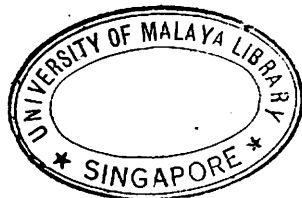


*Robert A. Maddell
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**A NATURALIST
IN
SARAWAK.**

By

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"pool" of unknown dimensions. Though feeding on bamboo and rotan they also do immense damage to cultivation, but in spite of their comparative lack of enemies they have neither increased in numbers nor extended their range as might have been expected. The wild cattle may or may not be indigenous, but in Sarawak at least its numbers are comparatively few and the herds seldom more than a dozen at a time. Although it retires to lie up in old jungle it is of course a grazing species, entirely dependent on cultivation and the secondary growth that springs up there in a year or two, its only more or less natural habitat being the river banks far up stream in the interior, where it can graze on the coarse grasses in the narrow strip between river and jungle. As a jungle species it finds but little to eat and is consequently more rare in tree-covered Sarawak than it is on the grass-covered plains of North Borneo.

Save that it is not usually gregarious, the sambhur deer resembles the wild pig in being found scattered through the old jungle in ones and twos at wide intervals from mountain tops to the sea shore, feeding on fallen fruit and browsing as best it can. Along the river bank it takes advantage of the coarse grasses which line them, but within limits deer are partial to rice and other cultivated crops. On the whole it is rather easily shot, snared or hunted, but in the vicinity of certain Land Dayak and most Kayan villages, where the religious prejudices of the natives forbid the eating of venison, the sambhur deer are very numerous. They can be seen any evening in the cleared rice fields or can be heard any night from the native houses and I have even been shown a hole in the floor and a specially long-hafted spear, designed to drive off the deer underneath the long-house village. Like the bearded pig, the sambhur deer lives scattered through the jungle in ones and twos, scrounges a better living on the river banks and only reaches its peak when allowed to in the vicinity of cultivation.

Of the two-horned Sumatran rhinoceros it can only be said that persecution by native hunters has driven it into the most remote, often mountain localities. Never a very numerous species it lives scattered in ones and twos, browsing in the jungle as best it can, never approaching or showing any inclination for cultivated areas.

To revert to the wild pig, in the same category comes the long tailed crab-eating monkey, occasional troops from six to ten are found far away in the inland mountain jungles but more often they are to be seen on the river banks in the vicinity of rice fields, where like the pig they do immense damage. Perhaps their commonest habitat is in the down river, tidal, mangrove, nipa and jungle swamps where troops of thirty occur, often searching the mud banks and sea shore for anything they can find. Here they meet the crocodile but on the whole they have few enemies and are seldom alone, a scrounging, semi-parasitic species which has made a fair success of its life. Compared with its relatives, it is far commoner than the baboon-like, more terrestrial pig-tailed monkey. This kind is often met with in the jungle, less often on the river bank and is only a part-time crop raider which for some reason has not thrived like the long-tailed monkey, than which it is more powerful and more aggressive.