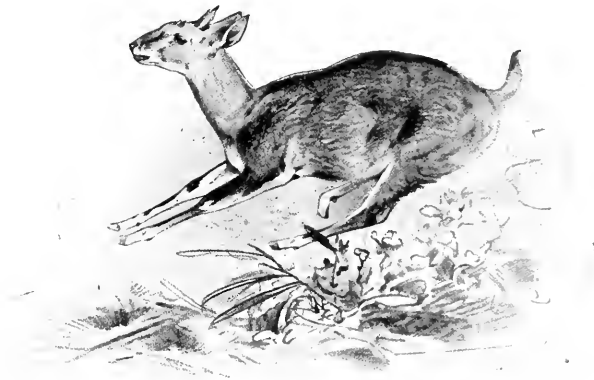


WILD LIFE OF THE WORLD

A DESCRIPTIVE SURVEY OF THE
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION
OF ANIMALS

BY
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ILLUSTRATED WITH
OVER SIX HUNDRED ENGRAVINGS FROM ORIGINAL DRAWINGS
AND
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY STUDIES IN COLOUR



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mostly found in high grass, and said to associate in parties of from five to twenty which consist both of sows and full-grown boars.

Indian Onager. The deserts of north-western India, such as the Bikanir desert, Jesalmere, the Rann of Kach, and (across the Indus) the neighbourhood of Mithankot, on the Punjab frontier, form the habitat of the onager (*Equus onager indicus*), which also occurs in Baluchistan and Afghanistan, where it probably passes into the closely allied Persian race of the species. As the Asiatic wild ass, of which the Indian animal is merely a local race, is described elsewhere in this work, the bare mention that it is represented in north-western India will suffice.

Indian Rhinoceros. Poor as is India in members of the horse family, it is richer than any other country in the world in rhinoceroses, all the three Asiatic species occurring within its limits, although the true home of two of these is the Malay area. By far the largest of the three is the Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), which, in common with the other two, differs from its African cousins by its heavily folded skin. It is an inhabitant of the great grass-jungles of northern India, and is now almost entirely confined to the valley of Assam, and to Nepal and other districts west of the Tista River. Formerly it was much more widely distributed. In the reign of the Emperor Baber, for instance, from 1505 to 1530, it was common in the Punjab up to Peshawar, and its remains have been found as far south as Madras.

The Indian rhinoceros attains a height of 5 feet or more, and from the point of the nose to the tip of the tail measures over 10 feet, the tail being 27 inches in length. The horn, however, is seldom more than 12 inches long. The skin is bare, except the ears and the tail, and is studded with prominent tubercles ranging up to an inch in diameter, the largest of which are on the thighs and shoulders. Of the folds which divide the skin into large shields, one is situated at the back of each shoulder, and another in front of each thigh. Large folds also surround the neck, others are below the shoulders and thighs, and on the hind-quarters, so that the tail lies in a deep furrow. The colour is blackish grey, with no lighter or darker shades.

The Indian rhinoceros is an inhabitant of ground where it can bathe and wallow in the mud. It is quiet and peaceable in disposition; all that has been written about its savageness and its animosity against the elephant resting on no basis of fact. A wounded or much-molested animal may, however, sometimes defend itself, and when it does, it uses not its horn but its pointed lower incisors in the same way as the wild boar uses his tusks. It generally feeds during the morning and evening, and sleeps during the day, its food consisting principally of grass and herbage. The Sumatran and Javan rhinoceroses are noticed under the heading of the Malay fauna.

Indian Elephant. Unlike the Indian rhinoceros the Indian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) is not restricted to India, its range extending into Siam, Cochin China, the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and even Borneo, where, however, it may have been introduced. In India wild elephants are still found along the foot of the Himalaya as far west as Dehra Dun, and in a few localities they are met with down to Mysore and even farther south; but their distributional area is by no means so large now as it used to be.

The Indian elephant is almost hairless, with a few faint traces of woolly fur such as that of the mammoth, and a tuft of long hairs at the end of the tail. On the fore-feet five of the toes have nails, but on the hind-feet only four are thus provided. The trunk, unlike that of the African species, is as uniformly flexible as an indiarubber tube, and has a single finger-like process on the upper margin of the tip. The tusks in the females are short and rudimentary, but in the males they are generally well developed, although in some of the latter they are reduced



INDIAN ELEPHANTS.

to small stumps like those of the females. The colour of the body is a uniform blackish grey, often varied with small flesh-coloured spots on the forehead, the base of the trunk, and the ears. The more or less white elephants considered sacred in Siam are merely partial albinos.

The shoulder-height is almost exactly double the circumference of the fore-foot. Fully grown females are, as a rule, no higher than 8 feet, while the average height of the males is about 9 feet, though a few are recorded as having exceeded 10 feet. One of the longest tusks known measured 8 feet in length, nearly 17 inches in

circumference, and weighed $74\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Another shorter tusk is said to have had a weight of 110 lbs. In both these cases the tusk was the only one, so that it is supposed to have been unusually well developed.

Forests in undulating or mountainous districts, generally those containing many bamboos, are the favourite haunts of the Indian elephant, though at the beginning of the rainy season these animals often move for awhile into grassy plains. They live in herds of from sometimes as many as a hundred in number,

of the coat in winter is dark brown, in summer fawn, the hinds being paler and redder. The fawns are spotted. Thamin are generally seen in herds of from ten to fifteen or more. During the day they may possibly seek the shelter of the woods, but they usually keep to the open plains, and are often observed grazing on wild rice and other plants; they apparently seek marshy spots, not on account of the presence of water alone, since they are met with in plains where there is no water during the dry season. In Manipur the antlers are shed in June, in lower Burma about September. In Burma the rutting-time lasts from March to May, and the fawns—generally one to each doe—are usually born in October or November. The antlers appear in the second year, but the stags are not fully developed until about their seventh year.

Schomburgk's and other Deer. A very distinct species, Schomburgk's deer (*C. schomburgki*), nearly allied to the thamin, occurs in Siam, but very little is known of its habits. There are also numerous distinct species of small deer in the Philippines—among them Prince Alfred's deer (*C. alfredi*), in which the stags are black with white spots at all seasons.

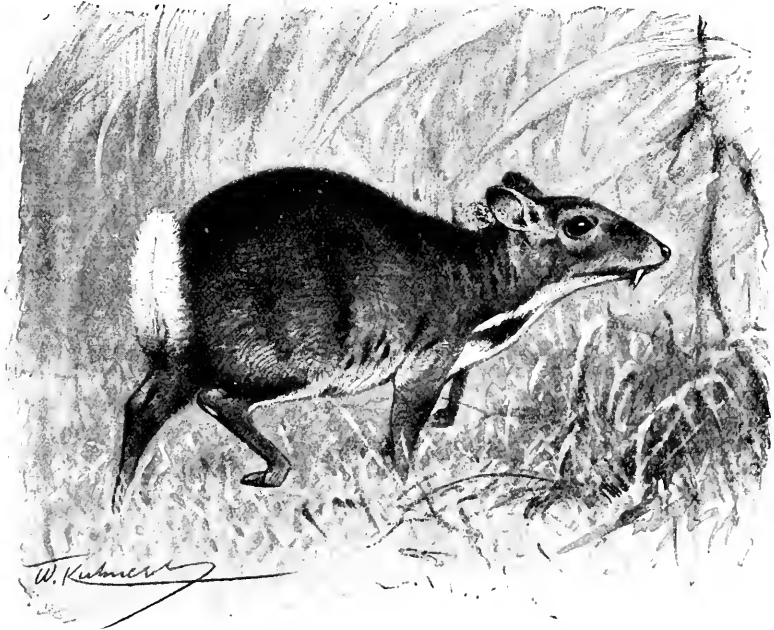
Muntjacs. The muntjacs are represented in Moulmein by *Cervulus fœa*, a species which differs from the ordinary forms by its darker colouring and the long tuft of hair between the antlers. Other species, such as Reeves's muntjac (*C. reevesi*), distinguished by its small size and bright coloration, inhabit China and Formosa. The Indian muntjac also occurs in the countries east of the Bay of Bengal, its representative in Burma having been named *Cervulus muntjac grandicornis*.

Chevrotains. Of the chevrotains or mouse-deer, the small Malay species (*Tragulus javanicus*) occurs as far north as Tenasserim, as well as in Cambodia, Cochin China, and the Malay Peninsula and islands. It is the smallest of the ungulates with the exception of the pigmy antelopes of West Africa, the head and body measuring only 18 inches long and the tail 3 inches. In colour it is reddish brown above, and whitish below, with a dark line down the nape and generally a brown stripe down the chest. This chevrotain frequents dense jungle, and is also found in mangrove-swamps on the coast. Like the rest of its kind, it is a timid, gentle little animal, walking on the tips of its hoofs, living alone except during the pairing-season, and easily tamed. The second species is the napu (*T. napu*), which inhabits much the same localities, and is distinguished mainly by its larger size, its shoulder-height being about 13 inches and its length about 27 inches. Numerous island forms of these two species have received distinct names. Of a third species (*T. stanleyanus*), the home is not definitely known.

Wild Pigs. The Indian wild boar extends into Burma; but in the Malay islands its place is taken by several more or less closely allied species, such as *Sus vittatus*, *S. verrucosus*, and *S. barbatus*, the latter distinguished by the great length of its head. A small pig (*S. andamanensis*) inhabits the Andaman Isles, and differs from the Indian animal not only by its inferior size, but by the absence of a crest of long hair on the back.

Javan Rhinoceros. Of the two Malay rhinoceroses, the Javan, or lesser one-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*), is distributed from Assam through Burma and the Malay Peninsula to Sumatra, Java, and Borneo; and is also found

in the Bengal Sandarbans and parts of eastern Bengal. It is considerably smaller than the large one-horned Indian species, from which it differs widely in the characters of the skin. In place of the large tubercles of the Indian species, the skin of the body and limbs is covered with small, angular, scaly discs of uniform size which form a network of cracks. As in the Indian rhinoceros, the skin is divided into shields by folds, those before and behind the shoulders being continued right across the body like the other two main folds. The horn, which is frequently absent in the female, is never very large. This rhinoceros is more an inhabitant of forests than of grassy plains, and although found in the low swamps of the Sandarbans, is usually met with in mountainous regions. In Burma and Java it is found at a considerable altitude, its footprints having been noticed south-east of Sadiya at an altitude of 6500 feet.



MALAY CHEVROTAIN.

Sumatran Rhinoceros. The two-horned Sumatran rhinoceros (*R. sumatrensis*) ranges from Assam into Siam, and southwards into Sumatra and Borneo. It is the smallest existing member of the group, the average height being only about 4 feet. This rhinoceros is more thickly haired than any of the other species, the greater portion of the body, which is greyish brown or black, being thinly covered with longish black hair, which tends, however, to disappear with age. From both the other Asiatic rhinoceroses it is broadly distinguished by possessing two horns, which are often of considerable size and curve backwards. The skin is coarsely granular, with the folds indistinctly marked, and only the one behind the shoulder continued across the back. It also differs from the other species in having only one pair of incisor teeth in the lower jaw. The Chittagong representative of this species (*R. sumatrensis lasiotis*), which was at first thought

to differ from the Sumatran and Malay animal by its more abundant hair, now appears to be distinguishable only by its superior size.

Tapir. The Malay tapir (*Tapirus indicus*), which ranges from Tenasserim to Sumatra, and perhaps Borneo, is the only representative of its kind in the Old World. In height it stands about 40 inches at the withers, and has a curved back, measuring along the curve from the tip of the nose to the root of the tail about 8 feet. The head, legs, and the fore part of the body are black or dark brown, the rest of the body and the tips of the ears being white or grey. The young up to six months differ in colour from the adults, being of a soft silky dark brown, marked with brownish yellow spots, especially on the sides; the under-parts are white. According to native reports, this tapir, instead of swimming, is accustomed to walk along the bottom of rivers or lakes. It feeds on leaves and young sprigs and buds; and its colouring seems intended to break up the outline of the body, and thus render the animal inconspicuous.

Irawadi Dolphin. The Irawadi is inhabited by a fresh-water dolphin of quite a different type from the one found in the great Indian rivers. This dolphin (*Orcella fluminalis*) is characterised by its rounded head, short beak, small scythe-shaped dorsal fin, and moderately large, almost oval flippers. It occurs locally in the Irawadi from Prome to Bhamo in the deeper parts of the river, but has never been observed in the tidal portion, so that it appears to be confined exclusively to fresh water. This dolphin, which is nearly related to another species of the genus (*O. brevirostris*) inhabiting the Malay seas, is characterised by the small number of its teeth, of which it has in the upper jaw only fifteen, and in the lower jaw fourteen pairs. The sides of the body are marked with numerous small irregular stripes, the ground-colour being pale slaty above and white beneath. The length is about $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet. This dolphin, whose food consists, so far as is known, entirely of fish, is a sociable species, seldom seen alone. It keeps to deep water, coming to the surface about every minute or so to breathe, when it emits a short blowing noise while exhaling and a weaker sound while inhaling.

Squirrels. Like India, the Malay province is rich in rodents, especially the squirrel tribe. In the eastern Himalaya, Sikhim, Bhutan, and the large mountain-forests of Assam, Manipur, Burma, Siam, the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java, and Borneo, and even in Celebes, the large Indian squirrel is replaced by the nearly allied Malay form (*Ratufa bicolor*). Similar in habits to the Indian species, this squirrel is generally seen in pairs; it eats fruits and nuts of various kinds, as well as insects and birds' eggs, and has a loud harsh cry. In colour it is black or dark brown above, and paler underneath. The black-backed squirrel (*Sciurus atrodorsalis*) has a black stripe on the back; its tail is 7 inches long, the body measuring $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches. It inhabits Siam, but is represented in northern Tenasserim by *S. flavimanus*. Both are remarkable not only for their varied coloration, but for being generally found not among tall trees, but in bushes and hedges near villages or in bamboo thickets. There are many other Malay squirrels, and flying-squirrels are also common in the Malay countries, but marmots and susliks are absent.