EARLY KHARTOUM

AN ACCOUNT OF THE EXCAVATION OF AN EARLY OCCUPATION SITE CARRIED OUT BY THE SUDAN GOVERNMENT ANTIQUITIES SERVICE IN 1944–5

BY

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PUBLISHED FOR THE SUDAN GOVERNMENT BY
GEOFFREY CUMBERLEGE
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
LONDON NEW YORK TORONTO
1949

Antilope sp.

'There are a number of horn cores fully as large and rugose as those of *Onotragus*, but these differ in being placed in a more upright position on the skull, and they also show a different curve of growth. It has not yet been possible to identify this species.

? *Adenota leucotis* (Lichtenstein and Peters). ? White-eared Cob.

'A few horn cores, including part of a slender distal tip, resemble very closely those of the White-eared Cob. At the present day this species is not found closer to Khartoum than 300 miles to the south.

Antilope sp.

'A species represented by horn cores rather similar in size to those of *A. leucotis*, but having straight, deep grooves, and not showing the banded impressions of the horn sheath.

? *Ourebia* sp. ? Oribi.

'This and another small species are the ones referred to above as being represented almost exclusively by worked distal ends of metapodials. The rarity of their remains suggests that they may have been obtained from a distance.

Syncerus cf. *aequinoctialis* (Blyth). ? North-eastern Buffalo.

'A buffalo is represented by over fifty isolated cheek teeth, and part of a mandibular ramus with the last premolar and the three molars. These show the rather more complicated enamel pattern seen in *Syncerus* as compared with *Bos*, and they resemble teeth of Recent buffaloes with which they have been compared.

'Some of the cheek teeth in the collection are considerably larger than those of a Recent example from the Blue Nile. In his interesting review of the African Buffaloes Dr. Christy (1929) suggests that this north-eastern species (*S. aequinoctialis*) belongs to the Dwarf Forest Buffalo (*S. nanus*) group of which it is the largest form, though smaller than the South African *Syncerus caffer*.

'Besides the teeth there is a worn tip of a horn core of buffalo 17 cm. in length by 12·5 cm. at its widest, proximal, end, where it has a thickness of about 6 mm. This specimen is not solid, but has a cancellar structure to the extreme tip. There are also a number of terminal phalanges very similar in size and shape to those of a Recent *S. aequinoctialis*.

'Gaillard (1934, pl. v, fig. 2) has described a fossil buffalo from Kom Ombo, *Bubalus vignardi*, with a horn core quite different in shape from the specimen from Khartoum; in that of *B. vignardi* the base of the horn core is not widely expanded and it appears to have continued for at any rate much of its length with the same proportions; it is elliptical in section. This horn core is unlike that of a typical buffalo, and it may perhaps prove to be that of a large antelope.

'*Equus*' sp.

'The collection includes a single upper cheek tooth of an equine, which is insufficient to show whether it represents a wild ass or a zebra.

Diceros cf. *bicornis* (Linnaeus). ? Black Rhinoceros.

'A Rhinoceros is represented in the collection by a few toe bones, and by an astragalus which is a distinctive bone; this specimen is similar in size to that of a Recent Black Rhinoceros. At the present day this species is found living only in the extreme south of the Sudan; but there is an interesting record by Messedaglia of the occurrence of this animal in northern Darfur less than a hundred years ago which is contained in a manuscript map preserved in the Darfur Province archives. *D. bicornis* cannot be considered as a climatic indicator, for it tolerates environmental conditions of very different types, and may be found in dry scrub-land so long as some water is within reach.

'In connexion with the early Khartoum site it is interesting to learn that recently a member of a Danish expedition shot a small Black Rhinoceros north of the Lol river in the Bahr el Ghazal Province where it was living in the middle of swamps (Benzon, 1947).

Loxodonta cf. *africanus* (Linnaeus). ? African Elephant.

'An elephant is represented by a single fragmentary specimen which consists of the hindmost two and a half plates of a molar. The crown surfaces had not yet come into wear, so that the moderate height, about 100 mm., of the anterior tooth plate is of little significance. There appears to be a trace of the mesial expansion of the plates so typical of *L. africanus*.

'The Sennar area is the nearest to Khartoum where elephants may be found at the present day, though it is probably not entirely a climatic barrier which prevents a northward advance.

'SOME RECORDS OF FOSSIL MAMMALS FROM THE SUDAN AND UPPER EGYPT

'While studying the present collection of animal remains from the early Khartoum site it was natural to look for records of other fossil faunas from the Sudan and from Upper Egypt for purposes of comparison.

'Such records for the Sudan are singularly rare, and refer to finds of more or less isolated specimens from undated deposits. The later Pleistocene geology of the country is obscure, and it seems likely that deposits have not always remained in their original position.

'Dr. C. W. Andrews described and figured (1912) part of an elephant tooth from the bed of the Blue Nile at Khartoum. It was associated with remains of Hippopotamus, a small Giraffe, and an Antelope. The deposit could not be dated, but may be of early Middle Pleistocene age. Another specimen which might have come from a contemporary deposit, close to the White Nile, was obtained by Mr. A. J. Arkell from a well, at a depth of 45 ft., in his garden at Kosti. This was a last lower molar of an extinct pig, *Hylochoerus grabhami*, described by Dr. Hopwood (1929). Professor Arambourg (1943, p. 475) has recently suggested that this species should be included in the genus *Omochoerus* known from the early Pleistocene deposits of Omo.

'A few animal remains including Hippopotamus and Buffalo were apparently associated with the skull of a proto-Bushman from Singa (Woodward, 1938), but these have not yet been described. In his review of the quaternary geology and prehistory of Egypt Joleaud (1933) refers to a possibly Villafranchian deposit at Khartoum (p. 602) and to one of perhaps St. Prestien times in Nile alluvium at Wadi Halfa, but the documentation of these deposits and their remains is still somewhat obscure (see Lydekker, 1887 and Sandford and Arkell, 1933).

'Interesting animal remains were found at Qau, thirty miles south of Asyut, but unfortunately no definite dating of the deposit is available. A provisional list of species has been published by Professor D. M. S. Watson (1929, p. 541), and these include extinct forms of Giant Cape Buffalo, Hartebeest, and Crocodile. (See Brunton, 1927, p. 12, and Petrie, 1930, p. 1—also Joleaud, 1933, p. 602.)

'A quaternary deposit at Wanyanga on the south-eastern edge of Tibesti to the west of the north-west boundary of the Sudan may eventually prove to be of importance. This is a lake deposit containing remains of Hippopotamus, Elephant, Giant Pig, and Nile Perch (Joleaud and Lombard, 1933).

'The animal remains from the neolithic deposit of Toukh, Upper Egypt, have been studied by Gaillard (1934), who considered that most of the species represented were domesticated; these include Dog, Pig, Short-horned Ox (common), Buffalo, two species of Goat, and a Sheep.

'Perhaps the most important of all is the fauna from Kom Ombo on the right bank of the Nile, north of Aswan, since it was obtained from Vignard's typical Sebilian sites. The remains were studied by