

Extracts from Appendix I--Burma Game Manual 1929.

Length	Girth	Weight	Remarks
R-8'-9"	Government House
L-8'-6"	Rangoon (R. W.)
R-7'-3"	17½"	102 lb.	The tusks of the sacred white elephant from Mandalay Palace. Owner—The Marquis of Waterloo. (R.W.)
L-7'-3¼"	17"	97½ lb.	
R7'-9½"	17½"	72 lb.	Shot by J. N. Clough. Kyaikto District 1896 (I.F.S.B.)
L-8'-6"	17"	74 lb.	
R-6'-8"	18¼"	84 lb.	Owner—H. Shaw Dum. (R.W.)
L-6'-5"	18¼"	82 lb.	
R-6'-11"	15½" }	106 lb.	Owner—Gordon Smith (R.W.)
L-6'-6"	15½" }		
R-6'7"	17" }	110 lb.	Shot by H. E. Flint. Mogok Forest Division
L-5'-9"	17" }		
R6'-2½"	17¼"	...	Shot by A. Hazlehood. Basein Forest Division.
L-6'-1¼"	17½"	...	

Extract from *The Burmese Forester*. Vol. V, No. 2.—December 1955. (Page 134)

Length	Girth	Weight	Remarks
R-7'-11½"	16½" }	138.6 lb.	A big tusker shot at Hnokeho, Bhamo Division in 1936 by U Su.
L-7'-11"	16½" }		

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UNIVERSITY P.O.,
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August 23, 1956.

TUN YIN,
B.C.S. (Retd.)

6. ALBINO ELEPHANTS

Early in the present century an albino elephant calf was captured by the Government kheddah department in the Katha Forest Division. The calf was presented to the Trustees of the Shwe Dagon Pagoda, but died shortly after arrival at Rangoon as a result of over-feeding by pilgrims.

Later in the century, one was captured in the Toungoo Forest Division. The owner Saw Durmay Po Min, took the albino elephant along with one black elephant for exhibition in Europe and America. On the return journey, the elephant died at

Calcutta. A photo of this albino elephant is published in 'Wonders of Animal Life' Volume 3, page 1,026.

In 1939, a game ranger employed on elephant control in the Ngaputaw Township in the Henzada-Bassein Division, was charged in heavy bamboo jungle by an elephant, which he had to shoot in self defence. The animal on examination, turned out to be an albino. In 1940, a game ranger operating in the Mayu Hills of Arakan Division was also compelled to shoot an albino elephant.

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[To the above records may be added that of the white calf born to one of the elephants of the Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation Ltd. In a note published in the *Journal* at the time (Vol. 26, p. 286—Decr. 1918), Sir Henry Macnaughten gave this interesting information: 'A female calf born on 6th March 1918 aroused a good deal of excitement by its unusually light colour, and in view of the importance attached by the Burmese to the birth of a genuine SINPYUDAW it was thought advisable to submit the claims of the calf to a jury of prominent Burmans on the 7th April.

'The points of a SINPYUDAW appear to be as follows:

1. Twenty toes,
2. Pearl eyes,
3. Tail 'Tah Gah Paik,'
4. Red mouth,
5. Light coloured and smooth skin.

'The calf though possessing a rather light skin at birth and pearl eyes failed to fulfil these conditions, having only eighteen toes and a tail that was not up to the requirements. It was therefore at once pronounced to be not a genuine SINPYUDAW.

'The colour has since grown perceptibly darker and on reaching maturity is not likely to differ in any way from the ordinary.

'The fact that the "whiteness" of an elephant depends as much on the possession of certain points as on its colour may be of interest to your readers, as most people appear to believe in the existence of a milk white animal.'

In a letter to *The Field* of 16 Decr. 1926, (reprinted in the *Journal* 32: 214), D. F. Macfie records the birth of a similar calf to one of the Borneo Company's timber elephants in N. Siam. Local experts pronounced it to be a true 'Chang Peuak' or White Elephant, a verdict which was confirmed by a specially deputed official of the Royal White Elephant Department in Bangkok. 'The chief "points" looked for in such elephants' writes Mr. Macfie, 'appear to be (1) a light red skin, the lighter the better, with still lighter coloured patches on belly and inside of legs; (2) white hairs on body and tail; (3) a very light pink palate or roof of mouth; (4) eyes a light bluish-pinky colour; (5) white toe nails. The number of toes does not seem to matter materially, but five on each foot, fore and hind, is considered, I believe, a mark of high caste.'



Tun Yin, U. 1956. "Albino Elephants." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 54, 179–180.

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