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GROUP SHOWS CARICATURE-LIKE PROBOSCIS MONKEYS IN TREETOP HABITAT

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The proboscis monkey, as its name implies, is a monkey with a very long nose—so long, in fact, and so brightly colored, that it gives the animal a very grotesque appearance, like a caricature. The nose is some three or four inches long in full-grown males, and is probably only a pendulous ornament of no particular service to the animal in its daily economy. At least that is all it is safe to say, for observations on the animal's habits are scanty.

Aside from its nose, the species is also distinguished among the simian tribe by its rather large size and its lively coloration. Its body is bright rufous, while its limbs, tail and under parts are pale buffy in considerable contrast. The face and nose are naked and bright pink. In the green trees which it inhabits this coloration must make it a very conspicuous object. With the exception of the great apes, it is one of the largest monkeys, only a few other species being equal to it. If it stood erect it would doubtless exceed four feet in height. Alfred Russel Wallace, who mentions it in his classical work, *The Malay Archipelago*, compares its size to that of a three-year-old child.

The great island of Borneo is the exclusive habitat of this monkey. This, it may be remembered, is also the home of the orang and some other peculiar mammals. The orang, however, extends to the adjoining island of Sumatra, whereas the proboscis monkey is strictly limited to one island. Just why this is so is a problem in distribution of a kind common enough to zoologists, but not easy to solve with exactness. No doubt this monkey reached Borneo previous to the separation of the island from the Asiatic mainland, but the peculiarities the

animal has developed seem to indicate that it has been isolated for quite a long time. If its whole history could be known, it would doubtless be an interesting one.

Perhaps the proboscis monkey's nearest relative is the golden or snub-nosed monkey of central China, which also has bright colors and a nose which, although short,

other monkeys. It is very elongate, and incompletely divided into several sacklike compartments.

Proboscis monkeys are inclined to be gregarious, being usually found in troops. They spend most of their time in the tops of tall trees, and rarely come to the ground. They seem to be most abundant near the

banks of water courses and estuaries, and nearly all travelers to Borneo report having seen them in such places. Certain trees such as the one called podada are frequented by them more than others, perhaps because of some food preference. Probably they eat leaves and young shoots as well as fruits and berries, but their exact habits are unknown. Largely for this reason, feeding them in captivity is not always successful, and they are rarely seen in zoos or menageries.

A group of proboscis monkeys, including several adults and young, was among the earliest of the zoological exhibits of Field Museum. This was prepared by Carl E. Akeley, and stood for many years in the building in Jackson Park formerly occupied by the Museum. Recently the group has been reinstalled and rearranged to occupy an appropriate space in William V. Kelley Hall (Hall 17) of the present Museum building. This has been accomplished very successfully by Staff Taxidermist Leon L. Pray,

who has regrouped the animals, painted a suitable background, and, with the assistance of Frank Lett, has reproduced an entire treetop scene with artificial branches, leaves and vines. The mounted animals required but little change except in position and are in excellent condition. They formed part of a considerable collection from Borneo obtained by C. F. Adams, and purchased for the Museum by the late Martin A. Ryerson.



Proboscis Monkeys

These inhabitants of Borneo, with their long comical noses, rank among the queerest of simians. They are conspicuous also for their large size and striking coloration. Group in William V. Kelley Hall.

is turned upward and peculiar in shape. Moreover, it also is a monkey of large size. Both species belong to the group collectively known as langurs, the most familiar species of which is the holy ape of India. All the monkeys of this group are especially distinguished by their strictly herbivorous diet. Their digestive apparatus is especially adapted for vegetable food, the stomach particularly being unlike that found in

Two Curators Appointed

In recognition of the capable and efficient manner in which they have administered their respective Departments, the Board of Trustees of Field Museum, at its meeting held September 17, approved the appoint-

ment of Acting Curator B. E. Dahlgren as Curator of the Department of Botany, and of Acting Curator Henry W. Nichols as Curator of the Department of Geology. The appointments are effective as of October 1.

Professor Noé in Mexico

Professor A. C. Noé, Research Associate in Paleobotany of Field Museum, and paleobotanist of the University of Chicago, was in Mexico City last month making studies of type fossils of Liassic plants.



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