

themselves to the stakes as well as to the mollusks, thus lessening the space for the growing of the desired mollusk. In addition they added heavy weight to the stakes, causing them to break off when only moderately damaged by teredos. Curiosity aroused by the name "Prieng Hoa Hom" and the resulting damages attracted the attention of the Fishery Division and a request for specimens was made.

In July specimens of "Prieng Hoa Hom" were received by the Division. They were found to be animals belonging to the class Urochoda or Tunicata, commonly known as Sea-Squirts. They are very common marine animals in every part of the world. Literature regarding them in the Gulf of Siam is very scanty and this appears to be the first recorded instance of their relation to local industry.

It is interesting to note that the local fishermen have given them a very appropriate name—"Prieng Hoa Hom" (Hoa Hom means onions) on account of their mode of attachment in bunches, their shape, colour and smell, all of which are more or less like those of onions.

Specimens of these sea-squirts sent to the Division possess the following characteristics:—

Sac-like in shape; colour light reddish, more or less like that of an onion; existing in colonies, the zooids possess distinct tests or tunics, not being embedded in a common gelatinous mass; height slightly greater than breadth, the largest being 4.8 cm. in height (measured from "oral" to base) and 3.5 cm. in breadth (measured from "atrial" to opposite margin).

Dissection shows the test thicker in the young than in the adult and very viscous; when the test is removed from one side a mantle is seen; body lies free in test; mantle attached to test only at "oral" and "atrial"; muscle fibres of mantle beautifully forming networks by crossing almost horizontally and vertically. Species not yet determined.

Found attached to mussel-planting stakes at low tide-water mark at Bang Tabun, Phetburi, Gulf of Siam.

LUANG CHOOLACHEEB.

September 16, 1936.

No. V. Notes on an encounter with a man-eating tiger.¹

During the first weeks in March, 1935 I spent several days in big game hunting in the Me Wong district of Siam with Mr. H. E. Rodatz.

We were out for sladang, banteng and wild buffalo without much success. We had however met a herd of wild buffalo far up

¹ Read at Twenty-sixth Ordinary Meeting, June 24th, 1936.

on the Me Wong near the Burmese frontier and I had the chance to wound a bull. The body of this bull was found 3 days afterwards.

On our arrival in a camp of forest-workmen on the evening of the 11th. March, news came that a Khamu coolie, when fishing with another man in a small creek about 500 yards distance from a road which is used for bringing out teak-wood, had just been killed by a tiger.

11. 3. 36 We decided to leave the tiger alone during the night and to take up the tracks on the following morning.

12. 3. 36 The place of the kill was very near to the coolie camp and to the road. This confirms the experience that big game becomes easily accustomed to the neighbourhood of men and then is not disturbed by noises, etc. The motor lorries passing the road and reversing apparently did not disturb this tiger.

Investigations on the place of the kill revealed that the coolie was apparently walking in the creek in order to catch fish. The tiger which presumably came to drink saw the coolie and approached noiselessly without the coolie noticing anything. The tiger leaped upon the coolie from a distance of about 4 yards which was clearly shown by the four feet marks in the sand of the edge of the creek. One bite through the neck must have killed the coolie instantly. The tiger then dragged its kill over a fallen tree and then further up the creek, thereby crossing the creek bed several times. After some distance we found the trousers of the man and a hundred yards further up the blood-stained coat. We were three men. Rodatz went in front with a three-barrel gun, loaded with a 9.3 mm. bullet and 2 S. G. cartridges 16 bore. I followed with a three-barrel gun loaded with a 9.3 mm. bullet and 2 S. G. cartridges 12 bore. The native hunter came third with a double-barrel gun.

8 a. m. The track is easy to follow and leads into dense grass, ending in a small clearing. When we arrive at this clearing I notice suddenly that from a distance of about 12 yards the tiger is rising from the grass to full size, looking at us angrily for a fraction of a second. It then beats its tail and with a loud growl jumps away. Rodatz fires a rifle shot, apparently missing. We find the body of the coolie. The tiger has eaten very little, only one leg and one lower arm being severed from the body. We decide to erect a machan over the kill and we agree that Rodatz should sit up the following night and I on the following day.

11.40 a. m. When Rodatz arrived at the place where the kill was left he found that it had disappeared in the meantime. Apparently the tiger had returned and dragged it away. It took several hours to locate the kill again, of which now only one leg and the head were left. The leg was tied between two trees and the head placed underneath,

4.40 p.m. The machan had been completed on a tree about 6

yards above the ground and a direct line cut through the grass to the rest of the kill, the distance between machan and kill being about 20 yards.

4.45 p.m. The coolies departed with much noise in order to make the tiger believe that all danger was over.

4.50 p.m. The tiger is approaching carelessly and rounding the kill, growling and making all sorts of noises, apparently feeling quite safe. Birds with loud cries are warning the neighbourhood against the presence of the brute.

4.55 p.m. The tiger coming nearer and nearer without however being visible.

5 p.m. The tiger enters the clearing and starts immediately feeding on the head of the coolie. Rodatz fires and kills the tiger with one bullet over the left eye which expanded in the brain and smashed the hind part of the skull into pieces.

6 p.m.—11.30 p.m. We skin the tiger. It is a male specimen in excellent condition. Length between pegs 3 yards. The skin is full of fleas and other insects.

Remarks:

1) Although it could normally not be expected to meet the tiger at the kill in broad daylight, it must afterwards be considered as an unnecessary risk to follow the blood track noiselessly. The approach should have been made with as much noise as possible in order to drive the tiger away.

2) It was wrong to fire a bullet shot at the tiger more or less at random. It would have been better to fire one or two S. G. shots which would have killed the tiger immediately at such a short distance or at least wounded it to such a degree that it could have been killed with a bullet shot afterwards.

3) The question arises why this particular tiger had become a man-eater. The tiger was neither old nor weak but strong and in excellent condition. Its attacking a man can therefore not be explained by the necessity of obtaining the easy game of man instead of sambur, etc. The country around this place is full of deer. In this connection arises the question whether this particular tiger had eaten human flesh before. Nothing is known around this place about a tiger killing a man before, but it must be taken into consideration that the coolies use to bury their dead in the forest, so that the possibility exists that this particular tiger had eaten corpses before. I am inclined to believe that this tiger became a man-eater merely by chance. It came to drink, thereby meeting a strange brown being which apparently was not alarmed at all but continued moving about at a distance of only 5 yards. This was too great a temptation for the tiger and it killed where it was so easy to kill.

4) The boldness of this tiger is especially remarkable. Although having been shot at in the morning it returned to the kill

very soon and dragged it away. Again disturbed in the afternoon and now having eaten the greater part of the kill, as the swollen stomach proved, it returned within 10 minutes after the coolies had left. In this connection I want to mention a superstitious belief of the natives. Before the machan was left, a flower was put by a coolie behind the ear of the dead man. The natives firmly believe that the tiger then will return to its kill within a short time. In this special case this opinion will certainly find a widespread confirmation in that part of the country because it proved to be so surprisingly correct.

ULRICH GUEHLER.

REVIEW.

A HANDLIST OF MALAYSIAN BIRDS; A SYSTEMATIC LIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE MALAY PENINSULA, SUMATRA, BORNEO AND JAVA, INCLUDING THE ADJACENT SMALL ISLANDS, by Frederick Nutter Chasen... Bulletin of the Raffles Museum, Singapore, Straits Settlements. No. 11, December, 1935.

This publication, representing the first *Systema Avium* of a single sub-region of the Oriental Region, fills a long-felt need. It will prove invaluable as a reference work, not only to students of the Malaysian ornithology, but to all who have occasion to deal with the systematics of Oriental birds. For those interested in the avifauna of Siam it possesses an especial importance, not merely because it treats of a neighbouring sub-region, but particularly because Mr. Chasen's Malaysia extends to Lat. 10° N., which is at the narrowest part of the Isthmus of Kra, thus embracing several Siamese provinces.

The author divides the Malaysian Sub-region into four provinces—Malayan, Sumatran, Bornean and Javan—in accord with natural distinctions, zoölogical and geographical. These differences are discussed in his introduction. In the body of the work, under each avian form is given the geographical distribution in relation to the four provinces. In a limited number of cases the distribution is given as "Malay States" or "Peninsular Siam," to indicate that the bird in question occurs in the southern half of the Peninsula but not in the northern, or *vice-versa*; otherwise, the Malayan Province is represented by the term "Malay Peninsula." An unusual feature of so technical a work is the addition of English names. A zoö-geographical map and a profusion of footnotes increase the value of the publication.

While the systematic order followed is, with minor changes, that of Sharpe's "Handlist," the author holds somewhat advanced views on what constitutes the species and, at the same time, unites many genera usually kept separate; this results in a number of novel