

of the yolk-sack they move into the shallowest water possible, from one to half an inch in depth.

After passing through the fry stage, the slightly bigger fish betake themselves to the reeds and grass growing in the springs and when nearly adult come out into the open and move about with the shoals.

Their food, besides ova and fry, appears to consist of water fleas (*Cyclops*) and vegetable matter. There being a very large number of fish in each spring, food material is apparently scarce.

This fact and the restricted area of their habitat appear to account for the fact of their stunted growth, three to three and a half inches being an exceptionally large fish. Their adaptability to the strength (in soda) and temperature of the water is also worthy of note.

In conclusion, every credit is due to Mr. F. W. Graham who first brought the occurrence of these fish to notice.

THE WATER-ELEPHANT

BY R. J. CUNINGHAME

M. Le Petit, who is at present in Nairobi, was for a period of five years travelling in the French Congo, and he has kindly furnished me with a somewhat detailed account of the Water-Elephant.

The first time he saw one was three and a half years ago (about June 1907) when travelling down the River Congo, near the junction of the River Kassai with the River Congo.

The second occasion was in the swampy country between Lake Leopold II and Lake Tumba near to where the M'fini River finds its exit from Lake Leopold II. This is in what is known as the Lukenye District.

His first view of a water-elephant was that of a head and neck only, at some considerable distance, appearing above the surface of the water; and he, being in a boat or native 'dug-out canoe,' thought it was a big tree-snag. The natives with him told him it was a water-elephant, and shortly afterwards

it sank below the surface of the water. On the second occasion, he saw five of these animals on land and was able to look at them for fully one minute through his glasses and, as they were in tall grass 400 yards distant, he had a good opportunity to observe. He took a shot at one of them and hit it in the shoulder, but though he offered the natives an ample reward they never were able to recover it.

Height at shoulder, 6 to 8 feet. Legs relatively short. Back curved, as in *E. africanus*. Tail not observed. Neck about twice the length of *E. africanus* with ears similar in shape to those of that species, but relatively smaller. Head most distinctly long and ovoid in form, with trunk only about 2 feet in length. The shape of the feet was seen in the spoor on sand and showed four toes distinctly separated as in the hippopotamus, but the weight of the body seemed to be carried by the toes largely, while the plantar impression of the sole was not very pronounced. The ground was level where this spoor was seen. All the animals observed had no traces of tusks. Skin is apparently hairless, smooth and shiny resembling that of a hippopotamus, only darker. The gait was elephantine, and the last seen of those five water-elephants was their disappearance into the water, which was deep. In habit they are nocturnal, coming out to feed on strong rank grass after sundown. They spend the day in the water much as hippopotami do. The Babumas (fishing natives) know this animal well and have a name for it, 'Ndgoko na Maiji,' meaning the water-elephant, and they fear it greatly as it is known to rise from the water and with its short trunk capsize canoes. It is also very destructive to the nets and reed fish-traps of the natives. Its locality is apparently very restricted, and the natives maintain they are not very numerous.

The above description is certainly circumstantial, and M. Le Petit furnishes a similar account to the museum of Paris which I hear Mr. R. Lydekker (of the Natural History Museum) has referred to. Up till now, I believe, he has made no pronouncement on the new animal.

Should a specimen be obtained it would certainly prove a new genus, and the discovery of such among the *Proboscidea* would create intense zoological interest.

Professor Osborn (of American fame) wrote a treatise on the development of elephants from prehistoric times, and the author (I am speaking from memory) depicts the earlier forms as animals somewhat resembling the present-day tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*). Evolution proceeded and the animal changed structurally in many ways, but during the continuance of many radical changes the same long-shaped, ovoid type of skull retained its essential characteristics, and the cervical vertebræ were antero-posteriorly much longer than is now the case in modern elephants. These two characteristics are very marked in the water-elephants, and M. Le Petit is most emphatic that the heads reminded him more of enormous tapirs than of any other existing animal.

REPORT ON A SKULL FROM BRITISH EAST AFRICA¹

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in Physical Anthropology, Cambridge*

I. INTRODUCTORY

The skull and scapula to be described in the following paragraphs were submitted to me for examination by the Council of the East Africa and Uganda Natural History Society. I desire to tender my cordial thanks to the Society for their kindness, and in particular I must express my gratitude to H.M. Senior Provincial Commissioner, C. W. Hobley, Esq., C.M.G., who has interested himself in the matter not only by making the arrangements necessary for the transmission of the specimens, but also in providing detailed information relating to the circumstances of their discovery.²

Mr. Hobley has thus ascertained that the skull and scapula were found by an Italian missionary at an altitude of 8000 feet

¹ Reprinted from *Journal of Anatomy and Physiology*, vol. xlvii. by kind permission of Dr. Duckworth.

² Mr. J. W. T. McClellan kindly presented the specimen to the Society's Museum.