

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

No. I.—Note on the Malay Sambar (*Cervus unicolor equinus*.)

In Vol. I. page 117 of this Journal I described a fine head from Lampang in Northern Siam.

The following are my measurements of a better head in the possession of Mr. W. G. Peiniger:—

Length. Left  $37\frac{1}{2}$ , Right 37; Circumferences, above coronet 9 inches, above brow tine 7 inches. The greatest outside spread is 31 inches. Mr. Peiniger informs me that he picked up this head, together with four others, in the Me Teun river, Me Ping, Western Siam, some years ago, and that all had been recently killed by wild dogs within a comparatively small area, a striking illustration of the damage done by these red of hunting dogs.

Kemp (Vol. I, p. 51 of this Journal) has alluded to the Sambar's fondness for the fruit of the Makawk tree. One frequently sees small heaps containing 10 to 20 well cleaned Makawk stones (which are the size of a pigeon's egg) far removed from any Makawk tree, and most frequently seen on ridges near, but removed from, Sambar's excrement. The Sambar apparently swallows the fruits whole and ejects the stones later on when ruminating; though at the moment I cannot call to mind any other ruminant which swallows large indigestible stones, though many jungle denizens, Civets for example, pass fruit stones through the body.

The bark of the Makawk tree (*Spondias mangifera*) is astringent like the fruit, though no animals touch the bark.

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Jan. 15 1922.

## No. II.—Intelligence of Otters.

While travelling down the Chumpon river some years ago not many miles from the sea, I encountered a pack of otters. There were ten or twelve of them, and they were moving along at the water's edge, playing about and evidently in search of food. The tide at the time was low, and there was a large expanse of mud between the river and the proper bank. I was loth to shoot one of them for I have kept otters in captivity, and know what fascinating pets they are; but a specimen was badly wanted as very little is known about the distribution of otters in Siam. To judge by their size they were the larger form, *Lutra* species, and not the small clawless one, *Aonyx cinerea*.

I fired at one of the biggest animals but only managed to wound it, and it went up towards the bank evidently to get under