

The forest elephant is said to carry its head vertically whereas the open-country one carries it more or less horizontally when running. The ears are reputed to be smaller and have a distinctive shape; the posterior border is practically semi-circular in outline and is separated by a distinct notch from the lobe which is in the form of an equilateral triangle and does not project much, if at all, below the line of the throat. Like the rest of the story about ears as given above this may prove to be untrue.

Elephants of this species appear to be more hairy than the others, especially as regards the bristles of the chin, which may be as much as 12 inches long, and the upper third of the trunk where they are from 4 to 6 inches long. The top of the head is also decidedly hairy, whilst the hairs on the tip of the tail may reach 16 inches or more. As was mentioned in the description of the last species, there appear to be five nails on the fore-feet and four on the hind.

With the rapid disappearance of the forest in Southern Nigeria this species is being driven into remote corners where the population is comparatively slight, but it is still pretty generally distributed and is still to be found in parts of each Province. It is safe to say that wherever there are elephants there are Hausa poachers, and the species has been so overhunted that few really mature ones remain. Seasonal migrations along certain well-defined lines are said to take place, but we are almost entirely dependent upon native sources of information regarding these, so that our knowledge of the movements is very incomplete.

Field Notes on Nigerian Mammals

RED RIVER HOG

NATIVE NAMES : Yoruba TURUKU
 Yoruba (Ijebu) ESI
 Boki (Cross River) EKOROK
 Anyang " OKWANDE
 Ekwé " NGUMI
 Ibo " EZE OFIA (?)

THE Red River Hog is found throughout the closed coastal High Forest region and in the savannah zone as far north as there are really heavy fringing forests or *kurumi* of the Guinea vegetational type, certainly as far north as Minna. These animals must have heavy cover, and although they frequently go into the grass country to feed they only do so at night as a general rule, and retreat during the day to closed forest,

Nigerian Field, 9 (1), 1940

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HIPPO

NATIVE NAMES : *Hausa* DORINA
Yoruba ERIN OMI
Ibo OTOBO

There is little point in giving full field notes on this well-known animal. In the localities where he occurs his presence is always obvious and observation is easy. Hippo probably move considerably in the wet season in country liable to flooding. Hunters report the occurrence of Hippo in the upper reaches of the Ogun south-east of Shaki during the rains. There are most certainly none here in the dry season and it is surmised that they must come from one of the Niger tributaries.

The accompanying drawings illustrate the structural differences between the Hippopotamus and the Pygmy Hippo. Diagram A shows the skull of a Hippopotamus, with those prominent cups over the eyes which are noticeable even in the youngest specimens. Diagram A¹ shows the tusk sockets in the lower jaw of the same species. Diagram B shows the skull of an adult Pygmy Hippo, with no raised bone over the eye sockets. Diagram B¹ shows the tusk sockets in the lower jaw of the Pygmy Hippo.

RHINO

It is said that there are a few of these animals on the Gongola, a tributary of the Benue, but it is very doubtful if there are many other localities in Nigeria where they occur, and such localities are probably all in the north-east. An old Nigerian Handbook reported the presence of Rhino north of Ogoja, where there are, of course, none now. This report received confirmation from Munshi hunters near Alifokpa in that neighbourhood about 1925. They volunteered to a steward boy (who neither knew nor suspected that there was such a creature as a Rhino), while talking to him about "beef" in general, that some years before they had killed two curious animals "second to elephant" with horns on their noses, but that they had never seen any others. When subsequently questioned by me they refused to give any further information. It is quite possible that these were strays hunted down from the Gongola region and were the origin of the record in the Handbook. I think this more probable than that they had, in the recent past, a considerably wider range than their present one.