

ZOO-GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS FOR SIAM.

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While residents in Siam know the position of, or have no difficulty in locating, the towns, villages and various geographical features of that country, such is not the case with non-residents, who are furnished as a rule with only the small-scale map of an ordinary atlas. For many naturalists it would, therefore, lead to a clearer understanding of the zoology of the country, if a number of zoo-geographical divisions were agreed upon and generally employed.

For these I suggest the following :—

1. Northern Siam. The Laos country, mostly mountainous or submontane, north of a line (approximately Lat. $17^{\circ} 50'$, but for all practical purposes 18° North) between the mouth of the Me Mue or Thoungyin River, an affluent of the Salwin, and the great eastern bend of the MeKawng in Long. $101^{\circ} 30'$ E.

2. Central Siam. The great plain watered by the Menam Chao Praya and its tributaries, south of upper Siam, including the lowlands of the basin of the Bangpakong River in the south-east and the lower reaches of the MeKlawng and Petchaburi Rivers in the south-west.

3. Western Siam. The hill country between the Tenasserim frontier and the Menam lowland plain from the Me Mue River mouth, south to Koh Lak in about Lat. $11^{\circ} 45'$ N. near Petchaburi.

4. Peninsular Siam. The Malay Peninsula from Koh Lak south to the Malayan boundary.

5. Eastern Siam. The "Korat Plateau" bounded on the north and east by the MeKawng, on the south by the Cambodian frontier and (continuing beyond this westwards) by the southern slopes of the Deng Rek Range to its termination near Saraburi; thence north to the MeKawng bend along the watershed between the Menam and MeKawng river systems.

6. South-eastern Siam. The varied country along the Gulf bounded in part by the southern edge of the Bangpakong basin (approximately in Lat. $13^{\circ} 20'$ N) and partly by the Battambang-Cambodian frontier.

In a small area like Siam, we should not expect to find much variation in the zoology if it were all the same kind of country, but when this differs—forests and open country, mountains and

plains—we generally find a change in the fauna also, and this is particularly notable in a contrast between the life of the two latter kinds, and is perhaps always best illustrated by the mammals. Siam shows some of these orographical and vegetational differences, and it is in accordance with them that I have attempted to distinguish a number of divisions, about which, however, it is quite impossible to draw sharp boundaries.

Northern Siam, as I have defined it is, on the whole, a mountainous area, and Western Siam is the same. Eastern Siam is, speaking broadly, a sub-montane division of a different formation from the rest of the country, and with a different vegetation. In Central Siam I have endeavoured to include the whole riverine plain, and that only. South-eastern Siam contains both mountains and coastal lowlands ; as does Peninsular Siam, which, from the present point of view, forms naturally a geographical sub-division. I have considered it here, as starting from the gap in the mountains between Koh Lak and Tenasserim, though it might with equal propriety be regarded as commencing at Muang Kra or Pakchan. Though I should have preferred, with the classical instance of Egypt as precedent, to have divided the Menam country into Upper and Lower Siam, I have (in deference to the wishes of several members of the society) used the terms Northern and Central for this area, though the latter name seems scarcely logical since the periphery is incomplete. The other titles require no explanation except that of Peninsular Siam about which a word or two may be said.

American zoologists in reporting on collections from Trang, etc., set the fashion, and are still in the habit of referring to that area as Lower Siam. This practice has been the cause of misunderstanding on the part of other naturalists, and has resulted in a good deal of confusion. For this outlying province I have, therefore, proposed the name of Peninsular Siam, as being especially descriptive, and, of all alternatives, the only one which is absolutely devoid of ambiguity ; which is not the case unfortunately with "southern"—a geographical term of the same class as the others, and complementary to the two names for the river area. If collectors would refer to the above divisions, the stations from which their material came, a very good idea of the provenance of their specimens would be obtained, even though the exact positions could not be located.