

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE XXVIII.

- Fig. 1. *Astropecten Andersoni*, n. sp. Abactinal aspect, magnified $1\frac{1}{2}$ diameters.
2. " " Actinal aspect, magnified $1\frac{1}{2}$ diameters.
3. " " A portion of the abactinal surface, magnified 15 diameters.
4. " " Adambulacral and infero-marginal plates, magnified 8 diameters.
5. *Astropecten notopraptus*, n. sp. Abactinal aspect, magnified 3 diameters.
6. " " Actinal aspect, magnified 3 diameters.
7. " " A portion of the abactinal surface, magnified 40 diameters.
8. " " Adambulacral and infero-marginal plates, magnified 14 diameters.
9. *Nepanthia suffurcinata*, n. sp. Abactinal aspect, magnified $1\frac{1}{2}$ diameters.
10. " " Actinal aspect, magnified $1\frac{1}{2}$ diameters.
11. " " A portion of the abactinal surface, magnified 15 diameters.
12. " " Adambulacral plates and adjacent portion of the actinal surface, magnified 15 diameters.

Report on the Mammals, Reptiles, and Batrachians, chiefly from the Mergui Archipelago, collected for the Trustees of the Indian Museum. By JOHN ANDERSON, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

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As the object of the Expedition sent by the Indian Museum to Mergui was to bring together materials for the illustration of the marine fauna of that portion of the Bay of Bengal, it was impossible to undertake a systematic investigation of the vertebrate fauna of the islands themselves.

A small collection, however, of Mammals, Reptiles, and Batrachians was formed, and it is now proposed to place the names of the species on record. The Mammalia number 23, the Reptilia 53, and the Batrachia 12 species.

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3083

Among the five species of bats represented in the collection, *Emballonura semicaudata* is new to the Malayan Peninsula; while another, *Pteropus edulis*, is also an addition to the fauna of the Mergui district. A large bat, probably this species, occurs likewise on the islands in the neighbourhood of Sullivan or Lampi Island to the south.

A race of *Sus scrofa* is the mammal most generally distributed over the Archipelago. It is found on all the large islands, and on islands not over a square mile in extent. It is known to occur as far west as the Elphinstone group to the north, and to Clara Island to the south, these two localities, with King Island and Mergui, being the northern and southern limits of my observations. Whether this animal extends to the most westerly chain of islands, stretching from Tenasserim island in the north to Great Western Torres in the south, has not been ascertained, as these islands have not been explored.

Tragulus Kanchil is another feature of the Archipelago, and is almost as widely distributed as the pig. On Elphinstone Island it was nearly as numerous as on King Island and at Mergui, where the undergrowth of the forest is alive with it at sundown.

After these two species, the squirrels, *Sciurus caniceps* and *S. bicolor*, are the mammals most commonly seen.

Arctogale leucotis occurs on King, Owen, and Sullivan Islands, thus rendering it probable that it has a wide distribution over the Archipelago. *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*, on the other hand, was only observed on King Island.

The two monkeys found on the islands are *Semnopithecus obscurus* and *Macacus cynomolgus*; the former being the more widely distributed, while the latter seems to be more confined to the islands near the mainland, where mud-banks are exposed at low water, the food of this monkey consisting largely of Crustacea found in such situations.

Tupaia ferruginea is very abundant in the neighbourhood of the few villages on the banks of a creek at the head of the bay, on the north-eastern side of King Island. It was also met with on a recent clearing made by some Selungs in the centre of the island, and again on Elphinstone and Sullivan Islands.

The only locality in which I observed the nocturnal *Nycticebus tardigradus* was King Island, an island intimately linked to the mainland by a succession of islets separated from each other by narrow channels.

The tiger is found on all the large islands close to the mainland, its most western range being King and Domel Islands; and on the former it is said to be so numerous and aggressive, that the few villagers, on the eastern side, seldom venture into the forest; and at the village of Taing, at the head of the creek already mentioned, it is unsafe to penetrate into the jungle, as the Burmese and Karens settled there wage war on the animal by setting formidable dart- or spear-traps, the triggers of which, so to speak, are thread-like fibres stretched across the runs of wild animals, and, if broken through, entail almost certain death. The tiger, however, is unknown on such western islands as the Elphinstone and Grant groups, and on Sullivan Island, 70 miles to the south and distant about 10 miles from the coast; but it occurs on Campbell and Forbes Islands to the south of Kisseraing, the former being separated from the mainland by a channel only one mile in width, whereas the latter is eight miles in breadth, but linked to the coast by two small intermediate islands, the widest sea-passage being three miles.

Both elephants and rhinoceroses find their way on to the island of Kisseraing; but the former are unknown on any of the other islands. The latter, however, I was informed by Mr. Leslie, of the Maleewon Police, whose duties frequently took him past Campbell and Forbes Islands, occurred on those islands; but whether *Rhinoceros sondaicus*, the dried hide of which is sold in Mergui bazaars for food, or a two-horned species, he could not say. He also told me that he had once met a two-horned rhinoceros swimming in the sea close to High Island, about twenty miles distant from the mainland, but with islands everywhere in sight.

The names of the less prominent mammals met with are recorded in the accompanying list; but all the species, with the exception of the two bats already mentioned and *Rhizomys erythrogenys*, are well-known forms on the neighbouring mainland.

One of the features of the Reptilian fauna of the Archipelago is the occurrence of *Crocodylus porosus* in the neighbourhood of almost every island of any size, at least within the area that came under my observation. The great bay on the eastern side of King Island is fringed by mangrove swamps, through which some small freshwater streams flow. The detritus brought down by these streams has converted the head of the bay into a great mud-bank continuous with the mangrove swamps, and at low water it is an