

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

No. I. Two Vipers new to Siam.

While on a visit last year to Kanburi, Dr. Kerr's native collector secured a single specimen of a viper, *Trimeresurus puniceus* Boie, which has not before been found in Siam. This snake is fairly common in the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago, its most northerly recorded range being Perak. Kanburi therefore is a considerable extension of its distribution. The specimen has been presented to the British Museum of Natural History.

Another well known Malayan viper which is new to Siam is *Trimeresurus sumatranus* Raffles. A specimen was obtained in Patani just after the publication of my article on the Poisonous Land Snakes of Siam which appeared in Vol. VI of this Journal.

MALCOLM SMITH.

March, 1928.

No. II. The late Mr. Roebelen as a Zoological Collector.

The obituary notice of the late Mr. Carl Roebelen in the last number of the Supplement (Vol. VII, p. 132) makes no mention of his activities as a zoological collector. Mr. J. R. le B. Tomlin has recently informed me that Möllendorff wrote a paper (P. Z. S., London, 1894) on a collection of shells made by Mr. Roebelen on Kaw Samui in 1888 and 1892. Some twenty new species were described in this paper. It is possible that Mr. Roebelen also collected other zoological material, of which we have so far no knowledge.

A. KERR.

No. III. Anguillid Eels in Siamese Waters.

Eels of the genus *Anguilla* which are so abundant and commercially important on the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts of Europe and the Atlantic Coast of North America are very uncommon in the waters of Siam. No species has heretofore been recorded from this country, and only two specimens have come under the writer's notice.

One of these, taken in Klong Bangkapi in September, 1926, was exhibited alive in Bangkok as an "electric eel", advertized with a flaming poster. The owner would not permit handling, and identification as to species was impossible. In April, 1928, however, the fish died, and an examination of the preserved specimen was made June 8, 1928. It was 64 cm. long and extremely emaciated, having evidently been subjected to slow starvation. It proved to be *Anguilla australis*, a species first described by Sir John Richardson in 1841.

The second specimen of the same species, from a fresh-water stream in Puket, was preserved in spirits and displayed by Corporal Scout Pien Chayadej at the Boy Scouts' National Jamboree held in

Bangkok in February and March, 1928. Through the friendly interest of Mr. F. S. Harrop, of the Arts and Crafts School, this specimen, 66.5 cm. long, was presented to the Department of Fisheries.

This fish is of very wide distribution in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, being known from Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, Tahiti, Samoa, Dutch East Indies, east coast of Africa, Bombay, Ceylon, and Burma.

At least three other species of *Anguilla* occur in the Malay Archipelago, one of them also in India and two in the Philippines, and all may be looked for in Siamese waters, more particularly on the west coast of Peninsular Siam.

H. M. SMITH.

No. IV. Wild Dogs in Siam.

The ravages of wild dogs in India have been receiving considerable attention among zoologists and sportsmen, and the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society issued January 15, 1928 (Vol. XXXII, No. 3) contains three communications on wild dogs, each with editorial comment. One of the articles relates to the treeing and killing of panthers by wild dogs, another discusses the manner in which wild dogs kill their prey. This subject has come up in Siam several times in recent years, and the following notes seem worthy of record.

At a meeting of the Natural History Section of the Siam Society held August 13, 1926, Mr. D. Bourke-Burrowes, adviser in the Royal Forest Department of Siam, gave an account of the killing of a sambar by wild dogs. When he was descending the Pasak River in a rice boat from Petchabun to Gengkoi on July 8, 1926, and while passing down a very narrow reach with banks overgrown with bushes, the keen-sighted Siamese boatmen all suddenly shouted out "kwang" (deer), and all except the steersman sprang into the water. They eventually emerged from the bushes dragging a full-grown female Malayan sambar which had been killed by wild dogs in the previous night. One man reported that he saw three dogs devouring the carcass as the boat approached. The sambar had been completely disembowelled, and one dog had eaten the whole of the left side of the head. The boatmen cut up the meat and dried it as "biltong". Mr. Bourke-Burrowes remarked that wild dogs caused havoc with wild game in Siam.

Mr. Bourke-Burrowes' communication, as published in a newspaper account of the meeting, led to the receipt by the section leader of several other communications on the same subject.

Major Erik Seidenfaden, a vice-president of the Society, wrote from Copenhagen under date of September 28, 1926:

"The wild dogs mentioned by Mr. Bourke-Burrowes are found also in North-eastern Siam where they are called *ma nai*.