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TANGANYIKA TERRITORY  
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## NOTES ON SOME MAMMALS FOUND IN THE LAKE RUKWA CATCHMENT AREA

### SOUTH-WESTERN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY

This paper deals with some mammals recorded from the Lake Rukwa catchment area. It does not claim to be an exhaustive treatise of all the mammals occurring in the region, but places on record the distribution of some of the better-known and larger forms.

The catchment area of this, the fourth largest (area about 1,300 square miles) lake in Tanganyika is some 29,000 square miles, extending from the Northern Rhodesia border in the south to the southern portions of Kigoma, Tabora and Manyoni Districts in the north, and from the top of the western wall of the Great Rift Valley in the east to the Lake Tanganyika watershed in the west, i.e. roughly between 6° 00' and 9° 00' S. Lat., and between 30° 50' and 34° 00' E. Long.

Lake Rukwa is a closed lake, there being no outflowing rivers, lying in a subsidiary rift in the angle between the Great and Western Rift Valleys, at an altitude of 2,602 feet above mean sea level for the purposes of this paper the surrounding country has been divided into four sections, as follows:—

A. *The Rukwa Valley*, which is the low-lying country surrounding the lake. This consists of a narrow strip along the north-east shore of the lake where the Rukwa Scarp lies close to the water's edge, but to the south, west and north-west the scarp and high country lie many miles from the shore. To the east and north-east this section is bounded by the Rukwa Scarp roughly by the 3,000-foot contour. To the west it extends as far as the foot of the Ufipa Scarp, to the south-west and south to the 4,000-foot contour, and to the north-west through the Katavi Plain to the headwaters of the Kavuu (Katuma) River.

To the west and north-west of the lake there are extensive open grassy plains on which may be seen large herds of topi, zebra and puku. These plains are liable to much flooding in the rains but are dry and passable for motor vehicles from August to November. Behind this open country lies an extensive parkland of thorn trees with interspersed scrub where there is much shade and good grazing. This extends to the foothills in all directions, the scrub getting thicker and more frequent as the hills are approached.

B. *The Lupa Plateau*, which is the high country to the east of the lake, with an altitude of 3,000 to 5,500 feet. It is bounded to the south by the Sira River, to the east by the Shoga (Usangu) Scarp, to the north by the headwaters and northern tributaries of the Rungwa River, and to the west by the Rukwa Scarp. The vegetation in this area consists in the main of *miombo* wooding on all the eluvial ground, and whistling thorn and open grass mbugas in the lower-lying parts, with typical riverine growth along the larger rivers. The country slopes generally to the south and west.

C. *The Ufipa Plateau*, which is the high country lying between the Ufipa Scarp and Lake Tanganyika, and between the Saisi River and the Northern Rhodesia boundary in the south and the Karema-Milumba-Mamba Mission road in the north. The country is in the main, at any rate in the central part of this section, high open grassland becoming more wooded towards the south

and the north. There are many rain forest remnants along the top of the top of the Ufipa Scarp. The altitude is between 4,000 and 6,500 feet.

D. *The Mbozi-Tunduma Highlands*, which consist of south-eastern portion of the catchment area, from the Sira River south to the Northern Rhodesia border and west to the Saisi River. The altitude varies from 4,000 to 6,500 feet, occasionally, as on the Mbeya and Poroto Mountains, to over 8,000 feet. This section consists of wooded grassland with whistling thorn mbugas in the damper situations, and rain forest on the extreme heights. Around Mbeya the country is open rolling grassland.

The above sub-division is entirely artificial and bears no likeness to the distribution of the ecological and life zones in the area. For instance, the country in the neighbourhood of the Northern Rhodesia border is very similar botanically and faunistically to the Lupa Plateau.

The notes on which the present study is based have been collected from many sources, and in all instances the contributor of any particular note is mentioned (by initials). The principal contributors (i.e. those who have supplied three or more notes) are listed below:—

Major J. E. H. Bostock, D.S.O., M.C., (Hon. Game Ranger; Chapota, Ufipa) ... ..	J.E.H.B.
Major R. A. Bousfield (late Hon. Game Ranger; Mizizikaunga, Lake Rukwa) ... ..	R.A.B.
The late C. W. Chitty (Temporary Game Ranger) ... ..	C.W.C.
Bert W. Davis (Ntumbi, Chunya) ... ..	B.W.D.
C. H. Feldtmann (New Saza Mines, Chunya) ... ..	C.H.F.
Mrs. C. Goss (late Hon. Game Ranger; Njila, Lake Rukwa) ... ..	K.G.
H. O. C. Hunter (Temporary Game Ranger; Mbozi and Chienje) ... ..	H.O.C.H.
Capt. G. J. Logan (late Temporary Game Ranger) ... ..	G.J.L.
Capt. F. J. Moore (late Temporary Game Ranger) ... ..	F.J.M.
J. E. M. Rogers (late Temporary Game Ranger; Mbeya, Mipuria and Sunzu Hill) ... ..	J.E.R.
Rinderpest Control Records (per Veterinary Department, Mbeya) ... ..	R.C.R.
Mrs. G. H. Swynnerton (Mizizikaunga, Lake Rukwa) ... ..	L.R.S.
G. H. Swynnerton (Game Ranger, Lake Rukwa) ... ..	G.H.S.

The general lay-out of the paper is as follows: Each animal is given its English and scientific names, followed by general notes on its distribution or of interest. Where any measurements are available for specimens collected these are given in millimetres in the following order: head and body (tip of snout to base of tail in a straight line); tail (base to tip of last vertebra, not to the tip of longest hairs); hind foot (heel to tip of longest toe, excluding claw or hoof); ear (base of notch to tip); weight (in pounds and ounces). Where it seems desirable to include descriptive notes of the lesser known forms this has been done. Then follows a detailed list of records of occurrence, each locality being placed in one of the four sections given above. After the locality is given the month, in Roman numerals, or season in which the record was made, followed (in parentheses) by the contributor's initials.

Since many of the localities mentioned are obscure, and to save unnecessary repetition, a gazetteer is included at the end.

The range of several species has been considerably reduced during the last twenty years, more noticeably with giraffe and rhino, and since, at any rate with these two animals, this has meant a reduction in the southern limits of their range in this part of East Africa, the fact is to be regretted. Another species, which is not the immediate concern of this paper, and which has been shot out in recent years, is the ostrich. B.W.D. records finding one egg of this species on Impala Plains in 1932, and the sight of an animal a few miles to the north on Ngondia Mbuga in 1930. At the present day it is very doubtful if this species occurs south of the Kungwe River. Referring to this bird, B.W.D. writes: "The Wanyamwezi say that an ostrich will go for water for three or four miles if a grass fire starts within several miles of its nest and will make a fire break by sprinkling the water all round the nest."

1. MOHOLI BUSH BABY, *Galago senegalensis moholi* (A. Smith).

This little bush baby has been recorded at Mwmabi (H.O.C.H.) in Southern Ufipa, and a specimen collected. Ka-undi in Kinambwe (H.O.C.H.).

2. LARGE GREY BUSH BABY, *Galago crassicaudatus argentatus* (Lönnerberg).

These noisy nagaaps occur throughout the area in suitable localities. A female, shot on 4th January 1946 measured 320, 390, 77, 62, 2 lb. She has three pairs of mammary glands and was nursing, from which we may presume that they breed during the early rains. Mecheche in Kinambwe (H.O.C.H.). Sinsimwa in Kilungu (J.E.H.B.).

Records:

- A. Zimba (R.A.B.) Mizizikaunga, x-vi (R.A.B., G.H.S.). Njila, xii v (K.G., G.H.S.).
- B. Shoga road (J.E.R.).
- C. Common in west Ufipa (J.E.H.B.). Mambwe specimen collected (H.O.C.H.).

3. BLACK-FACED MONKEY, or GREY VERVET, *Cercopithecus aethiops* (Linnaeus).

Common wherever food is plentiful and water is available. Their chief enemies are undoubtedly leopards. A female carrying a new born young was seen on 4.ix (G.H.S.).

B.W.D. records a vervet taken by an eagle near Ntumbi. It was presumably freshly killed as the blood was still wet. Unfortunately, the species of eagle was not identified.

Measurements of specimens shot at Mizizikaunga:—

Male: 500, 650, 135, 39, 12 lb. 4 oz.  
 Juv. Male: 270, 440, 90, 34,—  
 Female: 375, 525, 118, 33, 5 lb. 8 oz.  
 Female: 330, 500, 105, 35,—

Records:

- A. Mizizikaunga, all year (R.A.B., G.H.S.). Njila (K.G., G.H.S.).
  - B. Mselewe R., x; Lupa R. Kasanga R. junction, shot 1926: between Chunya and Lupa Bridge, ii, v; "In the dry season they frequent bush along the dry tributaries of the Lupa River, where suitable, scattering into the *miombo* in the rains" (B.W.D.).
4. SYKE'S MONKEY, *Cercopithecus mitis moloneyi* (P. L. Selater).

This species was seen on two occasions at mile 14 on the Mbeya Chunya road near the Forestry Nursery in July (J.E.R., G.H.S.).

5. YELLOW BABOON, *Papio cynocephalus* (Linnaeus).

Common throughout the area where conditions are suitable. They seem to show a marked preference for rocky situations. The following measurements were taken from three males shot at Mizizikaunga in December 1944.

620, 660, 195, 55, 50 lb. 4 oz.  
 570, 595, 205, 57, 57 lb. 8 oz.  
 610, 660, 226, 57, 48 lb. 4 oz.

Nungu in Kinyamwezi (B.W.D.).

Records:

- A. Mizizikaunga, resident (R.A.B., G.H.S.). Njila, ii-vi (K.G., G.H.S.). Bangala ix; Mkongolo, ii-vi (G.H.S.).
- B. "Numerous on the Lupa Plateau where they prefer the kopjes at any time of the year;" between Chunya and Lupa Bridge iii-vi; Mtande Hill, viii; Ntumbi Hill (B.W.D.). Near Barabara's (C.H.F.).
- D. Summit of Kazombo Hill, 5,500 feet (H.O.C.H.).

6. OTTER, *Lutra* sp.

Otters are found throughout the area in the permanent rivers. None have been collected and the species has not yet been identified. On the western edge of the Ufipa Plateau they are adept at robbing fish traps. They are useful at killing crabs in the water furrows and appear to be nocturnal in habits (J.E.H.B.).

Records:

- A. Maleza, in a fish trap (B.W.D.). Chui; the Gap; iboma (K.G.).
- B. Upper Lupa River, viii (B.W.D.). Sira River, near Lupa Market. (J.E.R.).
- C. Western edge of Ufipa Plateau, L. Tanganyika plentiful (J.E.H.B.).
- D. All permanent streams in the Mbozi area and along the Northern Rhodesia border (H.O.C.H.).

7. EAST AFRICAN RATEL, or HONEY BADGER, *Mellivora capensis sagulata* (Hollister).

Ratels occur throughout the area but on account of their strictly nocturnal habits are often overlooked until the fowl-house is raided and the inmates killed. On one occasion a ratel burrowed through the rock and mud foundations of the hen house at Mizizikaunga and killed a turkey and seven hens. On two occasions honey badgers have been seen at night carrying a young one in their mouth. The measurements of a male, shot outside this area at Manyoni, were:—

865, 85, 115, 40, 22 lb. Kiwuri, in Kinyamwezi (B.W.D.).

Records:

- A. Bangala, on the scarp, ix; Mizizikaunga, xi (R.A.B., G.H.S.). South shore of Lake Rukwa between Ntungi and Ivuna (K.G.).
- B. Dillon's Creek where "the spoor was very noticeable where they had made a well worn track to a bees' nest about four feet up a tree. There were claw marks round the entrance to the nest"; Ntumbi (B.W.D.). Lower Lupa River (K.G.). Shoga road (J.E.R.).
- D. Mambwe, and generally throughout the Northern Rhodesia border area (H.O.C.H.).

61. NYALA, *Tragelaphus angasii* (Gay).

Col. Pittman in his formal survey of Northern Rhodesia, reports some doubtful records of Nyala in the Abercorn area. C.W.C. reported Nyala near the Kalambo River. A specimen was obtained which turned out to be a greater kudu.

J.E.M.B. writes: "In January, 1938, when looking for strayed ox in Chapota farm, I put up a beast as big as a waterbuck, white-faced and with horns like a huge bushbuck. It broke out of secondary growth thick scrub tangled with long grass. I was told by George Damm, a lad of 16, that he had seen in 1946 two animals, one with and one without horns, in the bush lining the small stream from which his parents farm at Malonje gets its water supply. He described them as being as big as donkeys and the male having a white face and horns like a bushbuck. The local name for this buck in western Ufipa is Ntanabantamba, or Katukutu, while the greater kudu, which also occurs there and with which the nyala might be mistaken, is known as *tandala*". (J.E.M.B.).

62. BUSHBUCK, *Tragelaphus scriptus massaicus* (Neumann).

Scattered throughout the area. They prefer thick cover by day and are not often seen. An albino was shot at Ntainene and another a few miles away in Northern Rhodesia. The first is said to have had dark eyes (J.E.R.). Pato, in Kinyamwezi.

Records:

- A. Throughout the Rukwa Valley (R.A.B.). Foot of the Ufipa Scarp (P.W.D.). Njila, (K.G., G.H.S.). Between Kapenta and Kipeta (R.C.R.). Between Bangala and Ngomba; Mizizikaunga (L.R.S., G.H.S.). Between Rungwa West and Kala, iii (G.H.S.).
- B. Gap Mine, one died from drinking cyanide; Lupa River, above Ntumbi; Sira River, below the gorge (B.W.D.). Chalangwa (reported by P. Nel); near Ngomba River; above Saza Falls (C.H.F.). Isimba River, iii; Mkungu River, near Rukwa Mine; Mwang'viongo, iii (G.H.S.).
- C. Thickets on many streams between the Saisi River and Lake Tanganyika (H.O.C.H.). Lumi River, iv (G.J.L.).
- D. Ikonba; Kanamwene; Kitalikwa; Lunchinde; Mbezuma; Mipuria; Mwenimpaza; Ntainene (J.E.R.). Nakasavi Hill (R.C.R.).

63. BLACK RHINO, *Diceros bicornis* (Linnaeus).

Found only on the Lupa Plateau and even here its range has been considerably reduced in the last fifteen years. Pata, in Kinyamwezi (B.W.D.).

Records:

- B. North of Barabara's, nine reported in 1939, of which two were shot, one by Chris de Jaager who was himself later killed by a snake; Nkutano, 1934; Rhino Kop, one shot by G. S. Need and G. H. Nutting in 1929 (R.A.B.). Luika River, at the west end of the Ilunga Range, spoor seen 1930, 1931, 1932; Lungwizi River, v/1930; head of Marumba-ng'ombe River, spoor of one female with a small calf, 1930; upper Makongolozzi River, 1929; Ngondia Mbuga, vii/1930; Ntumbi, old spoor, 1933 (B.W.D.). North side of Kwimba Hill, xii/1946 (K.C.). Makoko; Masiana Hill (J.E.R.). Rungwa, iii/1940 (G.H.S.).

64. ZEBRA, *Equus burchelli bohmi* (Matschie).

Common throughout the area. A female shot in viii/1944 was carrying an almost fully developed embryo (C.H.F.). Duru, in Kinyamwezi; Sinka, in Kibunga (B.W.D.). A small variety occurs on the edge of the Ufipa Plateau above Chapota (J.E.M.B.).

Records:

- A. All round Lake Rukwa (R.A.B.). Kipeta, 1923 (B.W.D.). Near Lake Chada; between Kapeta and Kipeta; Sala (Nkana Valley) (R.C.R.). Between Ivuna and Manda, v; between Muze and Ukia, iii; Ntunje, v (G.H.S.).
- B. Small herds seen all over the Lupa Plateau; Nsamya Hill; Ukonongo (B.W.D.). Ntumbi (B.W.D.; ii G.H.S.). North of Luika Bridge; Inpala Plats, vi; Lone Palm Mbuga, viii; between Luika Bridge and Rukwa Mine (C.H.F.). Northern Mbuga (J.E.R.). Between Kilala and Wanalugwa, i; near Rukwa Mine; Rungwa, iii (G.H.S.).
- C. Kalambo Plats (H.O.C.H.). Matarani, above Chapota, iv (G.H.S.).
- D. Kantesya River (H.O.C.H.). Tesa Flood Plain (H.O.C.H., J.E.R.).

GAZETTEER TO THE LOCALITIES MENTIONED IN  
THE ABOVE NOTES

A. RUKWA VALLEY

- BANGALA. A village at the southern end of Lake Rukwa, between Ngomba and Kipindi.
- CHADA LAKE. At the south-eastern edge of the Katavi Plain twenty-three miles south south-east of Sitalike.
- CHUI. A village at the foot of the Rukwa Scarp near the mouth of the Mteka River.
- GALULA. A mission station on the left bank of the Songwe River.
- GONGWE HILL. A small hill between the Katuma and Msaginia Rivers, fifteen miles south-east of Sitalike.
- "GAP". The area of sudd almost entirely dividing Lake Rukwa into two, near the delta of the Momba River.
- IBOMA. An area on the north-east shore of Lake Rukwa near the mouth of the Mteka River.
- ITHOZO. A village about three miles upstream from the present mouth of the Momba River.
- ILUNGU STREAM. A small perennial stream rising below the Rukwa Scarp between Ngomba and Maleza and entering the lake between the Ngomba and Luika Rivers.
- ISANGWA. A village on the Luiche River under the Ufipa Scarp a few hours walk north-west from Simba Mission.
- ISENGA. A village about three miles south of the old source of Momba River and three miles west of Kazungwa.
- IVUNA. A village on the Nyamba River about ten miles west of Nakachose.
- KALA. A village on the left bank of the Kavuu River about eight miles south-west of Rungwa West. Altitude 2,700 feet.