

This article was downloaded by: [North Carolina State University]
On: 06 March 2015, At: 07:47
Publisher: Taylor & Francis
Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number:
1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street,
London W1T 3JH, UK



Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 8

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:
<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tnah14>

XXIX.—Some notes on the reedbucks, with a description of two new subspecies

Gilbert Blaine

Published online: 08 Sep 2009.

To cite this article: Gilbert Blaine (1913) XXIX.—Some notes on the reedbucks, with a description of two new subspecies , Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 8, 11:63, 287-291, DOI: [10.1080/00222931308693323](https://doi.org/10.1080/00222931308693323)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00222931308693323>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Taylor & Francis makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (the "Content") contained in the publications on our platform. However, Taylor & Francis, our agents, and our licensors make no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in this publication are the opinions and views of the authors, and are not the views of or endorsed by Taylor & Francis. The accuracy of the Content should not be relied upon and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Taylor and Francis shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages, and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly

or indirectly in connection with, in relation to or arising out of the use of the Content.

This article may be used for research, teaching, and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, reselling, loan, sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden. Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at <http://www.tandfonline.com/page/terms-and-conditions>

Var. *meridionalis*.

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
1. ♀ ..	290	33	21	135	27	5	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	10	9	4·5	4·5	11	11
2. „ ..	205	25	21	137	30	4	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	8	9	9	4·5	4·5	12	12
3. ♂ ..	355	45	21	142	34	3	3	3	6	9	9	4·5	4·5	12	11
4. „ ..	340	40	21	146	34	4	3	3	7	10	10	4·5	4·5	14	12
5. ♀ ..	275	35	21	142	27	4	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	9	9	4·5	4·5	12	12
6. „ ..	330	30	28	139	26	4	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	7	10	9	4·5	4·5	11	11
7. „ ..	280	35	21	137	32	4	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	9	9	4·5	4·5	12	10
8. „ ..	210	22	21	138	27	3	2	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	10	10	4·5	4·5	13	13
9. „ ..	230	28	21	137	32	5	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	5	9	9	4·5	4·5	12	12
10. „ ..	275	35	21	145	34	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	9	9	4·5	4·5	10	11
11. „ ..	315	25	21	138	24	4	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	7	9	9	4·5	4·5	12	12
12. ♂ ..	260	23	21	133	35	4	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	9	9	4·5	4·5	11	12
13. ♀ ..	310	32	21	137	26	3	3	3	7	9	9	4·5	4·5	11	11

1. Tarsos, N. Morea. 2. Xenochori, N. Euboia. 3-5. Athens. 6. Delos. 7. Tenos. 8. Mykonos. 9. Syra. 10. Adampol, Asia Minor. 11. Lebanon. 12, 13. Syria.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE V.

Vipera ammodytes, var. *transcaucasiana*. Head and anterior part of body of male, natural size, and enlarged side view of head of same.

XXIX.—*Some Notes on the Reedbucks, with a Description of Two new Subspecies.* By GILBERT BLAINE.

THE reedbucks are one of the most widely distributed groups of all the African antelopes. Their range extends over the whole of Africa below a line drawn at about 15° lat. N.

They inhabit grassy uplands where the bush is thin and scattered in the neighbourhood of streams, or wide plains bordering big rivers or lakes, generally consorting together in pairs or in small family parties. I have seen them in the open glades and grassy meadows that intersect dense forest-tracts on a high mountain-range, and also in a flat low-lying plain at the foot of the same mountain-range, where they frequented the borders of a large swamp during the day, forming dry beds in the reeds above the surface of the water, and emerging in the early mornings and evenings to feed on the coarse grass that grew on the adjacent open flats.

In this particular locality they were very numerous, over two hundred being observed grazing together.

The reedbucks of the mountain and those of the plain were quite distinct from one another.

These antelopes are not invariably found near water. I have met them in the dry season scattered all over the great alluvial plain that extends from the edge of the swamps at Meshra-er-Rek westwards for some 70 miles into the Bahr-el-Ghazal country.

Precipitous dry and stony hillsides over which kudu range are also the home of mountain reedbuck. With the exception of forests and deserts it is evident that there are very few localities in which one or another form of these antelopes cannot exist, and consequently many local races of the genus are still to be discovered and described. I have always noticed slight degrees of difference in reedbuck from various localities, and the uniformity of type in each particular case.

With regard to the general geographical distribution of this genus. S. Africa from the Cape as far as the extreme northern limit of the Zambesi watershed on the Tanganyika Plateau covers the range of *Cervicapra arundinum* in the east, while in the west it is said to extend to Angola. Central Africa from Abyssinia southwards as far as the northern edge of the Tanganyika Plateau covers the range of *C. bohor*. *C. re-dunca*, of which the type specimen was procured in the island of Goree, off the coast of Senegal, by Adanson, and subsequently described by Buffon in 1764, I have reasons for considering distinct from either of the above, based chiefly upon the size of its teeth, which are smaller than those of any other known species. I shall therefore place all the other reedbucks of the Central-African group under the specific name of *bohor*.

There is a reedbuck resembling *C. arundinum* found in open country 25 miles N.E. of Wau, in the Bahr-el-Ghazal Province of the Sudan, of which I have a mounted head in my own collection, and have seen another similar to it, presented by Captain P. E. Vaughan, in the B. M. collection.

This reedbuck is not common, and I was unable to procure a specimen of it on the first occasion that I visited this locality in 1907. But I at once noticed the difference between it and the numerous small red reedbuck of the *bohor* type that are found not only on the alluvial plains to the east between Wau and Meshra-er-Rek, but also along the river-valleys to the west, viz. those of the Pongo and Chell.

On my second visit, in 1910, I shot an adult male of this species, and found that it resembled *arundinum* in its general

grey-brown body-coloration and in the horns being similarly flexed and having soft, swollen, spongy bases, which are not present in fully adult *C. bohor*; but it was smaller and the horns were relatively shorter than in the former species. At Lake Rikwa, which lies to the east of the southern end of Lake Tanganyika in German East Africa, I have shot reed-buck of the *bohor* type, a specimen of which is in my collection.

From these observations it is evident that the ranges of *C. arundinum* and of *C. bohor* overlap.

In the following key the figures given are to be taken as average measurements in millimetres of adult male specimens.

Key to the *Reedbucks*.

Skulls.

- A. Size generally greater, narrower comparatively across the orbits, with the rostrum longer; orbits smaller; horns longer and more hooked forwards at ends.
 - a. Size greater, length 290; rostrum longest, length 164; teeth largest, upper dental series 70; horns longest and less abruptly hooked at ends *C. arundinum* (including [*C. thomasiæ*]).
 - b. Size smaller; rostrum shorter; teeth smaller; horns shorter and stouter in proportion and abruptly hooked at ends.
 - a². Size smallest, length 225; teeth smallest, upper dental series 54; horns shortest, ends hooked strongly forwards and inwards *C. redunca*.
 - b². Size larger; teeth larger; horns longer.
 - a³. Less massive and shallower vertically, length 255; upper dental series 63; horns thinner, longer, and more divergent from their bases outwards *C. bohor cottoni*.
 - b³. More massive and deeper vertically; horns shorter and stouter.
 - a⁴. Shorter, length 240; upper dental series 58; horns shorter . . *C. bohor ugandæ*.
 - b⁴. Longer; horns longer.
 - a⁵. Length 255; upper dental series 62; general axis of horns rising above level of frontal plane *C. bohor* and *C. bohor*
 - b⁵. Length 256; upper dental series 63; horns slightly lyrate, with their general axis depressed below level of frontal plane *C. bohor nigeriensis*.

- B. Size lesser; wider comparatively across the orbits, with the rostrum shorter; orbits very large; horns shorter and straighter, less hooked at ends.
- a. Size larger, length 230; upper dental series 57 *C. fulvorufula* (including [var. *subalbina*]).
- b. Size smaller, length 225; upper dental series 60 *C. fulvorufula chanleri*.

Skins.

- A. Colour greyer, more grizzled and less fulvous; tail very bushy; head and neck fulvous, contrasting with body-colour.
- a. Colour richer and darker, tinged with rufous *C. fulvorufula* and [subspecies.
- b. Colour lighter, with more or less fulvous tinge *C. arundinum* (including [*C. thomasiæ*: colour pure grey]).
- B. Colour yellower, less grizzled, and more fulvous; head and neck not contrasting with body-colour.
- a. Colour yellowish fawn.
- a². Colour darker; hair longer *C. redunca*.
- b². Colour paler; hair shorter *C. bohor nigeriensis*.
- b. Colour grizzled fawn.
- a². Colour yellower *C. bohor*, *C. bohor wardi*, [*C. bohor cottoni*].
- b². Colour browner *C. bohor ugandæ*.

Cervicapra bohor nigeriensis, subsp. n.

Similar in size to *C. bohor wardi* and larger than *C. redunca*, but with the body-colour of a uniform shade of fawn as in *redunca*.

Colour of hair on head, neck, and upper parts of body light fulvous fawn, slightly darker down the centre of the back and paler on the flanks, where it merges gradually into the white of the belly. Underparts white. A pale dusky stripe down the front of the fore legs. Hair short and close, not waved.

Dimensions of skull:—Greatest length 256 mm.; occiput to nasals 129; nasals 100; orbit to gnathion 139; premaxillaries 63; supraorbital width 110; mean width between orbits 72; vertical diameter of orbits 38; vertical height from alveolar edge of first molar to top of orbit 80; zygomatic width 95; length on palatal suture 139; length of upper dental series 63; central molar 13.5 × 12.

Horns: main axis depressed below the level of the frontal plane; stout at their bases, slightly curved downwards and outwards centrally, the ends being hooked forwards and inwards, but not as strongly as in *C. bohor* or *C. redunca*.

Hab. N. Nigeria. Type from Ibi.

Type. Ad. ♂ skin and skull. B.M. no. 7. 7. 5. 234.
Collected and presented by G. B. Gosling.

Cervicapra bohor ugandæ, subsp. n.

Size rather smaller than the above, with a shorter skull and shorter horns. Body-colour grizzled, as in *C. bohor wardi*.

Colour of hair as in *C. bohor wardi*, only richer and darker, more brown, and less fulvous.

Dimensions of skull:—Greatest length 234 mm.; occiput to nasals 124; nasals 88; orbit to gnathion 128; premaxillaries 64; supraorbital width 108; mean width between orbits 71; vertical diameter of orbits 38; vertical height from alveolar edge of first molar to top of orbits 75; zygomatic width 98; length on palatal suture 128; length of upper dental series 56; central molar 13 × 12.

Horns short and stout, without a pronounced hook forward at ends.

Hab. Ankole, S.W. Uganda.

Type. Old ♂ skin and skull. B.M. no. 5. 4. 3. 34. Presented by Col. Delmé-Radcliffe.

XXX.—*On the Relationship of Gazella isabella to Gazella dorcas, with a Description of a new Species and Subspecies.*
By GILBERT BLAINE.

SINCE Gray first described *Gazella isabella* in 1846, a difficulty has always existed in distinguishing it from *Gazella dorcas*, and no satisfactory description has hitherto been formulated to show how the two species differ, or by what geographical limits they are separated from one another. The type of *isabella* is said to have come from Abyssinia. It is an immature male, and consists of a skin and a skull which is very imperfect, and Gray's description * of it is short and rather vague. He subsequently refers to *isabella* as being found both in Egypt and in Kordofan. There are in the B.M. collection four other specimens of gazelles from Abyssinia, two males and two females, with which Gray's type agrees fairly well. They are all adult, and so have longer horns, the tips of which are hooked inwards nearly at a right

* Gray, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (1) xviii. pp. 214, 231 (1846).