

ZOOLOGICAL RESULTS

OF

THE SWEDISH ZOOLOGICAL EXPEDITIONS TO SIAM

1911—1912 & 1914—1915

V.

MAMMALS II

BY

NILS GYLDENSTOLPE

WITH SIX PLATES

COMMUNICATED JUNE 7TH BY HJ. THÉEL AND E. LÖNNBERG

STOCKHOLM
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Acanthion klossi. THOS.

The Porcupine collected at Meh Lem in Northern Siam on the 10th of March 1912 and recorded by me under the name of *Hystrix bengalensis* BLYTH. (Arkiv för Zoologi, Band 8. No. 23. 1914 p. 20) ought to be referred to the species which has recently been separated and described by THOMAS under the name of *Acanthion klossi* (Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 8. vol. 17. 1916 p. 139). This species, the type of which came from Tenasserim, may be separated from its nearest ally *Acanthion brachyurus* LINN. by its shorter frontals and its longer nasals. *Acanthion bengalensis* BLYTH seems to be a somewhat doubtful species of which no modern specimens are to be had. In *Acanthion klossi* the quills are stated by THOMAS to be almost white with a black ring about the middle. This statement agrees well with the specimen in my Siamese collection, in which the nasals also are more than twice the length of the frontals (measured mesially).

During my last journey in Siam no Porcupines were obtained, but I several times both in Northern Siam and in the Siamese Malaya found loose quills. As far as I can remember they were all of a whitish colour with a black ring.

Therefore it seems as if *Acanthion klossi* was distributed at least as far down in the Malay Peninsula as to about Lat. N. 12°. In the southern parts of the Malay Peninsula another species occurs the true *Acanthion brachyurus* of LINNÆUS.

Elephas maximus. LINN.

Wild elephants seemed to be fairly common in the jungles on the boundary between Siam and Tenasserim to count from the numbers of tracks, both fresh and old, which were observed at these localities.

Even in the northern parts of the country as for instance in the wild and uninhabited country at the neighbourhood of Doi Vieng Par numbers of footprints were observed now and then during my excursions. No specimens were, however, encountered as I did not waste the time following up these huge animals which are strictly forbidden to be shot without the special permission of the King.

Rhinoceros sumatrensis. CUV.

According to the natives the smaller one-horned Rhinoceros is the most common form of Rhinoceros occurring in Northern Siam.

The two-horned Rhinoceros is, however, also stated to inhabit the same districts. The neighbourhood of Chieng Hai is considered as one of the best hunting stations for these large Pachyderms, and during my stay there I also several times observed their tracks in the vicinity. Unfortunately I visited Chieng Hai in the middle of the rainy season and the surrounding country was all flooded. Chieng Hai is situated on a large plain chiefly covered by high grass and reeds which makes travelling very difficult. However, I once tried to get a Rhinoceros, the fresh tracks of which we found. We followed

tracks for a considerable distance in the high grass through which the animal had made veritable tunnels but as the water was very deep we were not able to stalk as silent as necessary and suddenly I heard the animal rushing away uttering a grunting note.

To hunt Rhinoceros on elephants-back is considered by the natives as impossible because the Rhino will at once attack the elephant as soon as it gets wind of it. Elephants are also said to be very afraid of the Rhinoceroses and would run away as soon as the Rhino is going to attack.

Rhinoceros sondaicus. Cuv.

This is apparently a more southern form being far more common in the southern districts than *Rhinoceros sumatrensis* Cuv.

At two different occasions during my stay among the mountains in the Siamese Malaya on about Lat. N. 12° I observed the tracks of a Rhinoceros probably belonging to this species. They are, however, very shy and retiring in their habits, and are therefore seldom met with or shot especially by European sportsmen.

Mr. C. G. SHORTRIDGE, however, succeeded in shooting a female specimen near Bankachon in Southern Tenasserim. Bankachon is situated some distance south of the places I visited, though on the other side of the Peninsula, and surrounded by dense evergreen jungles.

Tapirus indicus. Cuv.

The Tapir or »Samset», as it is called in Siamese, occurs here and there on suitable localities in the Siamese Malaya at least as far north as to about Lat. N. 13°.

It is, however, nowhere common and keeps to the thickest and most impenetrable jungles.

According to the native hunters it is considered as one of the most difficult animals to track. Tapirs most often inhabit lowlying country but they do not avoid the low hills as I have verified myself. During my stay among the mountains on the boundary between Siam and Tenasserim on about Lat. N. 12° I several times struck the tracks of tapirs in the densest parts of the evergreen forests which clothed the neighbourhood of Hat Sanuk and Hue Sai, both small creeks running down to the Gulf of Siam. In these forests small saltlicks abound and the surroundings of these »nongs», as they are called in Siamese, were favourable resorts for the tapirs, which frequently came down to drink the water during the night-time. Though I several times waited at these saltlicks during moonlight nights I never succeeded in getting a tapir, nor did I hear any.

Once I found a quite fresh resting-place of a tapir and when I told my natives hunters what I wanted to follow the track they only shook their heads telling me that it was impossible to get near the animal.