

NOTES ON *TRAGELAPHUS SPEKEI SPEKEI* AND
TRAGELAPHUS SPEKEI GRATUS, WITH DESCRIPTION
OF A NEW SPECIES.

By THE HON. WALTER ROTHSCHILD.

DR. SCLATER described *Tragelaphus spekei* in 1864 from the Victoria Nyanza, where it had been collected by the famous Captain Speke, and in 1880 he described *Tragelaphus gratus* from a female skin obtained in West Africa. Numerous specimens have since been received from Gaboon. When he was at Tring, Mr. Oscar Neumann told me that during his journeys in Uganda and Unyoro he had shot many *Tragelaphus spekei*, and the farther west he went the more they approached in appearance *Tragelaphus gratus*, until he at last shot several which he could not with certainty assign to either form. Therefore I think it is pretty clear that we have to deal with two well-defined subspecies only, which cannot be kept as true species as the zones of their distribution overlap and they run one into the other.

I am now going to describe as new the *Tragelaphus* of the section under consideration which inhabits both banks of the Zambezi and the swamps of the surrounding country, which I name

***Tragelaphus selousi* sp. nov.**

It differs from *Tragelaphus spekei spekei* in its much larger size, being fully as large as *Tragelaphus spekei gratus*. I have seen a pair of horns measuring 35½ inches, and from the imperfect skin accompanying them should say the animal was quite as big as *Tragelaphus euryceros*, for the largest horns of the latter measure only 31¾ inches, and of *T. spekei spekei* 17½ inches.

♂ ad. Bright grey-brown all over, a white band extending between the eyes across the nose, a white patch under the eye, a white patch on throat; lower lip and chin white, and also inside of knee and base of ear. Height at shoulder 45 inches; horns up to 35½ inches, in type 21½ inches.

♀ ad. (one now living in the Zoological Gardens). Without horns; similar to male, but darker and showing hardly any white on face or throat.

Hab. North and south banks of Zambezi, extending north to Lakes Nyassa and Tanganyika.

The chief reason for my describing this as a species and not as a subspecies of *Tragelaphus spekei* is that both ♂ and ♀ are alike in colour and markings, while the females of *T. spekei spekei* and *T. spekei gratus* are very different from their respective males in colour and markings.



Rothschild, Lionel Walter Rothschild. 1898. "Notes on *Tragelaphus spekei spekei* and *Tragelaphus spekei gratus*, with Description of a New Species." *Novitates zoologicae : a journal of zoology in connection with the Tring Museum* 5, 206–206.

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