

shrines dedicated to this deity, called Ediyaka Than—one between Gwaldam and Garur in Almora District, and the other near about Karnaprayag in Garhwal District.

Langurs or Blackfaced Monkeys are very timid and I never heard of one biting a man, excepting perhaps at Jagannath where they are fed freely by pilgrims and where they often become bold enough to snatch away food from their hands. No doubt Redfaced Monkeys attack man and even bite, assault, and injure very badly. I have never seen the Blackfaced Monkeys beyond the tree line or at heights above 10,000 feet; as such there seems absolutely no possibility whatsoever of either the Redfaced Monkey or the Blackfaced Langur having left the footprints at Baguva-vasa, which is at an altitude of 14,000 ft. Besides, the footprints of a langur monkey are in fours, quite different and distinct from human footprints. The footprints I saw were just like those of a human being. Monkeys and langurs do not go beyond Wan and Sutol in the Rupkund region.

I would be much obliged if any of your readers could tell us the height and place in the Himalayas, and the year, in which the two Norwegian engineers Age Thorberg and Jan Forstis had an encounter with the two langur-like animals, one of which is alleged to have bitten Forstis.

ALMORA, U.P.,
November 6, 1956.

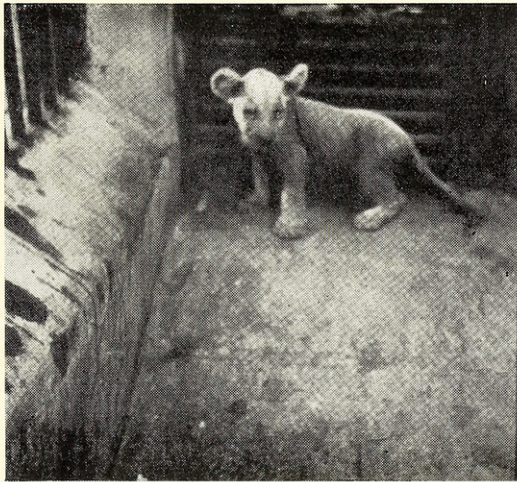
SWAMI PRANAVANANDA, F.R.G.S.

2. HAIRLESS LION CUBS IN THE TRICHUR ZOO

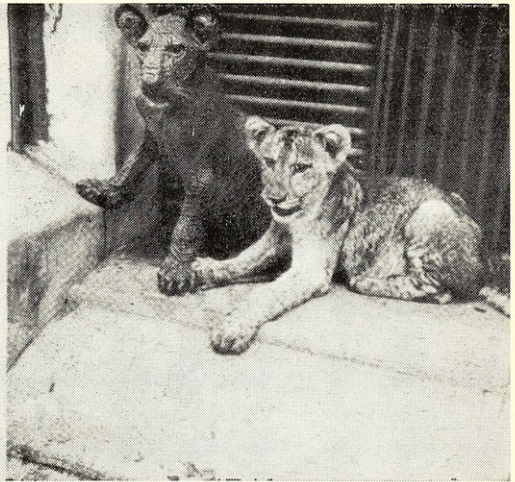
(With a plate)

At the first meeting of the Zoo Wing of the Indian Board for Wild Life, held at Mysore in last May, I had occasion to point out the existence of a litter of three lion cubs in the Trichur Zoo, of which the two males are practically hairless while the single female is covered with hair and normal in every respect. They were born on March 6, 1955 and during growth even the scanty hair the males had was shed, developing at the same time a tendency to accumulate dark pigment in the skin, probably as a protection against excessive heat. The entire skin is now somewhat rugose, the rugosity being more marked on the head and neck. The few hairs still left are confined to the chin and the inside of the ear lobes. The absence of hair on the body is certainly a handicap to the two cubs, causing abrasions in the skin especially at the haunches, where even small callosities have been formed. The present condition of the lion cubs looks like alopecia with a tendency to melanism.

Being the first instance of its kind in this Zoo, where lions have been breeding in captivity for over thirty years, the deficiency could not be traced to any known cause. On the advice of the local veterinary surgeon, Murnil, a preparation of Bayer with vitamin H, was given to the cubs continuously for several months but without any effect on the growth of hair. All the three cubs have normal health and have grown remarkably well with their usual ration of mutton and beef.



Male lion cub, 3 months old, before shedding the sparse coat of hair



Lion cubs, hairless male and normal female, six months old



Hairless lion cub, male, about twelve months old

Photos : M. Govindankutty Menon



Menon, M G. 1957. "Hairless Lion Cubs in the Trichur Zoo." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 54, 450–451.

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