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No. XXII.—NOTE ON THE MALAY TAPIR (*TAPIRUS INDICUS*)  
IN CAPTIVITY.*(With an Illustration.)*

Local native name, "Pan dukkar" (Anglicé, Leaf-eating Hog).

The Tapir is perissodactyle and has relationship with the rhinoceros. The only parts of the world in which it is to be found are South and Central America and the Malay Peninsula. The Malay is differentiated from the American species by its colour, size and habits.

There are two Malay tapirs (male and female), in the Kolhapur collection, where they have been for the last 2½ years thriving successfully. The female is larger than the male, as the following measurements will show.

Male, height 3 ft. 1 in. at withers, 3 ft. 3 in. at back, length 7 ft. 5 in.

Female, " 3 " 3 " " " 3 " 5 " " " " 7 " 9 "

Unlike the American species, which is of a monochrome of dark brown or black, the Malay tapir is particoloured. The head and up to the withers, front legs to back of shoulders and under chest, hind legs and as far as and including ramp and arms, black; the saddle from back of withers to end of spine and round and under the belly, grey. A sharp line defines the particolouring and there is a thin grey line round the top of the ovate erect ears. The eye is small and of a greyish green colour, the tail a mere rudimentary stump about one inch long.

The feet have typically perissodactyl arrangement of toes, the fore have five case of which one is rudimentary, and the third is considerably longer than the others, the hind have but three toes of which the middle is the longest.

Both jaws of both sexes are furnished with a full set of incisors, tusks and molars. The canine teeth, which are very marked, are separated by a considerable interval from the molar series which are all in contact, with quadrate crowns.

The nose and upper lip are elongated into a flexible mobile snout with nostrils situated at the end. The skin is thick and scantily covered with hair.

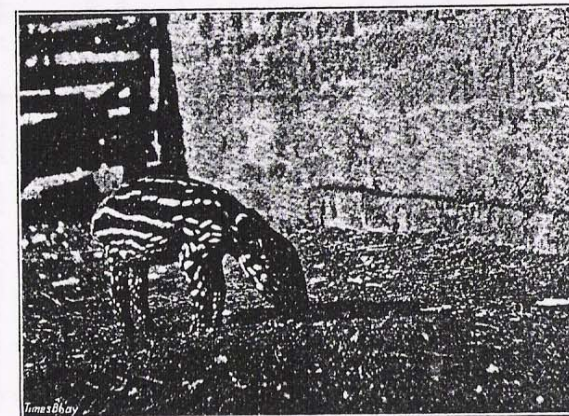
The period of gestation for the female is 9 months, at the end of which period she seeks an isolated spot, makes a shallow excavation with her feet, and brings forth her young. The Kolhapur pair have only bred once, and on that occasion the female produced but one. The little one, at birth, weighs about 6 lbs., it is covered with longish hair of a dark red brown colour with white oblong spots in longitudinal rows on the body, and round shaped and promiscuously scattered on the legs and face.

The Malay tapir, unlike its American cousin which is stated to be nocturnal, shy and fond of shady places, sleeps through the night and wanders about all day, passing much of its time in the water in which it sports and dives and seems happiest.

The female is always rather aggressive towards the male, but not towards other animals or man, both are of a heavy bovine nature and allow themselves to be handled and driven about. They have the habit of very carefully and



ADULT MALE.



YOUNG, 2 DAYS OLD.

THE MALAY TAPIR (*TAPIRUS INDICUS*).



slowly covering up their dung by kicking leaves and earth over it with the hind feet; if disturbed in this and driven away, they will return and finish the operation. The only vocal sound they make is a very shrill squeak which would sound appropriate in a small sucking pig but in nothing larger.

When in the act of copulation, which takes place in the daytime in the water, the female gives off a series of these squeaks, while the male blows through the snout, making staccato puffs like the noise of the escape of an oil engine.

The tapir is herbivorous, but in captivity is remarkably fond of boiled rice. The ages of those in the Kolhapur collection are not known, but they show no signs of decay.

Photographs of the male tapir, and of the young at the age of two days accompany this.

W. B. FERRIS, COLONEL.

KOLHAPUR, 27th December 1905.

No. XXIII.—NOTES ON THE OCCURRENCE OF CERTAIN BIRDS  
IN THE PLAINS OF N.-W. INDIA.

The following notes made this autumn on certain birds which, according to Oates and Blanford in the "*Fauna of India, Birds*," are rare or unknown in these parts, may be of interest:—

1. *Round Rawal Pindi*.—In the park I came across a Crested Serpent-Eagle (1217. *Spilornis cheela*) in full plumage. It was perched in a tree overhanging a small reedy pond.

The Dusky Horned Owl (1169. *Bubo coromandus*) too, occurs there, and several pairs of them apparently. One can hear its curious call most evenings.

I saw a Caspian Tern (1498. *Hydroprogne caspia*) in immature plumage by the Sohan river.

2. *Salt Range*.—During a few days' leave (December 11th to 15th) in and about the Salt Range I came across the Black-crowned Finch-Lark (880. *Pyrhulauda melanocheus*) four miles north of Lilla (Pind Dadan Khan Tahsil, Jhelum District). Oates says of this bird, "has been obtained at Muttra, just within the limits of the Punjab." There were a good many about feeding in the fields, &c.

Next day on the top of the plateau north of Sardi, I noticed a flock of strange finches and shot one; it turned out to be an Eastern Linnet (769. *Acanthis fringillirostris*). The Black-throated Accentor (716. *Tharrhaleus atrigularis*) is a common bird up there just like the hedge sparrow in habits, except that it appears to be gregarious. On the way back below Sardi, I shot a ♀ Red-mantled Rose-Finch (757. *Propasser grandis*). I again saw the Black-crowned Finch Larks, and shot a male to make certain.

On the march from Kohat to Rawal Pindi manœuvres Lieut. Keen shot a strange bird on a tank five miles east of Khushalgarh on the Indus; he showed it to me, and asked me to identify it. It was an Eared Grebe (1616. *Podiceps nigricollis*), an unmistakable bird. Blanford says of this species: "This