

Mammals (Men and Plants) of Northern Thailand Mountains,

By G. M. Allen and H. J. Coolidge

The record especially of mammals, collected by the same Asiatic Primate expedition, includes appr. 50 *genera* and a considerable number of additional species, all found in Northern Thailand. The collections were made to a limited extent in the Chiangmai region at the foot of Mt. (Doi) Dao at Chiang Dao and mainly at varying altitudes of appr. 4300-, 5500-, 6000-, and 8075 feet near the summit of the highest Thai mountain Doi Intanon or Doi Angka. (see *Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology* Harvard, 87, 121-166, 1940.)

A wealth of primates were collected, including besides gibbons treated in a separate report and review-, the silvery langur, macaques, the leopard, the slow lemur (*Nycticebus*), the little tree shrew (*Tupaia*), a wild boar, a "bearcup" *cinder*, wildcats, as well as small mammals: the giant and flying squirrels, bats, rats, etc. The importance of interpreters of the native language is obvious from the following experience with local hunters. Of the shrew *Tupaia Belangeri chinensis* Anderson, one of the authors (Coolidge) states: "At first we were unable to get any, until natives understood just what we wanted." The reviewer in his own explorations esp. of native plants has experienced the importance of being able to give the local names; he has found some surprisingly familiar with their natural environment. In this connection it is of interest that the native Karens use the urine and gallbladder of the jackal *Cuon javanicus infuscus* Pocock for medicine.

The following are mentioned as "First Records for Thailand":

1: *Chodsigoa Smithii Parca*, G. M. Allen, trapped at the 8000 ft. summit camp, and representing the first finding south of China and second finding anywhere.

2: *Pteromys Phayrei Anchises* subsp. nov.,—specimens having been collected at 4300 feet altitude on Mount Angka, represents evidently a more saturate highland race, uniformly different in color from the Chiangmai specimens of *Pteromys Phayrei Laotum* (Thomas), collected at the 1000 feet level. The new race, lacking the bright brownish tint of the lowland animals with noticeably larger ear bullae, is perhaps confined to the upper forest levels of the mountains. A detailed description is given in the original.

3: *Callosciurus Ferrugineus Primus* subsp. nov. 2 squirrels collected at the Mae Wan River, near Mt. Souket at 1500 feet altitude by Griswold apparently represent the most northern form of the ferrugineus series, and the nearest approach to the once primitive color pattern of the group; the upper surface still shows the minutely ticked, "pepper—and—salt" mixture of black and ochraceous. The under side of the body and limbs is completely red (bright tawny) even to the chin and throat. Here too a detailed description with measurements accompanies the record.

Of additional interest are such personal experience references with the primitive mountain people: "We found Karens slow to take interest in zoological collecting, although one or two developed into good hunters;—they were most useful as porters from our base camp to the higher camps, although generally lazy and slow minded. They have some live stock and grow rice in terraced fields in the flatter mountain valleys between 3000-5000 ft. The Meos in comparison are wilder than the Karens and very much more at home in the forest. Many of them are good hunters and trappers, and seem to go in very little for agriculture. Their huts are built of crude handhewn boards and set directly on the ground,—and not on poles like the Karen houses. As a result the Meos live with their livestock, especially pigs, while the Karens live above them.

The vegetation of the mountain ranges visited was essentially similar.

1: From Plains to 1800 feet.

Dry deciduous forest of oak and bamboo;

Underbrush, not very dense, except for bamboo thickets;

Ground underneath with plenty of loose stones.

2: From 1800 to 4500 feet.

Zone of pine and oak forests.

Heavy undergrowth, and occasional secondary tall grass—brush-filled up agricultural clearings of mountain Karens.

Fringe of evergreen growth along streams and riverbottoms.

3: From 4500 to 7000 feet.

Tall tropical evergreen forest—with undergrowth, dense, especially in the valley bottoms.

More open forest on the slopes.

- 4: From 7000 to 8448 feet (summit and highest point in Thailand).
Trees becoming stunted and gnarled.
Increasing coarse grass—about 3 feet high—on exposed slopes.
On upper ridge thick forest of dwarf trees, covered with epiphytic moss.
Near summit bogs of soft moss, shaded by giant azalea (*Rhododendron Veit*),
Rhododendron trees (*Rhododendron arboreum*).
Small white orchids, clustered along these tree trunks.
In addition the rare forest magnolia (*Magnolia Garrettii*) was found at the 5500 ft. level. on Mt. Angka, in full bloom during March.

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