

Nyasa. The female has been mounted, and agrees generally with the description of the type. Thus, contrasted with a typical female Puku, it is of smaller size, with the crown of the head blackish, more black on the ears, and the general colour of a deeper red. There are, however, whitish rings on the fetlocks, which are stated to be absent in the type. The male apparently differs from the typical Puku chiefly in its smaller dimensions, the head and ears not showing an increase of black.

As Barotse-land is not very far from the upper Loangwe valley, there is no reason why the same form of Antelope should not inhabit both localities; and I cannot regard the above-mentioned difference in respect to the light rings on the fetlocks as of more than individual or local importance. In all characters the animal is essentially a Puku, of which I regard it merely as a subspecies, and accordingly prefer to call it the Senga Puku, *C. vardoni senganus*, instead of *C. senganus*.

## 6. On the Leopard of the Caucasus. By R. LYDEKKER.

[Received June 5, 1899.]

(Plate LIV.)

In his recently published work entitled 'Hunting Trips in the Caucasus,' Prince Demidoff states that the Snow-Leopard (*Felis uncia*) occurs in the Caucasus; and he figures (p. 85) an animal which is undoubtedly that species. I am informed, however, that the specimen from which that figure was taken is not of Caucasian origin. And as I find that Dr. Satunin<sup>1</sup> especially denies the occurrence of the Snow-Leopard in the Caucasus, I have endeavoured to make out what animal had been mistaken for it.

Dr. Satunin records the occurrence of the ordinary Leopard in the range, but without stating whether Caucasian examples differ from ordinary Indian Leopards on the one hand or from African Leopards on the other. But since the so-called *Felis tulliana* of Valenciennes occurs in Asia Minor<sup>2</sup> and also in Persia<sup>3</sup>, and bearing in mind the approximation to the Ounce exhibited by that variety of the Leopard, nothing would seem more likely than it should also be found in the Caucasus.

In confirmation of this view, I have recently received through the good offices of Messrs. Rowland Ward, Ltd., a Leopard-skin from the Caucasus belonging to Prince Demidoff.

Compared with an ordinary Indian Leopard this skin (Plate LIV.) is at once distinguishable by the irregular formation and small size of the rosettes, in which the centres are not appreciably darker

<sup>1</sup> Zool. Jahrb., Syst. ix. p. 290 (1896).

<sup>2</sup> See Danford and Alston, P. Z. S. 1880, p. 51.

<sup>3</sup> See Blanford, 'Fauna of British India,' Mamm. p. 69 (1888); the so-called Ounce skins referred to by the same author in his 'Eastern Persia,' vol. ii. p. 35 (1875), also doubtless belong to the form described as *F. tulliana*.



than the general ground-colour. Moreover, from the head to the shoulders the spots are solid, like those of the Hunting-Leopard. In their large size, oblong or circular form, and wide separation from one another, they are quite unlike the spots on the same part of the body of the African Leopard, which are also solid.

The fur, which is relatively long all over the body, becomes still more markedly so on the under-parts, where it is pure white, with solid elongated black spots of very large size, but widely separated from one another. In this respect the skin is nearer to the Indian than to the African Leopard, in which the fur of the under-parts is yellowish, with the spots so large as to exhibit only a network of light ground. The resemblance of the under-parts of the present specimen to the corresponding region of the Snow-Leopard is remarkably striking; and a similar resemblance is exhibited by the very long and bushy tail, especially the terminal third, which is black and white only.

That the present specimen is, however, only a well-marked local variety of the Leopard I am quite convinced; and if I am right in identifying it with the so-called *Felis tulliana*, the latter animal must also be looked upon as a race of the same species, under the title of *F. pardus tulliana*. This will accordingly be the North-eastern representative of the species; and it will be interesting to find where it passes into the ordinary Indian form, to which it is clearly nearer than it is to the African. It is stated by Mr. Blanford to range into Baluchistan and the confines of Sind.

I may add that I am fully convinced of the advisability of separating the Indian from the African race of the Leopard; but there comes the puzzling question as to which is entitled to bear the name of *typicus*.

## 7. On the supposed former Existence of a Sirenian in St. Helena. By R. LYDEKKER.

[Received June 12, 1899.]

In no zoological nor distributional work<sup>1</sup> with which I am acquainted can I find any reference to the alleged occurrence of a Manati in St. Helena. Nevertheless, there are records to the effect that an animal going by that name formerly inhabited that island. For example, Mr. J. C. Melliss, in his work on St. Helena<sup>2</sup>, definitely states that a Manati once occurred there, and goes so far as to express his opinion that it was specifically identical either with *Trichechus americanus* or *T. senegalensis*. I am also informed by my friend Mr. R. A. Sterndale, now Governor of the island, that Manatis were formerly of such frequent occurrence that there was a regular government duty on each one killed.

<sup>1</sup> Both Mr. Wallace in 'Island Life' and Messrs. Sclater in the 'Geography of Mammals' are silent on this subject.

<sup>2</sup> 'St. Helena: a Physical, Historical, and Topographical Description of the Island.' London, 1875, pp. 86 & 87.





Lydekker, Richard. 1899. "On the Leopard of the Caucasus." *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1899, 795–796.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-7998.1899.tb06894.x>.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/98517>

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-7998.1899.tb06894.x>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/72613>

**Holding Institution**

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

**Sponsored by**

Biodiversity Heritage Library

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.