

# GUIDE

TO THE

## ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS

OF THE

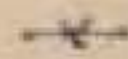
# RAFFLES MUSEUM,

SINGAPORE.



BY

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Director.



WITH 21 PLATES.



*SINGAPORE:*

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# PREFACE.



**T**HE zoological collections of the Raffles Museum are practically restricted to the Malay region so that this book, besides being a Guide to the Museum, is a popular introduction to the study of the Malay Fauna. In fact it would have been more correct to entitle the book 'An Introduction to the study of the Fauna of the Malay region, as illustrated by the specimens in the Raffles Museum,' especially as no attempt has been made in its pages actually to guide the visitor from case to case and shelf to shelf. The visitor is expected to use his eyes, and if here and there he should experience a little difficulty in finding a particular bird or insect, he will also, when successful, partake of the joy of the numerous collectors who brought the specimens together.

Of the visitors to this Museum the vast majority are unfortunately not acquainted with the English language. This 'Guide' will therefore mainly reach the Singapore European resident, the Passenger and the Singapore schoolboy. The first with his scanty leisure and the second with his short hours on shore cannot be expected to pay more than a hasty visit to the Museum. But the case is different with the Singapore schoolboy, and it is hoped that the book will be welcome to him and that he will make ample use of it. Of recent years the number of schoolboys, who have been going round the galleries note book in hand, has been steadily increasing, and this has always been a pleasing sight. The writer would be fully rewarded for the trouble of compiling the following pages, if this 'Guide' should be their constant companion on their future visits to the Museum.

The illustrations are photographs of specimens actually in the collection. For many of them I am indebted to Mr. Sim Boon Kwang and to his brother, Mr. Sim Boon Eng, who took the photographs and most generously presented them to the Museum for the purpose of this 'Guide.' A few pictures were taken by myself and the rest by local firms. The photograph of the Entrance Hall (plate II) is reproduced with the kind permission of Messrs. Lambert & Co.

Finally I wish to tender my best thanks to Mr. Makepeace for his kind help in discussing with me the scope and arrangement of this 'Guide,' in selecting the illustrations and reading the proofs.

RAFFLES MUSEUM,  
SINGAPORE,  
*November, 1908.*

R. HANITSCH,  
*Director.*



Of Squirrels, Malay name 'tupai,' there is a great variety in this region. The most common one is the 'Malayan Squirrel' (*Sciurus notatus*). It is greyish brown above, rusty red below and has white and black stripes at its sides. Abundant too is a smaller form, the Slender Squirrel (*Sciurus tenuis*) which is greyish brown above and white below. It is very destructive. A handsome species is Raffles' Squirrel (*Sciurus prevostii*) which is black above, chestnut below and white at the sides. But the most beautiful species in the Museum is a large squirrel from Sarawak, *Reithrosciurus macrotis*, which is chestnut brown, with black and white stripes at its sides, long tufts on its ears and a huge bushy tail. (see pl. IV, fig 2).—Of Flying Squirrels two species are exhibited, *Pteromys nitidus*, chestnut in colour, and *Pteromys oral*. The latter species is very variable in colour. The specimen shown is nearly black.

## ELEPHANTS (*Proboscidea*).

The sportsman will probably be most interested in this group and the next one, the Ungulata, which together form the large game of Malaya. Unfortunately the giant of the large game, the Indian Elephant or Gajah (*Elephas indicus*), can hardly be said to be represented in the Museum. There are only two diminutive stuffed specimens in the collection, and only the skull of a full-grown female. The Indian Elephant differs from its African brother by its flatter forehead, its considerably smaller ears, and by the plates of the molar teeth being elongated, and not lozenge-shaped as in the African. It inhabits India, Ceylon, Assam, Burma, Siam, Cochin-China, the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and North Borneo, but is absent from Java. On the Malay Peninsula the elephant occurs in all States, but is more numerous in Johore, Pahang and Negri Sembilan, than in Perak and Selangor.

## HOOFED ANIMALS (*Ungulata*).

The Malayan Ungulates or Hoofed Mammals are classified into *Rhinocerotidae*, *Tapiridae*, *Bovidae* (Oxen), *Cervidae* (Deer), *Tragulidae* (Mousedeer) and *Suidae* (Pigs).

There are two species of Rhinoceros in the Malay region. The Javan Rhinoceros or Badak gajah (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) is the larger of the two. It possesses one horn only which in the female may even be absent altogether, and has two small incisors between the tusks of the lower jaw. It ranges from Eastern



Bengal, Burma, Tenasserim and the Malay Peninsula to Java, Sumatra and Borneo. Unfortunately the Museum does not yet possess a specimen of it.—The Hairy-eared Sumatran Rhinoceros or Badak kerbau (*Rhinoceros sumatrensis*) has two horns, but no small incisors between the lower tusks. It is smaller and more hairy than the first-named species, and the folds of its skin are less marked. It ranges from Assam, Burma, Tenasserim and the Malay Peninsula to its typical habitat in Sumatra and Borneo, but is absent from Java. The Museum possesses a stuffed specimen from Perak, a female, presented in 1901 by Mr. R. von Pustau, Acting Consul for Austria at that time; and two skeletons, one of them from N. Borneo, presented in 1901 by Mr. Rowe.

The Tapir has a remarkable distribution. Four species of it occur in Central and South America, and one in Malaya. The Malay Tapir or Tenok (*Tapirus indicus*) is the largest of them. The American species are uniformly coloured, but in the Malayan form the front part of the body is dark brown, and the hinder part, from the shoulders onwards, greyish white. Still more remarkably coloured are the newly-born specimens of which two are exhibited, one of them, from Malacca, presented by Sir Cecil Smith in 1888, and one from Palembang, Sumatra, presented by Mr. Mahomed Yahya in 1905. They are marked with broad longitudinal streaks and spots of white (see pl. VIII, fig. 2). These markings soon disappear, and a slightly older specimen, also exhibited, shows only a single faint white streak on either shoulder. The Malay Tapir is known only from Tenasserim, the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra. Europeans had long been familiar with the American Tapir, but it is strange that the Malay one became known to them only last century when Major W. Farquhar described and figured it in a letter dated Malacca, January, 29, 1816, published in the "Asiatick Researches", Vol. XIII (1820).

The Malayan Bovidae include the Seladang, the Banting, the Water-Buffalo, the Anoa and the Serow.—The Seladang or Gaur (*Bos gaurus*) has been called the "finest species of the genus *Bos* in the world." Lydekker, in his 'Great and Small Game of India, Burma and Tibet' says that it occasionally stands as much as 6 feet or even 6 feet 4 inches (=19 hands) at the withers. "A very marked character", according to the same authority, "is the strong development of the dorsal ridge, and its very sudden termination in a step about midway between the shoulders and the root of the tail". Whilst the general colour is dark olive brown, the "forehead, from between