

THE
KILIMA-NJARO EXPEDITION.

*A RECORD OF SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION IN
EASTERN EQUATORIAL AFRICA.*

AND A

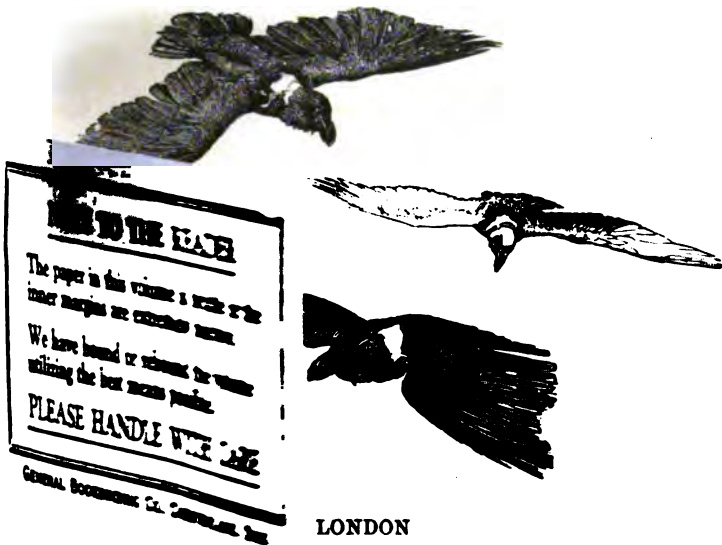
GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURAL HISTORY, LANGUAGES,
AND COMMERCE OF THE KILIMA-NJARO DISTRICT.

BY

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"THE RIVER CONGO FROM ITS MOUTH TO BÓLÓBÓ."

WITH SIX MAPS AND OVER EIGHTY ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE AUTHOR.



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CHAPTER XVIII.

ZOOLOGY.

I WILL precede the enumeration of my zoological collections by a short sketch of the main features of the Kilima-njaro *fauna*.

To begin with our near kinsfolk, the monkeys. I found these creatures much more abundantly present in East Central Africa than during my journeys on the West Coast. Although Western Africa is probably better provided with species of quadrumana than any other division of the continent, the monkeys are much scarcer in numbers and harder to see, possibly owing to the greater density of the forests.

During eight months on the Congo I only saw monkeys twice in a wild state, and that in one place only; and throughout my entire stay of sixteen months in West Africa I can only remember six occasions on which I actually beheld these animals in a state of nature. On the other hand, I had scarcely left the East Coast, to journey towards Kilima-njaro, when monkeys showed themselves abundantly in the wilds.

The first to attract my attention were the baboons, probably the species known as *Cynocephalus hamadryas*, *C. Sphinx*, and *C. babouin*. They were generally found on the outskirts of native plantations, where they almost subsisted on the maize and other

food-stuffs stolen from the gardens of their more highly-developed fellow-primates. In the inhabited region of Kilima-njaro, generally known as the country of Čaga, baboons were strangely abundant. They were generally in flocks of fourteen to twenty, of all ages, and both sexes. They were so little molested by the natives that they showed small fear of man, and, instead of running away, would often stop to look at me about twenty yards off, and the old males would show their teeth and grunt. I have frequently seen the natives driving them from the plantations, as they might a troop of naughty boys, and the baboons retreating with swollen cheek-pouches, often dragging after them a portion of the spoil. On one occasion, in a river-bed at the foot of Kilima-njaro, my Indian servant, ordinarily a very plucky boy, met a troop of baboons, who, instead of fleeing up into the trees, came running towards him in a very menacing manner, and he was so frightened at their aspect that he took to his heels. The baboons followed, and, but that the boy forded the shallow stream, and put the water between him and his pursuers, he might have had an awkward contest. I killed a baboon once in Čaga, one of a troop who were rifling a maize plantation, and its companions, instead of running away, surrounded the corpse and snarled at me. As I had fired off both barrels of my gun, and had no more ammunition, I went back to my settlement to fetch some of my followers, and upon the approach of several men the baboons ran off. We picked up the dead one and carried it back. It was a female, and apparently young and tender. Out of curiosity I had its flesh cooked the next day and ate it,¹ hoping in this lawful

¹ The natives of many parts of Africa greatly esteem the baboon as

way to form some idea of the practice of cannibalism ; I can only say that the succulence and quality of this creature's flesh were quite unexceptionable. I have noticed this with most of the species of Old-World monkey I have as yet tasted. During my four months' stay in Mandara's country I ate the common *Cercopithecus pygerythrus* constantly, and found it made a very toothsome stew. The most remarkable monkey in all this region is probably the Colobus, which apparently offers a new variety or sub-species in the country round Kilima-njaro, remarkable for having an entirely white heavily-plumed tail. The common species, with a black tail tipped with white, I have shot in the forested plains near the coast. The Colobus monkey is almost the only one that quite avoids the neighbourhood of man ; the other genera frequent the vicinity of native plantations, and doubtless profit by the abundance of cultivated food. I never observed any Galago (a lemuroid animal) in this district, nor do the natives speak of one, although it is a genus well represented in other parts of Africa.

Bats are by no means common or often seen. I saw some fruit-bats once in the forest hanging to a sycamore fig-tree. No member of the group of Insectivora came under my notice. The Carnivora in this country of big game are, of course, well represented. The lion is very abundant and very bold ; but the leopard is more feared by the natives than his larger ally. While stopping in Mandara's country, two of that chief's subjects were killed by leopards, one of them

an article of food. *Vide* the paper on the Cameroons, by the Rev. George Grenfell, in the "Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society," October, 1882, p. 590. Doubtless the great resemblance to human flesh is *not* held as a drawback.

close to the frequented village-green. The leopard ascends the mountain up to about 8000 feet, scarcely higher. I shot one of these creatures in the valley of a stream in broad daylight. I think it had been sleeping by the water, and was suddenly awakened by my near approach, and too dazed to fly immediately. The most common dog is the side-striped jackal. There is a wild dog found on Kilima-njaro which barks loudly. It is quite nocturnal, and I have never been able to shoot it; but from its appearance in bright moonlight it looks somewhat like the Abyssinian dog (*Canis Simensis*). The natives know it by a different name from that applied to the jackal—viz. *Nzudu*.

Hyenas are very common, and both species, striped and spotted, are present; but the striped hyena more affects the hills, while the spotted kind inhabits the plains. The spotted hyena is a much more predatory animal here than one generally imagines. Not only does it steal sheep and calves from the herds, but it even carries off children, and will often attack wounded or weakly men. I once sent a sick man back to the coast a short distance by himself, and he was severely bitten at night by the hyenas. He succeeded, however, in beating them off, and recovered from his wounds.

Civets and genets are very abundant; so also are one or two specimens of ichneumon. I noticed no kind of weasel, ratel, or badger.

The *Orycteropus Æthiopicus*, or Ant-bear, is common on the plains, to judge by his many huge burrows; but I have never seen him, and only identify him from natives' descriptions.

Among the *Rodentia* there were few that came under

my notice. A species of *Graphiurus*² (probably *G. capensis*) is found in the forests of Kilima-njaro. The porcupine is fairly common, and a small black rat infests the natives' houses.

A hyrax is found on Kilima-njaro (*H. Brucei*) between 7000 and 11,000 feet. It lives entirely in the trees, which it climbs with the facility of a squirrel. It is much sought after by the Wa-čaga for its warm, furry skin, which is made into cloaks.

The elephant inhabits Kilima-njaro up to a great height. I have seen two females and a young one at an altitude of 13,000 feet, crossing a stream-valley, and mounting the opposite bank with the agility of goats. As I have also met with this creature in the Chella Mountains of Angola, where he climbs to 8000 feet, in fact, as high as he can go, I am convinced he can easily adapt himself to a mountain life.

Round the base of Kilima-njaro the rhinoceros is very abundant; and in Lake Jipé hippopotami are found. The zebra (*Equus Chapmani*) is present in incredible quantities in the plains round Kilima-njaro. In fact, the vast herds of varied game which pasture on the level country between the snow mountains and the coast remind one of the tales of Gordon Cumming.

Among the more noticeable *Ruminantia* are the buffalo (*Bubalus Caffer*), the giraffe (very abundant), the eland, the kudu, the bush-buck (*Tragelaphus sylvaticus*), the sable antelope (*Hippotragus niger*), the pallah, one or two gazelles, gnus, hartebeests, blesboks, and many small species of *Neotragus* and *Cephalophus*. The kudu penetrates up the mountain to a height of 14,000 feet, in company with the buffalo,

² For illustration *vide* p. 392.

attracted possibly by the sweet perennial pasture. A *Neotragus* and a *Cephalophus* are also found at high altitudes. I give here a drawing of a head of the



Fig. 66.—*Neotragus Kirki*.

little *Neotragus* antelope (possibly *N. Kirki*) found on Kilima-njaro. As you may see, it has the nose nearly developed into a trunk, a tendency which is very common, after all, among mammals, and which reaches its utmost development with the elephant.

In the plains round Kilima-njaro the red hartebeest (*Alcephalus Cokei*) is found in myriads. This creature by the colour of its coat and its strange shape assimilates marvellously with the huge red ant-hills (habitations of the white termites) which abound in the districts favoured by the hartebeests. When you are out stalking it is really most difficult and puzzling sometimes to know which is hartebeest and ant-hill; for the long grass hiding the antelope's legs leaves merely a red humped mass which, until it

moves, may well be a mound of red earth. The unconscious mimicry is rendered the more ludicrously exact sometimes by the sharply-pointed flag-like leaves of a kind of lily which frequently crown the summit of the ant-hill or grow at its base, thus suggesting the horns of an antelope, either with the head erect, or browsing low down. *Vide* Chapter IV.

Among the passerine birds of Kilima-njaro I have brought back six that are new to science. Three of these are sun-birds, one is a flycatcher, and the remaining two are chats. The sun-birds are found very high



Fig. 67.—Head of Great-billed Raven (*Corvultur albicollis*).

up the mountain, in that resembling the humming-birds which frequent the Andes near to the snow-line. They hover round the long tubular flowers of certain labiate plants, and on being captured it will be noticed that the feathers of the brow are thickly covered with pollen, so that in these regions sun-birds share with insects the means of fertilizing flowers.

The bird mentioned in Chapter XIII. as being found at a height of 14,000 feet, the highest dweller, except the occasional passing ravens or kites, is *Pinarochroa hypospodia*, a kind of stone-chat.

Other passerine birds of a note are a lovely oriole (*Oriolus notatus*), which frequents the forests of the

[80.] HELIOTARSUS ECAUDATUS.

Plains round Kilima-njaro.

81. BUTEO AUGUR, Rüpp.

Buteo augur, Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. i. p. 175; Fischer, Zeitschr. ges. Orn. (Madaraz), 1884, p. 374.

♂, 4000 feet; ♂, 5000 feet; ♂, 8000 feet.

82. BUTEO DESERTORUM (Daud).

Buteo desertorum, Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. i. p. 179; Fischer, Zeitschr. ges. Orn. (Madaraz), 1884, p. 374.

♂, 5000 feet.

83. ASTURINULA MONOGRAMMICA (Temm.).

Asturinula monogrammica, Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. i. p. 275; Fischer, Zeitschr. ges. Orn. (Madaraz), 1884, p. 374.

♂, 5000 feet.

84. STRUTHIO DANAOIDES, Shelley.

The ostrich of E. Equatorial Africa. Eggs brought back; collected in vicinity of Taveita. Young ostriches kept in captivity by me in that place.

This ostrich, I am informed by the natives, lives a good deal on insects and small reptiles, as well as on leaves and herbage. The young ostriches I kept at Taveita ate raw meat in preference to anything else, though they would also swallow leaves and chopped grass.

LIST OF MAMMALS OBTAINED AND OBSERVED ON
MOUNT KILIMA-NJARO AND ITS VICINITY.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS, F.Z.S. With a few additional notes by the
Author.

. The species which have their numbers bracketed were those of which skins or horns were not brought home, and which were either identified by the Author in their particular habitat, or approximately named by Mr. Oldfield Thomas from the Author's drawings. It is needless to say these drawings, wherever made, were carefully executed from specimens living or dead, and their fidelity may be relied on.

[1.] CYNOCEPHALUS HAMADRYAS.

Country of Taita and vicinity of River Lumi.

[2.] CYNOCEPHALUS SPHINX.

Kilima-njaro up to 6000 feet, especially in vicinity of native villages. Also in adjacent plains and along the River Lumi. Especially abundant near Taveita.

[3.] *CYNOCEPHALUS BABOUIN*.

On Kilima-njaro up to 5000 feet, and in and near Taveita.

[4.] *CERCOPITHECUS ALBICULARIS*.

In and near Taveita.

[5.] *CERCOPITHECUS LALANDII*.

In and near Taveita and along River Lumi.

[6.] *CERCOPITHECUS GRISEO-VIRIDIS*.

On Kilima-njaro up to 7000 or 8000 feet, and everywhere near water in the plains below. Naturally the commonest monkey to be seen.

7. *CERCOPITHECUS PYGERYTHRUS*, Geoffr.

a, b. Moši, on the south side of the mountain, 5000 feet, June to August.

Very common in the cultivated gardens round the village, and in the forests lower down at Taveita. These monkeys are exceedingly familiar and mischievous, coming into the gardens to steal fruit, &c., and are entirely without any fear of man.

8. *COLOBUS GUEREZA*, Rüpp., var. *caudatus*, var. nov.

a. Useri, N.E. flank of mountain, 3000 feet, end of October.

Very common all round the base of Kilima-njaro.

The specimen brought, like two or three beautiful skins obtained by Mr. Thomson in the same neighbourhood, belongs to a peculiar race or variety apparently restricted to this region, and characterized by having the white brush of the tail very much larger and finer than is the case in the true Abyssinian *C. guereza*. In the latter animal the proximal 12 to 16 inches of the tail is short-haired and quite black, only the terminal 8 to 12 inches being white and tufted, and the white mantle hanging down from the body hides only about one-third of the black part of the tail. In the Kilima-njaro race, however, only some 3 or 4 inches of the base of the tail are black, and the remainder (with the hairs about 20 or 21 inches) is developed into a magnificent white brush, of which individual hairs are from 7 to 9 inches in length. The hairs of the white body-mantle, moreover, entirely cover the black at the base of the tail, the white of the latter and of the mantle being quite continuous.

In addition to this race, however, the true Guereza is also found in the neighbourhood of Kilima-njaro, as the mantle of the lowland Masai warrior, of whom a drawing is given in Chapter XIX., is made of the skin of this animal, but this is, of course, a rather vague indication of the original locality of the specimen. Mr. Johnston tells me that the natives clearly distinguish the two races, and that the white-tailed form is, at least in the Kilima-njaro district, a more strictly mountain animal than the other.

Taking now into consideration the extreme constancy of the markings of the *Colobi*, the very different appearance that the present animal has from the usual type, its restriction to a small district round Kilima-



Fig. 72.—*Colobus Guereza*, var. *Caudatus*.

njaro, and the distinction by the natives of the two forms, I think it will be necessary to distinguish Mr. Johnston's animal as a separate variety or sub-species, to which the name of *C. guereza caudatus* might be applied.

[9.] GALAGO CRASSICAUDATA ?

Found in Taita and near the coast, but not on the mountain.

[10.] *CYNOXYCTERIS COLLARIS*.

Taveita forests.

11. *VESPERUGO NANUS*, Peters.

Moši, 5000 feet, September 12. Found hanging to a tree in daytime.

[12.] *FELIS LEO*, L.

The lion is abundant in the neighbourhood, but never ascends higher than about 3000 feet.

13. *FELIS PARDUS*, L.

a. Near foot of mountain, 3000 feet.

The leopard is very common up to about 7500 feet.

[14.] *FELIS SERVAL*.

Skin obtained in Taita. Common in country at base of Kilima-njaro.

[15.] *FELIS CAFFRA*.

Kilima-njaro up to 5000 or 6000 feet, and forest of Taveita.

[16.] *FELIS CARACAL*.

A skin seen near Useri, in possession of natives. According to their report common in the plains.

[17.] *CYNÆLURUS VENATOR*.

The cheetah appears to be very frequently met with to the north and north-east of Kilima-njaro. The Masai and Endurobo often bring skins for sale. One was purchased at Useri, but subsequently lost.

[18.] *VIVERRA CIVETTA*.

Very common near base of mountain.

19. *GENETTA TIGRINA*, Schr.

a. Moši, 5000 feet, October.

b. Taveita, 2300 feet, August.

Very common; occurs up to 7000 feet. A female specimen, caught by Mr. Johnston, gave birth to three young at about the end of October.

20. *HERPESTES CAFFER*, Gm. (?).

a. Moši, 5000 feet, August.

Is not properly a mountain animal, but occurs round the village for the sake of the fowls and other prey which it can manage to steal there.

Without the skull it is impossible to determine with certainty whether this is *H. ichneumon*, L., or *H. caffer*, Gm.; but the skin has, on the whole, rather more the appearance of *H. caffer*, and it is, therefore, provisionally referred to the southern form.

[21.] *HYÆNA CROUTA*.

Very abundant in vicinity of Kilima-njaro, but scarcely ascends higher than 3000 feet.

[22.] *HYÆNA STRIATA*.

Found on the mountain from 3000 to 6000 feet. Prowls round native villages. Also met with in Taveita and Taita.

23. *CANIS LATERALIS*, Scl.

a. Moši, 5000 feet, August.

Very common round the village, to which it is attracted by the chance of stealing refuse, &c.; not otherwise found much above 3000 feet.

[24.] *CANIS*, sp.

Mr. Johnston several times saw and heard a species of dog or fox, which he was not able to obtain, but which looked rather like a large fox, and emitted a distinct bark, similar to that of a domestic dog. It is just possible that this was the rare Abyssinian *Canis simensis*, Rüpp., no other animal appearing at all to agree with Mr. Johnston's description. Native name, *Nzudu*.

[25.] *SCIURUS ERYTHROPUS*?

On Kilima-njaro, between 3000 and 7000 feet.

[26.] *XERUS*, sp.

Taveita forest.

[27.] *GRAPHIURUS CAPENSIS*.

Kilima-njaro, 6000 feet. Nocturnal habits. *Vide* illustration, p. 392.

[28.] *MUS*, sp.?

A small black rat infesting native houses.

[29.] *AULACODUS SWINDERNIANUS*?

Reported by natives near Taveita. Native name, *Mbuku*.

[30.] *HYSTRIX ORISTATA*.

Very common in plains.

[31.] *LEPUS CAPENSIS*.

Killed near Taveita in plains.

32. *HYRAX BRUCEI*, Gray (?).

a, b. ♂ and ♀, 10,000 feet, on the south side of the mountain, 26th October.

Native name in Ki-čaga, *Kimburu*.

Fairly common in the mountain-forests, where they live entirely in the trees, and not among the rocks. They do not descend below about 7000 feet and range up to 11,000 feet. These two specimens were brought alive to Mr. Johnston; but the female, after giving birth to three young, died almost at once, and the male, refusing to eat, also died in three or four days.

The specimens agree exactly, so far as can be made out from skins only, with the type of Gray's *H. irrorata* (Ann. Mag. N. H. 1869, p. 242), a species, however, which Mr. Blandford (Geol. Zool. Abyss. p. 252, 1870) has shown to be probably not specifically separable

from the same author's *H. Brucei*. Mr. Blanford obtained his Abyssinian conies at elevations varying from 2000 to 8000 feet, and it was only to be expected that specimens inhabiting a locality so much

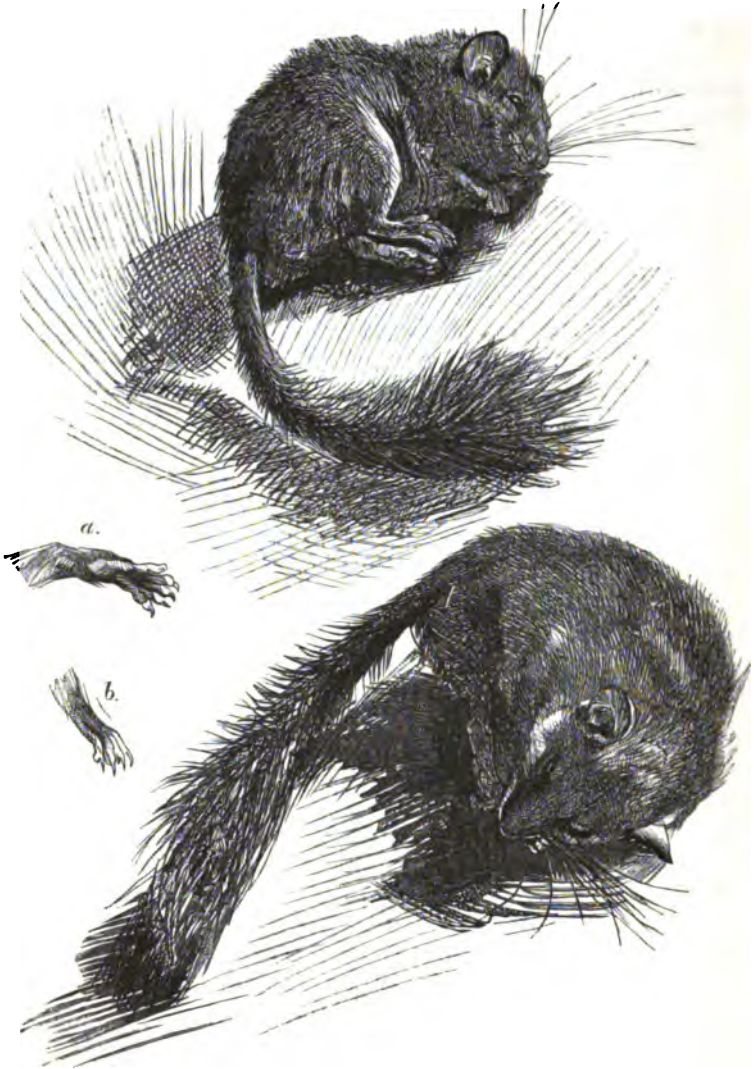


Fig. 78.—*Graphiurus Capensis*. (a) foot. (b) hand.

further south as Kilima-njaro should have been found ranging as high as 11,000 feet above the sea.

[33.] *ELEPHAS AFRICANUS*, L.

Mr. Johnston states that he himself saw and shot at elephants at an altitude of no less than 13,000 feet.

34. *RHINOCEROS BICORNIS*, L.

a, b, c. Horns ; Taveita, 2300 feet, end of October.

Very common on the elevated plains at the base of Kilima-njaro, but not ascending the mountain itself. Is not found in the true forest, but only in the bush.

These horns were brought in to Mr. Johnston by the A-kamba people, who obtain them by killing the animals with poisoned arrows.

35. *EQUUS BURCHELLI*, var. *CHAPMANI*. Thomas.

a. Taveita, 2300 feet, 25th August.

Very common, in herds of about twenty, on the open plains round the mountain, never ascending above about 2400 feet.

This specimen, like all those I have seen or heard of from localities on or north of the Zambezi, belongs to the so-called *Equus Chapmani*, Layard,⁶ in which the dark stripes extend on the limbs right down to the hoof.

That this form, however, cannot be distinguished specifically from the true *E. Burchelli* is sufficiently proved by the following sentence, extracted from Mr. T. E. Buckley's useful paper on the distribution of South African mammals: ⁷—"Out of five of these animals shot in one herd, there were individuals showing every variation of colour and marking, from the yellow and chocolate stripes to the pure black and white, the stripes in some ceasing above the hock, and in others being continued distinctly down to the hoof." On the whole, the somewhat ugly trinomial "*Equus Burchelli Chapmani*" seems to express fairly correctly the degree of distinctness to which this northern race has attained.

I am told by Mr. Thomson also that throughout his travels in Eastern Equatorial Africa he has never seen any but this leg-stripped race of Burchell's zebra.

[36.] *HIPPOPOTAMUS AMPHIBIUS*.

Common in Lake Jipé.

[37.] *PHACOCHERUS*, sp.

Wart-hogs are found on Kilima-njaro up to an elevation of 8000 feet.

[38.] *BUBALUS CAFFER*, SPARRM. (!).

According to Mr. Johnston, buffaloes occur commonly in the forests up to 14,000 feet. Whether these are *B. caffer* or *B. aquinoctialis*, Blyth (*B. centralis*, Gray), is doubtful, but a magnificent pair of horns brought by Mr. Thomson from the same region belong undoubtedly to

⁶ P. Z. S. 1865, p. 417.

⁷ P. Z. S., 1876, p. 282.

B. caffer; and I therefore provisionally refer those seen by Mr. Johnston to the same species.

[39.] GIRAFFA CAMELOPARDALIS.

Very abundant near Taveita, and along Ruvu valley. For native name, see Vocabulary of Ki-çaga, &c.

[40.] OREAS CANNA.

The eland is everywhere most abundant in the plains.

[41.] STREPSICEROS KUDU, Gray.

Mr. Johnston states that the kudu ranges up to no less than 14,000 feet, at which height it is by no means rare.^o

[42.] TRAGELAPHUS SYLVATICUS.

Common in plains, especially near Taveita.

[43.] ORYX BEISA ?

A species of *Oryx*, apparently *O. Beisa* seen at Ngurungani.

[44.] HIPPOTRAGUS NIGER.

Frequently seen in vicinity of Taveita.

[45.] HIPPOTRAGUS EQUINUS.

♀ shot near Taveita. *Vide* illustration, Chapter X.

[46.] ALCELAPHUS COKEI.

Most parts of the plains. *Vide* Chapter IV.

[47.] CONNOCHÆTES GNU.

Common in plains.

[48.] ÆPYCEROS MELAMPUS.

The beautiful pallah is everywhere common in the plains. Shot near Taveita. *Vide* illustration, Chapter X.

[49.] GAZELLA GRANTI?

A Taita hunter showed the author a pair of horns which he had procured from the scene of a lion's repast near Taveita, which seemed to belong to this graceful antelope.

[50.] CERVICAPRA BOHOR.

Common in plains, and apparently inhabiting mountains up to 10,000 feet.

[51.] NEOTRAGUS KIRKI?

Vide illustration, *ante*.

This *Neotragus* here illustrated was killed in Kilima-njaro at an altitude of over 11,000 feet. It apparently ranges up to 14,000 feet altitude in the dry season.

[52.] CEPHALOPUS MERGENS.

Met with in the grassy plains and near rivers.

[53.] OBYCTEROPUS ÆTHIOPICUS.

Common in the plains.

^o The same fact has been noticed by Captain R. F. Burton on the Cameroon Mountains. *Vide* "Abeokuta and the Cameroons," vol. ii.