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THE FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA,

INCLUDING

CEYLON AND BURMA.

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STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL.*

EDITED BY W. T. BLANFORD.

MAMMALIA.

BY

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PREFACE.

THE first part of this volume, containing the Introduction, Primates, Carnivora, and Insectivora, was published at the end of June 1888. The delay of more than three years in completing the work has been caused by the necessity of devoting a large portion of my time to the editing of the five volumes belonging to the same series that have appeared since the first part of the present work was issued.

The Mammalia of British India, inclusive of Ceylon and Burma, here enumerated and described, just exceed 400 in number. Jerdon's 'Mammals of India,' published in 1867, contained descriptions of 242 species; but the area as now defined considerably exceeds the limits adopted by Jerdon, who excluded from his work all forms peculiar to Ceylon or Burma, and to all countries north of the main Himalayan range, west of the Indus, or east of the Bay of Bengal and of a line drawn northwards from the head of it. The greatest advance since Jerdon wrote, in our knowledge of Indian Mammals, has been in the orders of Chiroptera, Insectivora, and Rodentia, whilst the order with which, at the present time, our acquaintance is most imperfect is that of Cetacea.

In Sterndale's 'Natural History of the Mammalia of India and Ceylon,' published in 1884, the number of species is 482; but some of these are not found in British Territory, and



several of the forms enumerated, now that better series of specimens have been collected, are no longer regarded as distinct.

Some acknowledgment of the assistance afforded to me in the preparation of the present work will be found in the Introduction. To the list of those who have aided in the publication should be added the Trustees of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, to whom I am indebted for the use of the cuts prepared for Dobson's 'Monograph of Asiatic Chiroptera,' and for the opportunity of comparing in London some specimens belonging to the Indian Museum. I must also express my particular obligation to Prof. W. H. Flower, Director of the Natural History Collection in the British Museum, for advice and information with regard to the Cetacea; to Mr. R. Lydekker for aid in preparing the account of the Ungulata; to Mr. W. L. Sclater for advance sheets of his Catalogue of Mammalia in the Indian Museum, and for notes on specimens in the Calcutta Collections; and to Mr. Oldfield Thomas, of the British Museum, for assistance and information of every kind, most freely afforded throughout the progress of the work, in connection with the Mammalian Collections under his supervision.

There is another acknowledgment that should perhaps have been made before, but for which the present affords a good occasion. If, as I hope, the present series of works is found useful by Indian naturalists, they will I am sure wish that the names of those who took the first steps in bringing the want of new Handbooks of Indian Zoology to the notice of the Government of India should not remain unrecorded.

The need for new and revised descriptive works had, for some years before 1881, been felt and discussed amongst naturalists in India, but the attention of the Government was, I believe, first called to the matter by a memorial dated Sept. 15th of that year, prepared by Mr. P. L. Sclater, the well-known Secretary of the Zoological Society, signed by



Mr. Charles Darwin, Sir J. Hooker, Professor Huxley, Sir J. Lubbock, Prof. W. H. Flower, and by Mr. Selater himself, and presented to the Secretary of State for India. This memorial recommended the preparation of a series of Handbooks of Indian Zoology and my appointment as Editor. It is scarcely necessary to add that to the recommendation of men so highly respected and so well known in the world of Science the publication of the present 'Fauna of British India' is greatly due, and that Mr. Selater is entitled to the thanks of all interested in the Zoology of India for the important part he took in the transaction. I can only express a hope that the present series as a whole may be worthy of the distinguished support to which, in so great a degree, it owes its origin.

With the publication of this part six out of the seven volumes in which it was originally proposed to describe the Vertebrata of British India have been completed. The remaining volume of Birds will be undertaken at once. I am glad to be able to announce that the 'Fauna of British India' will not be confined to Vertebrata, the preparation of three volumes on Moths by Mr. G. F. Hampson having been commenced.

W. T. BLANFORD.

November 30th, 1891.



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ERRATUM.

Fig. 132, p. 418, has by mistake been printed upside down, and consequently *a* represents the teeth of the lower jaw, *b* of the upper, the anterior extremity below, instead of above as in other figures.



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Tumpa
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