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THE GENERIC NAME OF THE AFRICAN BUFFALO.

BY N. HOLLISTER.

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Aside from conspicuous and well known differences in the general appearance of the animals and in the types of their horns, the buffaloes of Africa and of the Indian region are differentiated by constant characters of real generic value. At present these buffaloes are commonly combined in the genus *Bubalus*, with *Bubalus caffer* of South Africa as the type, or even loosely thrown in the old Linnæan genus *Bos*. The type of *Bubalus* H. Smith is, however, by tautonymy *Bos bubalis* Linnaeus, the Indian Buffalo. The Cape Buffalo and its allies should stand as a separate genus, the correct name for which appears to be *Syncerus* Hodgson. The synonymy and general characters of the two genera follow:

Genus **Bubalus** Smith.

1827. *Bubalus* H. SMITH, Griffith's Cuvier's Animal Kingdom, V, p. 371. (Subgenus of *Bos*.) Type by tautonymy, *Bos bubalus* SMITH = *Bos bubalis* LINNÆUS.

Skull much less massive than in *Syncerus*; more narrow and elongated; facial profile nearly straight; rostrum relatively long and slender. Nasal bones elongated and slender, narrowed in middle, and projecting much beyond end of median suture; thus longest laterally. *Vomer fused with palatine bones* and palatine plate of maxilla the *entire length of median suture*. Audital bullæ very small, reaching to about plane of ventral surface of basi-occipital. Molars short and high, crowns almost square. Hair of dorsum reversed, directed forward from haunches to head; ears comparatively small, without conspicuous fringes. INDIAN REGION.

The Tamarau (*B. mindorensis* Heude), from Mindoro, agrees with *B. bubalis* in the above general characters and can not be subgenerically separated. I have not seen a skull of *Anoa depressicornis* from Celebes.



Genus ***Syncerus*** Hodgson.

1847. *Syncerus* HODGSON, Journ. Asiatic Soc. Bengal, XVI, new series, no. 7, p. 709, July. (Genus.) Type by selection, *Bos brachyceros* GRAY.\*
1872. *Planiceros* GRAY, Cat. Rum. Mamm. in Brit. Mus., p. 10. (Subgenus of *Bubalus*.) Type by tautonymy, *Bubalus centralis* a. *Bos planiceros* BLYTH.
1872. *Syncerus* GRAY, Cat. Rum. Mamm. in Brit. Mus., p. 12. (Subgenus of *Bubalus*.) Type by monotypy, *Bubalus caffer* GRAY=*Bos caffer* SPARRMAN.

Skull massive, short and broad, facial profile concave; rostrum relatively short and broad. Nasal bones short and wide; greatest length mesially. *Vomer not attached to palatine bones*. Audital bullæ large, reaching far beyond plane of ventral surface of basi-occipital. Molars long, crowns relatively narrow. Hair of dorsum directed uniformly backward from neck to rump; ears large, heavily fringed with long hairs. ETHIOPIAN REGION.

The following African buffaloes were recognized by the last monographer, Matschie, 1906,† or have been described since the publication of his revision. The specific or subspecific rank of these forms is still very uncertain. I use trinomials where the original describer has done so.

1. *Syncerus azrakensis* (MATSCHIE). Dar Roseres, on the Bahr el Azrak, Egyptian Sudan.
2. *Syncerus brachyceros* (GRAY). Central Africa (shores of Lake Tchad, Matschie).
3. *Syncerus caffer caffer* (SPARRMAN). Sunday River, Eastern Capeland.
4. *Syncerus caffer æquinoctialis* (BLYTH). White Nile.
5. *Syncerus caffer cottoni* (LYDEKKER). Semliki Valley.
6. *Syncerus caffer matthewsi* (LYDEKKER). Mfumbiro, Ruanda, German East Africa.
7. *Syncerus caffer radcliffei* (THOMAS). Burumba, Ankole, S. W. Uganda.
8. *Syncerus centralis* (GRAY). ? Atbara, Egyptian Sudan.
9. *Syncerus garipeensis* (MATSCHIE). Ligua River, upper Orange.
10. *Syncerus limpopoensis* (MATSCHIE). Lembobo Mountains, Southern Swasiland.
11. *Syncerus mayi* (MATSCHIE). Bengo, Loanda.
12. *Syncerus nanus* (BODDAERT). "Probably somewhere between the Congo and the mouth of the Niger," Lydekker, Wild Oxen, Sheep, and Goats of All Lands, p. 111.
13. *Syncerus neumanni* (MATSCHIE). Chagwe, Uganda.

\* Hodgson's genus contains two species, "*Bornouensis* and *Brachyceros*." The first has been overlooked by all recent workers. It dates from 1858, and first appears in Chas. Hamilton Smith's Synopsis of the Mammalia, Jardine's Naturalists' Library, XV, p. 290, as *Bos bornouensis*, with description; type locality, Bornou.

† Sitz.—ber. ges. nat. freunde Berlin, 1906, no. 7, pp. 161-179, July, 1906.

14. *Syncerus planiceros* (BLYTH). Gambian Region.
15. *Syncerus ruahaensis* (MATSCHIE). Ruaha River, German East Africa.
16. *Syncerus schillingsi* (SCHILLINGS). Pangani, German East Africa.
17. *Syncerus thierryi* (MATSCHIE). Togo, West Africa.
18. *Syncerus wieseii* (MATSCHIE). Between Loangwa and Revuga rivers, north of Zambese River.
19. *Syncerus wembarensis* (MATSCHIE). Tschaja Swamp, southern Wembere Steppe.





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