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MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS



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patches of thorny scrub or brushwood. But after deducting the forests, savannahs, and steppes, there still remains much land suitable for tillage, and in Sudan, as a whole, by far the greater part of the population is engaged in agricultural pursuits. Nearly the whole of Yorubaland, where the earthworms act as fertilisers by incessantly churning up and renovating the soil,¹ is under cultivation, and here, as well as in the Welle basin and many other parts, the Negro populations make excellent husbandmen.

Fauna

A. R. Wallace divides the African Continent into two great zoological zones, the *Palaearctic* reaching south to the Tropic of Cancer, and the *Ethiopic* thence to the Cape. Sudan is thus entirely comprised in the latter, that is to say, its primitive fauna is essentially and exclusively African. This is seen both negatively in the absence of the bear, deer, camel, mole, sheep and goat, except so far as introduced in comparatively recent times, and positively in the presence of old mammalian forms such as the elephant, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, giraffe, zebra, hyrax, all of which are indigenous and widespread throughout

¹ "In the dry season the whole surface is seen to be covered by serried ranks of cylindrical worm casts, which vary in height from a quarter of an inch to three inches. For scores of square miles they crowd the land, closely packed, upright and burnt by the sun into rigid rolls of hardened clay. There they stand until the rains break them down into a fine powder, rich in plant food, and lending itself easily to the hoe of the farmer. . . . We have a total of not less than 62,233 tons of subsoil brought to the surface on each square mile of cultivable land in the Yoruba country every year. Where the worms do not work the Yoruba knows that it is useless to make his farm. The earthworm which produces such surprising results has been identified as a new species of *Siphonogaster*, a genus hitherto known only in the Nile Valley" (Alvan Millson, *loc. cit.* p. 584).

this region. Large herds of elephants still frequent the swampy brakes about Lake Chad, where the ordinary two-horned rhinoceros is also common, while the rarer one-horned species is reported to be found in Wadai and Darfur. Another highly characteristic mammal is the chimpanzee, which was met by Junker in the Welle basin, and which appears to frequent all the forest tracts about the Congo-Chad divide. The beasts of prey are represented chiefly by the lion, nowhere very numerous, the black panther, spotted leopard, hyæna, and jackal, many of which have a wide range. Crocodiles, some from 18 to 20 feet long, infest all the large rivers, and the sangwai, a web-footed species, occurs in the Niger. The hippopotamus is generally associated with the crocodile, and abounds especially in the Niger, Benue, Shari, Lake Chad, Upper Nile, and Welle basins. Equally widespread are the gazelle and many other species of the antelope family, the buffalo and several rodents, such as the porcupine, hare, squirrel, rats, and mice, which in some districts are as great a plague as the termites, mosquitoes, and blood-flies. These last take the place of the tsetse of South Africa, and their bite is specially fatal to the horse introduced by man, but apparently not to the wild ass, which is here indigenous. The woodlands swarm with reptiles, and amongst the characteristic snakes are the spitting serpent, 5 to 6 feet long, whose saliva causes severe inflammation of the eyes; the cerastes, a horned snake with short thick body like that of the puff-adder, and an extremely venomous cobra, or hooded viper, with broad, flat head.

The avifauna is rich in species peculiar to the Ethiopic zone, such as the Para Africana *Balaeniceps rex*, the small Sudanese stork (*Sphenorhynchus Abdimii*), the sun-bird, weaver, widow, ibis, three if not four varieties of the

guinea-fowl, several kinds of finches, starlings, butcher-birds, pigeons, doves, and parrots, including the common grey species. Aquatic fowl, such as the flamingo, pelican,



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heron, ducks and geese, abound in Lake Chad, the Upper Nile, and other shallow waters, which teem with freshwater fish of all kinds. These form an important article of