

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

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### No. I.—DISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN ANIMALS IN SIAM.

#### A REPLY.

Referring to a number of queries which appeared on page 53 of the last *Journal*, I see you ask for information on the following points :—

*Bos sondaicus*. Eastern limit. They are reported in Annam near the coast between Nah Trang and Phan Rang. I saw three, apparently all bulls, on 5th June 1913, in about E. Long.  $107^{\circ}$ , N. Lat.  $12^{\circ}$ — $13^{\circ}$ , in Cambodia. I also saw a fine head of *B. sondaicus* owned by Mons. Rauffman at Ban Methuot in Annam about  $106^{\circ}$  E. Long.

It is interesting to note that what may prove to be a variety of *B. sondaicus* has been provisionally named *B. sondaicus porteri* by Lydekker in his "*Ox and its Kindred*." I was with Mr. Porter when he shot the animal. It was very dark coloured and spotted closely with small, pure white spots about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter, more especially on the neck, and the horns appeared to drop lower on each side of the head than those of the ordinary "tsine." I have since shot a bull with the same characteristics.

The skull and part of the skin of Mr. Porter's animal were sent to the British Museum.

Does *Bos frontalis* exist in Siam? I have not yet seen a head.

*Bos bubalus*. In Cambodia I saw the tracks of buffalo about E. Long.  $105^{\circ}$ , and the guides with me stated that these were wild animals.

*Bos gaurus*. The Comte de Honditot of Phan Rang told me that the Gaur was found in the Annamite mountains.

*Cyon rutilans*. I have shot three of these in the Meh Woong and one this year (1914) on the right bank of the Meh Khong between Luang Prabang and Pak Lay. I sent the skull and skin of the latter to the Bombay Natural History Society as they had asked for one. The Secretary informed me that it does not differ from the Burmese variety.

*Canis aureus*. I should like to know if the jackal is found in Siam; and if so, if it has the same distinctive cry as the Indian animal,

with which I am familiar. My brother and I saw an animal in the Klong Suan Mak which we both felt sure was a jackal. However I have never heard the cry of a jackal, which cannot be mistaken, during 15 years residence in Siam.

G. F. WESTON ELWES.

March, 1914.

[There appears to be no doubt that the jackal is widely, although locally, distributed throughout this country. Eds.]

No. II.—SEASONAL OILY SECRETION IN GAUR  
OR SELADANG.

On entering a narrow valley in January, 1914, the Karen guide informed me that it was the habitat of a bull Gaur (*Bos gaurus*)—notorious for some 10 years past, and which never ran away but frequently chased man. While on the march I was fortunate enough to meet the animal and shoot him, and he certainly bore out what the Karen had said in not running away, though, possibly owing to the disadvantage of position, he made no attempt to come up the steep bank at us.

The animal had ample warning of my approach, as two coolies, having got ahead of me, dropped their loads and ran back on seeing the great beast standing in the stream and staring up at them. I was followed by some 30 coolies in pretty close order and all were conversing fairly loudly. The 8-bore was brought up from the rear of the line and I went forward to where the men had dropped their loads, but from that point could only get a head shot, so went on some 8 metres and had an easy shot at the flank at 20 metres distance.

The 2 oz. ball, entering high on the right side, passed through the heart and out on the other side, missing all bones I believe, though I did not wait to see the animal cut up.

On being hit he crashed through the elephant grass on the far bank, and died some 20 metres only from the spot at which he had previously stood.

The whole neck and shoulders were covered with an oily secretion, making the black hair of the neck glisten, and the scrotum and inguinal region were dirty orange yellow, and also very greasy.