

# MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

## 1. THE HARVARD COLLECTION OF SOUTH ASIAN MAMMALS

Founded in 1859, the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, possesses the oldest systematic mammal collection in the United States. While not ranked among the larger mammal collections in terms of number of specimens housed, the Mammal Department of the MCZ stands as one of the most complete collections in the world, in terms of taxa represented in its holdings.

In a recent review of South Asian mammals in the collection of the MCZ, we have identified more than 700 specimens representing 160 different species from the South Asian region (here taken to include Pakistan, India including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Upper Myanmar). The species represented are listed in Table 1. The intention is to inform researchers, especially those in the South Asian

**Table 1:** List of mammal species from South Asian localities in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University

### Insectivora

*Hemiechinus collaris*  
*Hemiechinus micropus*  
*Crocidura horsfieldi*  
*Suncus etruscus*  
*Suncus montanus*  
*Suncus murinus*  
*Suncus stoliczkanus*  
*Nectogale elegans*  
*Soriculus caudatus*  
*Soriculus nigrescens*  
*Euroscaptor micrura*

Indian long-eared hedgehog  
 Indian (Pale) hedgehog  
 Horsfield's shrew  
 White-toothed pygmy shrew  
 Sri Lanka highland shrew  
 Asian house (Grey musk) shrew  
 Anderson's shrew  
 Elegant water shrew  
 Hodgson's brown-toothed shrew  
 Himalayan shrew  
 Himalayan (Eastern) mole

### Scandentia

*Tupaia belangeri*

Northern (Malay) tree shrew

### Chiroptera

*Pteropus giganteus*  
*Pteropus melanotus*  
*Rousettus leschenaulti*  
*Rhinopoma hardwickei*  
*Rhinopoma microphyllum*  
*Saccoaimus saccolaimus*  
*Taphozous longimanus*  
*Taphozous melanopogon*  
*Taphozous nudiventris*  
*Megaderma lyra*  
*Megaderma spasma*  
*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*  
*Rhinolophus lepidus*  
*Rhinolophus rouxi*  
*Hipposideros atra*  
*Hipposideros fulvus*  
*Hipposideros lankadiva*  
*Hipposideros pomona*  
*Hipposideros speoris*  
*Kerivoula picta*

Indian flying fox  
 Black-eared flying fox  
 Leschenault's rousette (Fulvous fruit bat)  
 Lesser mouse-tailed bat  
 Greater mouse-tailed bat  
 Naked-rumped pouched bat  
 Long-winged tomb (Longarmed sheath-tail) bat  
 Black-bearded (Bearded) sheath-tail bat  
 Naked-rumped tomb bat  
 Greater (Indian) false vampire bat  
 Lesser false vampire bat  
 Greater horseshoe bat  
 Blyth's horseshoe bat  
 Rufous horseshoe bat  
 Dusky roundleaf bat  
 Fulvous roundleaf bat  
 Indian roundleaf bat  
 Pomona roundleaf bat  
 Schneider's roundleaf bat  
 Painted bat



**Table 1:** List of mammal species from South Asian localities in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University (*contd.*)

<i>Eptesicus nasutus</i>	Sind bat
<i>Myotis longipes</i>	Kashmir cave bat
<i>Myotis muricola</i>	Whiskered myotis
<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	Whiskered (Mustachioed) bat
<i>Pipistrellus affinus</i>	Chocolate pipistrelle
<i>Pipistrellus ceylonicus</i>	Kelaart's pipistrelle
<i>Pipistrellus coromandra</i>	Indian pipistrelle
<i>Pipistrellus mimus</i>	Indian pygmy pipistrelle
<i>Pipistrellus paterculus</i>	Mount Popa pipistrelle
<i>Scotoecus pallidus</i>	Desert yellow bat
<i>Scotophilus heathi</i>	Greater Asiatic (Common) yellow bat
<i>Scotophilus kuhli</i>	Lesser Asiatic yellow bat
<i>Tylonycteris pachypus</i>	Lesser bamboo bat
<i>Harpiocephalus harpia</i>	Hairy-winged bat
<i>Murina cyclotis</i>	Round-eared tube-nosed bat
<i>Miniopterus pusillus</i>	Small bent-winged bat
<i>Miniopterus schreibersi</i>	Schreibers's long-fingered bat
<b>Primates</b>	
<i>Nycticebus coucang</i>	Slow loris
<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	Rhesus macaque
<i>Macaca silenus</i>	Liontailed macaque
<i>Macaca sinica</i>	Toque macaque
<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>	Hanuman (Common) langur
<i>Trachypithecus johni</i>	Hooded leaf monkey (Nilgiri langur)
<i>Trachypithecus phayrei</i>	Phayre's leaf monkey
<i>Trachypithecus vetulus</i>	Purple-faced leaf monkey
<i>Hylobates hoolock</i>	Hoolock gibbon
<b>Carnivora</b>	
<i>Canis aureus</i>	Golden jackal (Jackal)
<i>Cuon alpinus</i>	Dhole
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Red fox
<i>Catopuma temmincki</i>	Asiatic golden cat
<i>Felis chaus</i>	Jungle cat
<i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>	Clouded leopard
<i>Panthera pardus</i>	Leopard
<i>Panthera tigris</i>	Tiger
<i>Uncia uncia</i>	Snow leopard
<i>Herpestes edwardsi</i>	Indian grey (Common) mongoose
<i>Herpestes javanicus</i>	Javan (Small Indian) mongoose
<i>Herpestes smithi</i>	Ruddy mongoose
<i>Herpestes urva</i>	Crab-eating mongoose
<i>Hyaena hyaena</i>	Striped hyena
<i>Amblonyx cinereus</i>	Oriental small-clawed (Clawless) otter
<i>Lutra lutra</i>	European (Common) otter
<i>Arctonyx collaris</i>	Hog badger
<i>Martes flavigula</i>	Yellow-throated marten
<i>Mustela sibirica</i>	Siberian (Himalayan) weasel
<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>	Red panda
<i>Melurus ursinus</i>	Sloth bear
<i>Ursus arctos</i>	Brown bear
<i>Ursus thibetanus</i>	Asiatic (Himalayan) black bear



**Table 1:** List of mammal species from South Asian localities in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University (*contd.*)

<i>Paguma larvata</i>	Masked (Himalayan) palm civet
<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>	Asian palm civet (Toddy cat)
<i>Paradoxurus zeylonensis</i>	Golden palm civet
<i>Viverricula indica</i>	Small Indian civet
<b>Cetacea</b>	
<i>Platanista gangetica</i>	Ganges river (Gangetic river) dolphin
<i>Platanista minor</i>	Indus river dolphin
<b>Sirenia</b>	
<i>Dugong dugon</i>	Dugong
<b>Proboscidea</b>	
<i>Elephas maximus</i>	Asiatic (Indian) elephant
<b>Perissodactyla</b>	
<i>Equus kiang</i>	Kiang (Asiatic wild ass)
<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>	Indian (Great Indian one-horned) rhinoceros
<b>Artiodactyla</b>	
<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Wild boar
<i>Sus salvanius</i>	Pygmy hog
<i>Moschiola meminna</i>	Indian spotted chevrotain
<i>Moschus chrysogaster</i>	Alpine musk deer (Musk deer)
<i>Axis axis</i>	Chital
<i>Axis porcinus</i>	Hog deer
<i>Cervus duvaucelii</i>	Barasingha (Swamp deer)
<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	Elk (Kashmir stag)
<i>Cervus eldii</i>	Eld's deer (Thamin)
<i>Cervus unicolor</i>	Sambar
<i>Muntiacus muntjac</i>	Indian muntjac
<i>Antelope cervicapra</i>	Blackbuck
<i>Gazella bennettii</i>	Indian gazelle
<i>Bos frontalis</i>	Gaur
<i>Bos grunniens</i>	Yak
<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	Nilgai
<i>Bubalus bubalis</i>	Water (Wild) buffalo
<i>Budorcas taxicolor</i>	Takin
<i>Tetracerus quadricornis</i>	Four-horned antelope (Chowsingha)
<i>Capra falconeri</i>	Markhor
<i>Capra sibirica</i>	Siberian ibex (Ibex)
<i>Hemitragus hylocrius</i>	Nilgiri tahr
<i>Hemitragus jemlahicus</i>	Himalayan tahr
<i>Nemorhaedus sumatrensis</i>	Serow
<i>Ovis ammon</i>	Argali (Great Tibetan sheep)
<i>Ovis vignei</i>	Urial
<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>	Bharal
<b>Pholidota</b>	
<i>Manis crassicaudata</i>	Indian pangolin



**Table 1:** List of mammal species from South Asian localities in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University (*contd.*)**Rodentia**

<i>Callosciurus erythraeus</i>	Pallas's squirrel
<i>Callosciurus pygerythrus</i>	Irrawaddy (Hoarybellied Himalayan) squirrel
<i>Dremomys lokriah</i>	Orange-bellied Himalayan squirrel
<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>	Indian (Threestriped) palm squirrel
<i>Funambulus pennanti</i>	Northern (Fivestriped) palm squirrel
<i>Funambulus sublineatus</i>	Dusky palm squirrel
<i>Funambulus tristriatus</i>	Jungle palm squirrel
<i>Marmota himalayana</i>	Himalayan marmot
<i>Menetes berdmorei</i>	Indochinese ground squirrel
<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>	Black (Malayan) giant squirrel
<i>Ratufa indica</i>	Indian giant squirrel
<i>Ratufa macroura</i>	Sri Lankan (Grizzled) giant squirrel
<i>Tamiops macclellandi</i>	Himalayan striped squirrel
<i>Hylopetes alboniger</i>	Particoloured flying squirrel
<i>Hylopetes fimbriatus</i>	Kashmir flying squirrel
<i>Petaurista petaurista</i>	Red (Common) giant flying squirrel
<i>Petaurista philippensis</i>	Indian giant (Large brown) flying squirrel
<i>Alticola montosa</i>	Central Kashmir vole
<i>Hyperacrius fertilis</i>	True's vole
<i>Microtus sikimensis</i>	Sikkim vole
<i>Meriones hurrianae</i>	Indian desert jird (gerbil)
<i>Tatera indica</i>	Indian gerbil
<i>Apodemus rusiges</i>	Kashmir field mouse
<i>Bandicota indica</i>	Greater bandicoot rat
<i>Bandicota bengalensis</i>	Lesser bandicoot rat (Indian mole-rat)
<i>Golunda ellioti</i>	Indian bush rat
<i>Millardia meltada</i>	Soft-furred rat (Metad)
<i>Mus booduga</i>	Little Indian field mouse
<i>Mus mayori</i>	Mayor's mouse
<i>Mus musculus</i>	House mouse
<i>Mus terricolor</i>	Earth-coloured mouse
<i>Nesokia indica</i>	Short-tailed bandicoot rat
<i>Niviventer eha</i>	Smoke-bellied rat
<i>Rattus nitidus</i>	Himalayan field rat
<i>Rattus rattus</i>	House rat
<i>Rattus turkestanicus</i>	Turkestan rat
<i>Srilankomys ohienensis</i>	Ohiya rat
<i>Platacanthomys lasiurus</i>	Malabar spiny dormouse
<i>Hystrix indica</i>	Indian crested porcupine

**Lagomorpha**

<i>Ochotona roylei</i>	Royle's pika (Himalayan mouse-hare)
<i>Ochotona thibetana</i>	Moupin pika

region, of the availability of good series of many different species in the collections of the MCZ. Recourse to the collection will assuredly serve future investigations of systematics and of current and historical patterns of mammalian distribution in the region.

The collection is historically an important one. Specimens purchased from H.A. Ward and E. Gerrard Jr. formed the original basis of the South Asian collection at the MCZ. Collectors such as W. Theobald, M. Carleton, and C. Carpenter continued to add to this collection



during the 1860s and 1870s with their donations of large natural history collections from India. Another period of significant growth in accessions from South Asia, especially of bats and primates, occurred under the enthusiastic tenure of the great mammalogist G.M. Allen as Curator of the MCZ, Mammal Department (during 1924-1942). More recent additions to the collection have included specimens procured during expeditions to Nepal and Pakistan in the 1950s.

There is one name-bearing type series of a South Asian mammal at the MCZ — the holotype and paratype of *Pteropus ariel* (= *P. giganteus ariel*) described by G.M. Allen (1908) from the Maldives (see Helgen and McFadden, 2001:141). The department holds topotypes of many mammalian taxa from the region, including *Budorcas taxicolor*, *Capra falconeri cashmiriensis*, *Soriculus caudatus*, *S. nigrescens*, *Niviventer niviventer monticola*, *Niviventer eha* and *Miniopterus pusillus*. Additionally, the collection also contains specimens of a large

number of South Asian mammals that are rarely collected.

In the list, taxonomy follows Wilson and Reeder (1993); common names follow Wilson and Cole (2000); where these names deviate from Prater (1948), that author's common names are given in parentheses.

December 22, 2002 KRISTOFER M. HELGEN  
Mammal Department,  
Museum of Comparative Zoology,  
Harvard University, 26 Oxford Street,  
Cambridge, MA 02138, USA.

JOHN MATHEW  
Entomology Department,  
Museum of Comparative Zoology,  
Harvard University, USA.  
Email: jmathew@oeb.harvard.edu

CHRISTINE A. MONTA  
Department of History of Science,  
Harvard University, USA.

## REFERENCES

- ALLEN, G.M. (1908): Notes on Chiroptera. *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.* 52: 25-63.  
HELGEN, K.M. & T.L. MCFADDEN (2001): Type specimens of recent mammals in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.* 157: 93-181.  
PRATER, S.H. (1948): The Book of Indian Animals. Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai. Pp. 324.  
WILSON, D.E. & F.R. COLE (2000): Common names of mammals of the world. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.  
WILSON, D.E. & D.R. REEDER (1993): Mammal species of the world: a taxonomic and geographic reference. 2nd edn. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.

## 2. LITTLE GREBE *TACHYBAPTUS RUFICOLLIS*: AN ADDITION TO THE AVIFAUNA OF LADAKH

On the morning of July 1, 1999 between 1000 and 1030 hrs, three adult little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* in summer plumage were observed at Trishul Tso, a small lake created by the Army, near the headquarters of the Ladakh Scouts on the Leh-Srinagar road. The birds were immediately recognised as little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, a species familiar to the observers. On July 3, 1999 only one bird was

recorded at the lake. HSS checked for the birds again at the lake on July 9, 1999, but none were sighted.

There are no previously documented records of little grebe from Ladakh to the best of our knowledge. Ali and Ripley (1981), Grimmett *et al.* (1998) and Kazmierczak and van Perlo (2000) do not mention this area in the species' distribution.





Helgen, Kristofer M., Mathew, John, and Monta, Christine A. 2003. "1. the Harvard Collection of South Asian Mammals." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 100, 100–104.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/189679>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/155802>

**Holding Institution**

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

**Sponsored by**

Biodiversity Heritage Library

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: In Copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/>

Rights: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions/>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.