

MAMMALOGIST REVISES MONKEY GENUS

DR. JACK FOODEN, Associate in Mammals, Department of Zoology, returned recently from a four-month study trip in seven European countries. He measured and recorded observations upon more than two thousand specimens of macaque monkeys in 15 European museums. His trip completes the primary, or data-gathering stage of an intensive taxonomic revision of the genus *Macaca*, a genus which includes the principal species of monkey used experimentally in medical and biological research. This is the rhesus monkey, *Macaca mulatta*, which lives in India, Pakistan, Burma, Thailand, North Vietnam, and China.

The genus *Macaca* contains about a dozen species according to the most recent authorities, and all but one of the dozen are Oriental. These eastern species range from Kashmir 2,000 miles south to Ceylon, from West Pakistan 3,500 miles eastward to Northern Honshu, Japan, and 4,500 miles south-eastward from West Pakistan to Timor, Celebes and the Philippines. Their greatest north-south range is from Honshu to Timor, which is 50° of latitude. The one western species, *Macaca sylvana*, lives in Morocco and Algeria, nearly 4,000 miles from its nearest relative, *M. mulatta*, and extends the geographic range, albeit discontinuously, to more than 9,000 miles, from Timor to Morocco. The range of the genus *Macaca* thus greatly exceeds that of any other living genus of primate except man.

The number of species of *Macaca*, the wide geographic range and the truly immense amount of knowledge that many kinds of research have yielded on the one species, *mulatta*, would in themselves make this taxonomic revision of the genus *Macaca* one of much importance. Other factors, however, endow this study with a sense of urgency. One factor is the growing knowledge of the importance of the macaque monkeys as reservoirs of diseases affecting mankind and transmitted from monkey to man by biting insects in the substantial part of the earth that the macaques coinhabit with man. Another factor is the explosive expansion of medical, behavioral, anatomical, and other federally-supported research on live macaques of several species. For this research to have significance, a medical scientist in field or laboratory needs to know infallibly the species of macaque his research involves. In the state of knowledge of *Macaca* existing today, this is not possible. Dr. Fooden's study of the great suites of specimens available in the larger museums of the world today intends to close these knowledge gaps with a completeness never possible before.

This research is supported by a Public Health Service grant from the National Institutes of Health to Chicago Natural History Museum where Dr. Fooden does his research on afternoons and weekends. Dr. Fooden is an Assistant Professor at Illinois Teachers College—Chicago (South).



Lion-tailed Macaque, the Indian species *Macaca silenus*

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