

14. On Mammals from the Kaoko-Veld, South-West Africa, obtained during Captain Shortridge's fifth Percy Sladen and Kaffrarian Museum Expedition. By OLDFIELD THOMAS, F.R.S., F.Z.S.

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The high region of the Kaoko-Veld, in South-West Africa, north-west of Damaraland and south of the Cunene River, has long been a *terra incognita*, and it is only recently, since the general region has become a constituent part of the British Empire, that any exploration of it has been possible.

Now, however, Captain Guy C. Shortridge has been enabled to make one of his wonderful collecting expeditions, the fifth of the series, into this hitherto unknown area, and the present paper gives an account of the collection he made, the largest of the whole series.

With some help from the British Museum itself, this expedition has been made possible by the generosity of the Percy Sladen Trustees, the Administrator of the South-West African Territory*, the South African Research Fund Board*, and of Mr. Abel Chapman, whose sporting instincts have made him sympathetic towards such exploratory adventures. To all of these thanks are due for the material advancement in our knowledge of the South African Fauna represented by this really remarkable fifth collection. And equally to the Trustees of the Kaffrarian Museum for their very generous co-operation in the work by sparing Captain Shortridge from King William's Town for so long a period.

The collection itself numbers nearly 1500 specimens, and considering that it was made by a single man with only native help, it is a great tribute to Captain Shortridge's enthusiasm and powers of work.

It is accompanied by very ample field-notes on the habits and distribution of the various species. These notes, however, are so full and excellent that they ought not to be used merely as a supplement to a technical paper on the mammals, and I therefore do not now publish them, but hope that they will in due course be brought out in South Africa under Captain Shortridge's own supervision. Native names, distribution, and habits are all included, and we may hope these observations will form a basis for a general work on such lines.

After the successive collections from (1) the Orange River, (2) Namaqualand, (3) Ovamboland, and (4) Eastern Damaraland that we already owe to Captain Shortridge's expeditions, it is natural that there should not be very many novelties to be described from Kaokoland, which, in a broad sense, is of the same faunistic nature, and whose mammals prove to be generally the same as those of the areas previously explored. This is a little disappointing, as we had hoped that the forests and mountainous areas of the Kaoko-Veld might prove to be inhabited by various special forms. But numbers of them had already been obtained by Captain Shortridge in the outlying regions of the faunal area—on the Cunene in the north, in Ovamboland to the east, and at Karibib in the south-east—so that we ought not to be surprised if there were not a large number more to be discovered.

* Both the South-West African Administrator and the South African Research Fund Board helped materially Captain Shortridge's previous expeditions, and I regret that proper acknowledgment of their most welcome aid was accidentally omitted from my reports on the collections.

None the less several well-marked new forms have been obtained, notably the two black Mongoose, *Mynax nigratus* and *Helogale parvula nero*, the Ground-Squirrel *Geosciurus princeps*, quite unexpectedly peculiar, and the Rooi-haas *Pronolagus caucinus*.

In all, 70 species are contained in the collection, while the presence and ranges of some few others are recorded in Captain Shortridge's field-notes.

The localities at which Captain Shortridge made collections are 21 in number, and are situated broadly on a north and south line about 100 200 miles from the coast, and running from the Cunene River to Outjo in South Kaokoland, at about 20° South latitude. These localities are mostly at a considerable elevation, from 1000 to 4000 feet altitude.

Their names are: in the Outjo district of Damaraland—Outjo, Otjikondo, and Caas Okawa; in S. Kaoko—Kamanjab, Otjitemba, Qoabendus, Kovares, Otjijekua, Katijhuru; in Central Kaokoland—Otjitundua, Ombombo, Kaoko-Otavi, Okorosave; in north Kaokoland—Otjipongo, Ombathu, Epembe, Otjitambi, Mount Ehomba; and in the close neighbourhood of the Cunene, which is here about 100 yards in breadth—Tshimbaka, Hondoto-Cunene Junction, and Otjimbundu.

Detailed accounts of their local characteristics are contained in Captain Shortridge's field-notes.

1. *CERCOPITHECUS PYGERYTHRUS HELVESCENS* Thos.

♀. 3857. Tshimbaka.

♂. 3947. Hondoto-Cunene Junction.

♂. 3972, 3973, 3974, 3975, 3982, 39937. ♀. 3971. Ehomba Mt.

"Extremely local, apparently only occurring along the banks of the Cunene and in the thin belt of evergreen fresh at the base of Mt. Ehomba."—G. C. S.

Additional material of this most interesting monkey is very welcome. It is now considered to be a member of the *athiops* group, but I provisionally use the name under which it was described.

2. *PAPIO PORCARIUS* Bodl.

5 from Otjiwan, Okorosave, Ehomba Mountain, and Otjipongo.

3. *EPOMOPHORUS ANGOLENSIS* Gray.

♀. 3838. Tshimbaka.

4. *RHINOLOPHUS AUGUR* K. And.

♂. 4015. Otjipongo, N. Kaokoveld.

Type locality, Kuruman.

5. *RHINOLOPHUS ETHIOPS* Pet.

♀. 3117. Otjitundua.

Type-locality, Otjimbingue, Damaraland.

A number of the *Rhinolophi* from Karibib, referred to in our 1925 paper p. 226, are also referable to *R. athiops*, while others prove to be *R. angur* K. And.

6. *RHINOLOPHUS DENTI* Thos.

♀. 3633, 3577. Kaoko-Otavi.

Type-locality, Kuruman.

premaxillæ. Its feet do not expand terminally, but are of equal thickness throughout.

A full description of it was published in 1903*. No further specimens of it appear to have been since obtained.

57. *PROCAVIA WELWITSCHII* Gray.

44 from localities throughout the Kaokoveld.

My previously-suggested doubt as to the distinction of *P. volkmanni* Brauer from *P. welwitschii* of Angola is so fully confirmed by the examination of this fine series of Kaoko Dassies that I now place the latter under Gray's name. An excellent specimen in the Museum from Capangombie, Angola, typically representing *P. welwitschii*, is quite indistinguishable from members of the present series. The statement that *P. volkmanni* is "viel kleiner" than *P. welwitschii* is not borne out by the facts.

58. *DICEROS BICORNIS* L.

♂. 3640. Otjiwan, near Kaoko-Otavi.

59. *HIPPOTIGRIS ZEBRA HARTMANNE* Matsch.

♂. 3322. ♀. 3323. Otjitundua.

60. *HIPPOTIGRIS BURCHELLI* Gray.

10 from Katijhuru, Otjitundua, Tshimhaka, and Otjibundu.

61. *LOXODONTA AFRICANA* Blum.

Kovares.

62. *GIRAFFA CAMELOPARDALIS ANGOLENSIS* Lyd.

♂. 3453. Ombombo.

63. *ÆPYCEROS MELAMPUS PETERSI* Boc.

15 from Hondoto-Cunene Junction, Otjitambi, and elsewhere.

64. *OREOTRAGUS OREOTRAGUS CUNENENSIS* Zuk.

12 from various localities.

65. *RAPHICEROS CAMPESTRIS* Thunb.

15 from Ombombo, Otjitundua, and elsewhere.

66. *RHYNCHOTRAGUS DAMARENSIS* Günth.

18 from various localities.

Quite similar to Günther's type, which came from Omaruru, not far from Karibib. It appears to me very doubtful if there is sufficient reason for the distinction of the Angolan subspecies *variani* -type-locality Lobito from the typical *damarensis*.

67. *ANTIDORCAS ANGOLENSIS HOFMEYRI* Thos.

12 from Ombombo, Katijhuru, and elsewhere.

* Ann. Mag. N. H. (7) xi. p. 78, 1903.