

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

No. I. A fresh-water mussel.

At my camp on the 24/25 Aug. 1921, at the Hât Pā Lak หาดป่าหลัก on the Nan river, between the Hui Nguam ห้วยงูม and the Nām Li น้ำลิ, I collected some mussel shells, being informed they were the kind from which pearls were sometimes obtained.

On the 23rd Oct. 1922, I submitted these shells to Mr. Robson, at the South Kensington Natural History Museum, London, who described them as: —

Unionidæ
Unio nanyesianus, Lea

H. B. GARRETT.

No. II. An interesting aromatic herb (*Artemisia pallens*)

This curious and highly aromatic plant is only known in cultivation. It has not, as far as I know, ever been found in the wild state, and there are but few records of it as a cultivated plant.

The first mention of the plant, under the Linnean binomial system, is that by Roxburgh in his *Hortus Bengalensis* (1814), a catalogue of the plants growing in the East India Company's gardens at Calcutta. Roxburgh gave it the name *Artemisia paniculata*, being apparently unaware that that name had already been used for another plant by Lamarck. It is now known as *Artemisia pallens*. In the *Hortus Bengalensis* there are no descriptions, but we are told that the plant came from Persia and was presented by Mrs. Honeycomb. Later Roxburgh must have found that the information about Persia was wrong, for he says in his *Flora Indica*, published after his death, in 1832, that "The native place of this plant I cannot well ascertain". In neither work does he give any vernacular name.

In 1899 the plant was figured in Hooker's *Icones Plantarum* (t. 2597), and described by the late Dr. Otto Stapf, who says "There is no evidence that *A. pallens* has been observed in a wild state, and it is very probable that it was introduced into the Dekkan Peninsula, where it is cultivated and used as an offering at certain Hindoo festivals".

A specimen in the Kew Herbarium, collected by G. M. Woodrow at Alandi, in the Deccan, gives the vernacular name as *Downa*, and the information that the plant is cultivated for an offering at the Ram Navami festival. Cooke, in his *Flora of Bombay* (1908), gives the vernacular name as *Davana*.

I have once come across this plant in Siam; a pot-cultivated specimen in a small Shan village near Me Hawng Sawm. The owner gave the Shan name as *Taw na* (တဝ်နာ), probably a corruption of the

Indian name, and the Siamese as *Kot chula lampa* (โกฏฐ์จุฬาลำพา). I have heard the latter name in connection with other species of *Artemisia*, or artemisia-like plants, but this is probably the true plant, and so an ingredient in each of the three well known prescriptions: the five, the seven and the nine kots. Confirmation of this has recently come from Mrs. D. J. Collins, who has sent me some pieces of the plant obtained in Bangkok, with the above Siamese name. Mrs. Collins adds that the Burmese name is *Dornah*, again, no doubt, a derivation of the Indian name, and that the plant is used by Burmese Royalty in perfume mixtures, wet and dry, and also in medicine.

A. KERR.

Hayes, Kent, March 19th 1935.

No. III. Local names for the Serow (*Capricornis*) & Goral (*Nemorhaedus*).

The *GORAL* (*Nemorhaedus*) has only twice been reported from Siam: once from the Me Ping Rapids by Mr. Gairdner, who obtained the name Kwang Pa (กวางผา) from the men who were with him when the animal was shot. This specimen was identified by Mr. Boden Kloss as *Nemorhaedus griseus*.

On the other occasion a kid was shot, which was too young for determination of the species, but Mr. Oldfield Thomas identified the skin as that of a goral. This animal was not uncommon on Doi Angka (Intanon). No local name was recorded.

The *SEROW* (*Capricornis*) has been obtained, and identified, from various parts of Siam, from Raheng to Prachuap. These have been identified by Mr. Boden Kloss as *Capricornis sumatraensis annectens*.

The local names given for it are as follows:—

Yuang (ยฺฮฺยง) N. of Lopburi (Lao).

Lieng pa (เล็งขงผา) Petchaburi and Ratburi (Siamese).

Koram (โครำ)	} Siamese Prachuap.
or	
Kuram (กูรำ)	

Bangkok, 6th December 1930.

CONTRIBUTED.

No. IV. The "Toa Songkrant". ตัวสงกรานต์

My attention was drawn to this little water animal by its name. My curiosity having been aroused, I made enquiries, the result of which justified this curiosity.

The "Toa Songkrant" is believed by the Government Ichtyologist, Luang Chulachib Pittchatorn, to be a sea worm which comes