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2. *Field Notes on the First and Second Expeditions of the Cape Museums' Mammal Survey of the Cape Province; and Descriptions of some New Subgenera and Subspecies.*—By G. C. SHORTRIDGE, Director, Kaffrarian Museum, King William's Town.

(With Plates VI and VII.)

EXPEDITION NO. I: LITTLE NAMAQUALAND  
(OCTOBER 1936-FEBRUARY 1937).

*On a Collection of approximately 2500 Mammals from Little Namaqualand, including Records of Species collected between Upington and the Auhrabies Falls in 1921.*

LITTLE NAMAQUALAND is here regarded as comprising the region lying between the Orange River in the north, latitude  $31^{\circ}$  in the south, longitude  $19^{\circ}$  in the east, and the Atlantic Ocean on the west. It is the most arid part of the Cape Province. The yearly rainfall at Springbok averages 7 inches, and at Port Nolloth  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Except on the Kamiesberg there is practically no surface water. The mountains and plateaux known as the Kamiesbergen, which rise to over 5000 feet (Welkom Kop, 5589 feet; Eselkop, 5456 feet), attract a much more adequate rainfall and have a contrastingly temperate climate. In consequence the vegetation on the higher slopes and plateaux is relatively luxuriant.

The Kamiesberg, frequently under cloud, forms a fertile oasis, and the mountain scenery between Garies and Leliefontein is very beautiful. Elsewhere the general aspect of Little Namaqualand during the greater part of the year is barren in the extreme: the sandy plains are sparsely clothed with dwarf desert plants, many of which are succulents. Apart from a narrow fringe along the Orange River, there are no trees of any description.

Between September and October, however, after the first light spring rains, Namaqualand changes, almost overnight, into one of the world's most magic gardens; the plains and hillsides for the short period of about six weeks become brilliantly carpeted with wild flowers, innumerable in variety and colours. On the Kamiesberg

the flowering season continues until about the middle of December. Except in the extreme south, along the eastern border, and close to the coast, there are almost everywhere masses of outcrop, stony kopjes and rocky mountain ranges. Camps were made at the following places:—

1. *Witwater*: altitude 3500-3800 feet, a plateau high up in the Kamiesberg almost entirely surrounded by stony hills. There are a few farms, and small plots under cultivation.

2. *Eselfontein*: altitude 4300-4350 feet, close to Leliefontein Hottentot Mission, the highest plateau on the Kamiesberg.

These plateaux are watered by small perennial mountain streams which disappear underground before reaching the plains. The vegetation on the higher slopes is heathy and not unlike that on the mountains of the south-western Cape. Light crops of wheat are grown; goats and a few cattle and sheep are kept.

3. *Platbakkies*: altitude 3460 feet, about 20 miles east of the Kamiesberg. Arid high-karooveld with occasional rocky ridges and rough stony tracts. Country quite typical of "Bushmanland."

4. *Goodhouse*: altitude 300 feet approx., on the south bank of the lower Orange River at Raman's Drift. At this point the Orange River flows between almost unbroken chains of highly mineralized hills which rise from 500-1200 feet. All level country consists of heavy white sand. For the greater part of the year hardly a trace of vegetation is visible, except along the river's edge where there is a thin fringe of tree growth. In contrast to these desert surroundings is the intensely green Citrus Estate of Goodhouse, irrigated by a system of canals which lead off from the river (owner, Mr. C. Weidner).

5. *Eenriet*: altitude 3300 feet approx., 7 miles north of Steinkopf. A waterhole close to rocky hills which rise between 500 and 800 feet above the surrounding level. Beyond the hills there are wide stretches of sandveld scantily clothed with low karoo scrub and intersected here and there by dry watercourses.

6. *Port Nolloth*: A camp (altitude 50 feet approx.) was made about 15 miles inland where the white coastal sand-dune belt meets the firmer reddish-sandy country, and near the first broken line of wind-swept hills which rise to about 600 feet.

7. *Kameelboom*: altitude 800 feet approx., in the bed of the dry Spog River, about half-way between Garies and Hondeklip Bay. Surrounding hills rise to about 1000 feet. Red and white sandy country much broken up by rocky outcrop. Vegetation largely succulent; shrubby bushes amongst the rocks and between the hills.

During the British and Kaffrarian Museums' Expedition to the middle Orange River in 1921, collections were made close to *Upington*, *Swartkop*, *Louisvale*, and the *Aughrabies Falls*. The Upington and Aughrabies camps were on the north bank of the Orange River, those near Swartkop and Louisvale on the south bank.

Out of 106 species recorded, 78 were collected; 20 are extinct, or nearly so; 4 are of doubtful occurrence. Names of species in brackets indicate that specimens were not obtained.

Contributors towards the Cape Museums' Mammal Survey include The Museum of Comparative Zoology (at Harvard University, United States of America), The South African Museum (Cape Town), The Natal Museum (Pietermaritzburg), The Albany Museum (Grahamstown), The McGregor Museum (Kimberley), The Port Elizabeth Museum, The East London Museum, The Kaffrarian Museum (King William's Town), The National Research Council, and Dr. H. Merensky.

#### FAMILY MACROSCELIDAE.

##### 1. *Elephantulus rupestris rupestris* (A. Smith).

Hottentot: /ŪŪ/Ā ≠ GUÏ DURÛB (Eenriet); /KHU ≠ GUÏB (Goodhouse); HĀ : NG DURÛB (Kamiesberg).

Specimens from Witwater, Platbakkies, Eenriet, and from Louisvale. The series from Eenriet may be taken as topotypical of *E. rupestris*, which was described from "Mountains towards mouth of Orange River." Plentiful in rocky situations. In the south replaced coastally and to some extent subcoastally by *Elephantulus capensis*.

In cool weather Elephant Shrews may often be seen jumping from rock to rock or running from one patch of cover to another at all hours of the day. I have occasionally observed them on warm moonlight evenings. Pregnant females contained 1-2 foetuses. Newly born young are relatively large, being the size of full-grown House Mice and clothed with short hair.

##### 2. *Elephantulus capensis* Roberts.

Specimens from Witwater, Eselfontein, Kameelboom, Paddagat.

*Elephantulus capensis* and *rupestris* are similar in habits, both favouring rocky and hilly situations. They overlap at Witwater in the southern Kamiesberg. At Eselfontein (about 1000 feet higher up than Witwater), and at Kameelboom (between the Kamiesberg and Hondeklip Bay), only *E. capensis* was collected. At Plat-

the Richtersveld which astonished him on account of its size, and was informed that all in that region were about as large. He recalled having read that Francis Galton had shot a specimen near Walvis-Bay weighing 160 lb. Scully was also informed that the Richtersveld Springbok did not trek, and suggested that they might be referable to a distinct west coast race.

*Antidorcas m. hofmeyri* from South West Africa is believed to average heavier than the typical subspecies; its range, therefore, presumably extends coastally across the lower Orange River into Little Namaqualand.\*

Springbok are almost extinct in Little Namaqualand: there are some still in the Richtersveld, possibly reinforced now and again by occasional migrants from South West Africa, and a few scattered troops in the north-west towards the Bushmanland Border.

"Springbok were plentiful near Goodhouse up to about 1925: scattered herds of from 10-20 still occur. They used to cross the Orange River from the north at Sandlings Drift in herds of 100 at a time during the winter months when the water was low. They still cross over periodically in small numbers."—C. Weidner (1937).

(99. *Oryx gazella gazella* (Linnaeus).)

Hottentot: /HAIB (Eenriet); GÄEB (Kamiesberg);  
/GÄES (Goodhouse).

A few Gemsbok still survive in the Richtersveld, near the mouth of the Orange River, where they are protected so far as possible. In January 1937 (Port Nolloth) a poacher was fined for shooting one.

(In 1835-6, Alexander recorded Gemsbok from Komekas, near the Orange River mouth.)

They are extinct elsewhere in Little Namaqualand, except for occasional individuals or small parties that cross the Orange River at low water from South West Africa between its junction with the Fish River and Pella.

"There are very few Gemsbok south of the Orange River to-day; on the north bank they were plentiful up to about 1930, where, from Sperlingsputs westwards, herds of from 30 and 40 to 60 were seen together. They

\* If this is correct, the typical race (*A. m. marzupidis*) from "Southern Cape Colony" may be extinct in a feral state everywhere south of the Orange River and only represented there to-day inside fenced farms. I doubt the validity of *A. m. centralis*, typically from Deelfontein: the Kafirarian Museum possesses a mounted head from Middelburg, only 20 miles from Deelfontein, which does not differ from Cradock and Bedford specimens.

have been scarce since the great drought of 1932 and have been much shot out."—C. Weidner (1937).

(100. *Strepsiceros strepsiceros strepsiceros* (Pallas).)

Hottentot: XEIB (Eenriet, Kamiesberg); XYB (Goodhouse).

Kudu are practically extinct in Little Namaqualand: there may be a few in the Richtersveld; and occasional stragglers from South West Africa have been recorded within recent years from mountains close to the Orange River between the Fish River mouth and Pella.

In 1921 I saw Kudu tracks on the north bank of the Orange River near the Auhrabies Falls.

In 1779, H. J. Wikar (Journals) observed "a large herd of Kudu" in Little Namaqualand.

"The last Kudu shot in the Kamiesberg was between thirty and forty years ago."—J. Studer (1936).

"The last four Kudu observed near Goodhouse were at Haakiesdoorn Farm (Sperlingsputs) in about 1921: one of them was watched coming down to drink. In about 1933 a single individual was seen close to Pella Drift."—C. Weidner (1937).

(101. *Taurotragus oryx oryx* (Pallas).)

Hottentot: /HANS (Eenriet); /KHAN (Goodhouse).

In 1835-36, Alexander found Eland in Little Namaqualand near the mouth of the Orange River (presumably in the Richtersveld).

(102. *Syncerus caffer caffer* (Sparrman).)

Hottentot: /GAUB (Goodhouse).

In 1779, H. J. Wikar (Journals) saw skulls of Buffalo, which had been killed by natives, before crossing the Orange River, and, later, observed big herds along the banks of that river.

There is a "Buffels River" in Little Namaqualand.

FAMILY RHINOCEROTIDAE.

(103. *Ceratotherium simum simum* (Burchell).)

Hottentot: /HĀBA (Eenriet).

Although the Black Rhinoceros (*D. bicornis*) was always, presumably, more plentiful than *Ceratotherium simum* south of the Orange River, /HĀBA, the Hottentot name, still locally surviving,

refers correctly to the White species, an indication of its former occurrence in Little Namaqualand.\*

(104. *Diceros bicornis bicornis* (Linnaeus).)

Nama Hottentot (Great Namaqualand): /KI: S.

H. J. Wikar (Journals, 1779) met with Rhinoceros at Caboofontein, Kaykoop (many of these early name-places have been lost sight of), and elsewhere in Little Namaqualand.†

FAMILY EQUIDAE.

(105. *Equus (Quagga) quagga quagga* Gmelin.)

Hottentot: /HEI/NOREB (Eenriet); ∞NÚ/GOREB (Goodhouse).

Hottentot names for two kinds of Zebra still survive in Little Namaqualand; it is presumed that the Zebra of the plains was the "Cape" Quagga. In 1779, Wikar (Journals) noted the occurrence of "Wild Horses," as opposed to "Zebras" in Little Namaqualand.‡

(106. *Equus (Hippotigris) hartmannae hartmannae* Matschie.)

Hottentot: /ŪE NOREB (Eenriet); /GOREB (Goodhouse, Kamiesberg).

It seems almost certain that the Mountain Zebra which formerly existed in Little Namaqualand was the South West African *Equus hartmannae*. Within the last ten years or so there have been one or two accounts of stray Zebra seen between Klipfontein and the Richtersveld; these may have been temporary migrants from the north bank of the Orange River which, in the dry season, is fordable in several places.§

\* In the Port Elizabeth Museum there is a weathered pair of White Rhinoceros horns (*oswellii* type), discovered at Seheim (Great Namaqualand) by G. Wicham in 1919.

† In 1895-96, Alexander recorded both species of Rhinoceros from the Fish River Valley in Great Namaqualand.

‡ In Alexander's Map (1835-36) "Plains with Zebra" is inscribed on the north bank of the Orange River about opposite to where Goodhouse now stands; but the Zebras recorded by Alexander from Great Namaqualand, "with striped neck and body and unstriped white legs," were perhaps referable to the Griqualand West subspecies, *E. quagga burchelli*, now, like the Cape Quagga, extinct.

§ *E. hartmannae*, which has a wide but disconnected and sparse distribution in the coastal mountains of South West Africa, is said still to occur in southern Great

There are traditions of the past existence of Mountain Zebra on the Kamiesberg, supported by name places, such as Eselkop, Eselfontein, "Wilde Paard Hoek" (Alexander), etc.

EXPEDITION NO. 2: THE NORTH-WEST CAPE PROVINCE  
(NOVEMBER 1937-FEBRUARY 1938).

On a Collection of over 1500 Mammals from the Olifants  
River Basin and surrounding country.

Five main collecting camps were made at the following places:—

1. *Nieuwoudtville*: 42 miles west of Calvinia; altitude 3500 feet approx. Situated on the western edge of the Bokkeveld Mountains near the summit of Van Rhynsdorp Pass. Heathy high-veld with numerous small springs; and fairly open, level, and undulating sandy bush-veld; a few patches of limestone outcrop. One or two farms and a small amount of cultivation.

2. *Travellers Rest*: 18 miles north-east of Clanwilliam; altitude 600 feet approx. A sheltered valley, partly under cultivation, between rocky hills and ridges of outcrop. A belt of swamp vegetation along the banks of the Boontjes Stream, an affluent of the Doorn River—itsself a tributary of the Olifants River.

3. *Kliphuis (Pakhuis Pass)*: about 11 miles east of Clanwilliam, on a northern spur of the Cedarberg Mountains; altitude 2500-3000 feet. A narrow defile between precipitous cliffs; rather thick bush and much rocky outcrop; several mountain streams.

4. *Hex River Estate*\*: low-lying country close to the Olifants River, partly surrounded by steep rocky hills: flats under cultivation, orange orchards, etc.; altitude 300 feet approx. 10 miles north of Citrusdal.

5. *Compagnies Drift*: 10 miles inland from Lamberts Bay; altitude 100 feet approx. Undulating soft sandy country with an even peppering of comparatively low bush. Occasional narrow stretches

Namaqualand between the Fish River mouth and Kanus Railway Station (near Luderitz).

In 1895, C. Weidner met with many Mountain Zebra in the Tiras Mountains in Great Namaqualand, and, as recently as 1921, saw a few on some hills about 10 miles north of the Orange River opposite Goodhouse.

\* This Hex River is a small tributary of the Olifants River, and must not be confused with the better-known river of the same name which rises in the Hex River Mountains.