the south side of the mountain, 5000 feet, June to August.

Very common in the cultivated gardens round the village, and in the forests lower down at Taveita. These Monkeys are exceedingly familiar and mischievous, coming into the gardens to steal fruit, &c., and are entirely without any fear of man.

2. *COLOBUS GUEREZA CAUDATUS*, subsp. nov. (Plate XII.)

a. Useri, N.E. flank of mountain, 3000 feet, end of October. Very common all round the base of Kilima-njaro.

The specimen brought, like two or three beautiful skins obtained by Mr. Thomson in the same neighbourhood, belongs to a peculiar race or variety apparently restricted to this region, and characterized by having the white brush of the tail very much larger and finer than is the case in the true Abyssinian *C. guereza*. In the latter animal the proximal 12 to 16 inches of the tail is short-haired and quite black, only the terminal 8 to 12 inches being white and tufted, and the white mantle hanging down from the body hides only about one third of the black part of the tail. In the Kilima-njaro race, however, only some 3 or 4 inches of the base of the tail are black, and the remainder (with the hairs about 20 or 21 inches) is developed into a magnificent white brush, of which individual hairs are from 7 to 9 inches in length. The hairs of the white body-mantle, moreover, entirely cover the black at the base of the tail, the white of the latter and of the mantle being quite continuous.

In addition to this race, however, the true Guereza is also found in the neighbourhood of Kilima-njaro, as the mantle of the lowland Masai warrior, of whom a drawing is given in Mr. Johnston's forthcoming work, is made of the skin of this animal, but this is, of course, a rather vague indication of the original locality of the

specimen. Mr. Johnston tells me that the natives clearly distinguish the two races, and that the white-tailed form is, at least in the Kilima-njaro district, a more strictly mountain animal than the other.

Taking now into consideration the extreme constancy of the markings of the *Colobi*, the very different appearance that the present animal has from the usual type, its restriction to a small district round Kilima-njaro, and the distinction by the natives of the two forms, I think it will be necessary to distinguish Mr. Johnston's animal as a separate variety or subspecies, to which the name of *C. guereza caudatus* might be applied.

[3.] *FELIS LEO*, L.

The Lion is abundant in the neighbourhood, but never ascends higher than about 3000 feet.

4. *FELIS PARDUS*, L.

a. Near foot of mountain, 3000 feet.

The Leopard is very common up to about 7500 feet.

5. *GENETTA TIGRINA*, Schr.

a. Moshi, 5000 feet, October.

b. Taveita, 2300 feet, August.

Very common; occurs up to 7000 feet. A female specimen, caught by Mr. Johnston, gave birth to three young at about the end of October.

6. *HERPESTES CAFFER*, Gm. (?).

a. Moshi, 5000 feet, August.

Is not properly a mountain animal, but occurs round the village for the sake of the fowls and other prey which it can manage to steal there.

Without the skull it is impossible to determine with certainty whether this is *H. ichneumon*, L., or *H. caffer*, Gm.; but the skin has, on the whole, rather more the appearance of *H. caffer*, and it is therefore provisionally referred to the southern form.

7. *CANIS LATERALIS*, ScL.

a. Moshi, 5000 feet, August.

Very common round the village, to which it is attracted by the chance of stealing refuse, &c.; not otherwise found much above 3000 feet.

[8.] *CANIS*, sp.

Mr. Johnston several times saw and heard a species of Dog or Fox, which he was not able to obtain, but which looked rather like a large Fox, and emitted a distinct bark, similar to that of a domestic Dog. It is just possible that this was the rare Abyssinian *Canis simensis*, Rüpp., no other animal appearing at all to agree with Mr. Johnston's description.

9. *VESPERUGO NANUS*, Peters.

a. Moshi, 5000 feet, September 12.

Found hanging to a tree in the daytime.

10. *HYRAX BRUCEI*, Gray (?).

a. b. ♂ and ♀, 10,000 feet, on the south side of the mountain, 26th October.

Native name in Bantu—Ki-biru (plural Shi-biru).

Fairly common in the mountain-forests, where they live entirely in the trees, and not among the rocks. They do not descend below about 7000 feet and range up to 11,000 feet. These two specimens were brought alive to Mr. Johnston; but the female, after giving birth to three young, died almost at once, and the male, refusing to eat, also died in three or four days.

The specimens agree exactly, so far as can be made out from skins only, with the type of Gray's *H. irrorata* (Ann. Mag. N. H. 1869, p. 242), a species, however, which Mr. Blanford (Geol. Zool. Abyss. p. 252, 1870) has shown to be probably not specifically separable from the same author's *H. brucei*. Mr. Blanford obtained his Abyssinian Conies at elevations varying from 2000 to 8000 feet, and it was only to be expected that specimens inhabiting a locality so much further south as Kilima-njaro should have been found ranging as high as 11,000 feet above the sea.

[11.] *ELEPHAS AFRICANUS*, L.

Mr. Johnston states that he himself saw and shot at Elephants at an altitude of no less than 13,000 feet.

12. *RHINOCEROS BICORNIS*, L.

a. b. c. Horns; Taveita, 2300 feet, end of October.

Very common on the elevated plains at the base of Kilima-njaro, but not ascending the mountain itself. Is not found in the true forest, but only in the bush.

These horns were brought in to Mr. Johnston by the A-kamba people, who obtain them by killing the animals with poisoned arrows.

13. *EQUUS BURCHELLI*, Gray.

a. Taveita, 2300 feet, 25th August.

Very common, in herds of about 20, on the open plains round the mountain, never ascending above about 2400 feet.

This specimen, like all those I have seen or heard of from localities on or north of the Zambesi, belongs to the so-called *Equus chapmani*, Layard¹, in which the dark stripes extend on the limbs right down to the hoof.

That this form, however, cannot be distinguished specifically from the true *E. burchelli* is sufficiently proved by the following sentence, extracted from Mr. T. E. Buckley's useful paper on the distribution

¹ P. Z. S. 1865, p. 417.