
XXV. *Remarks on the Antelope Chickara: in two Letters addressed to the Secretary. By Robert Hills, Esq., F.L.S.*

Read November 6, 1827.

SIR,

Margaret Street, August 4, 1827.

I TAKE leave to offer, for the acceptance of the Linnean Society, two little drawings, sent herewith: they represent the general appearance, with the head, on a larger scale, of a male four-horned Antelope, lately arrived from India. There are in the museums of the Linnean Society and Royal College of Surgeons imperfect skulls of this animal, and in Mr. Brookes's valuable collection another; but this is, I believe, the first living specimen ever brought to our country. It is the property of — Fairlie, Esq., of York Terrace, Regent's Park.

From Sir Anthony Carlisle, at whose suggestion I made the drawings, the Society will hereafter receive a communication on the more interesting points of its history and habits. In the interim, to give the dimensions, with a few remarks on its general character, may be not altogether impertinent.

Height at the shoulder, $23\frac{1}{2}$ inches; from the apex of the nose to the first pair of horns, 5 inches; from these to the base of the occiput, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; from the occiput to the setting-on of the tail, 26 inches; girth behind the shoulders, 24 inches; from the olecranon to the bottom of the hoof, $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches; from the end of the os calcis to the bottom of the hoof, $11\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

The

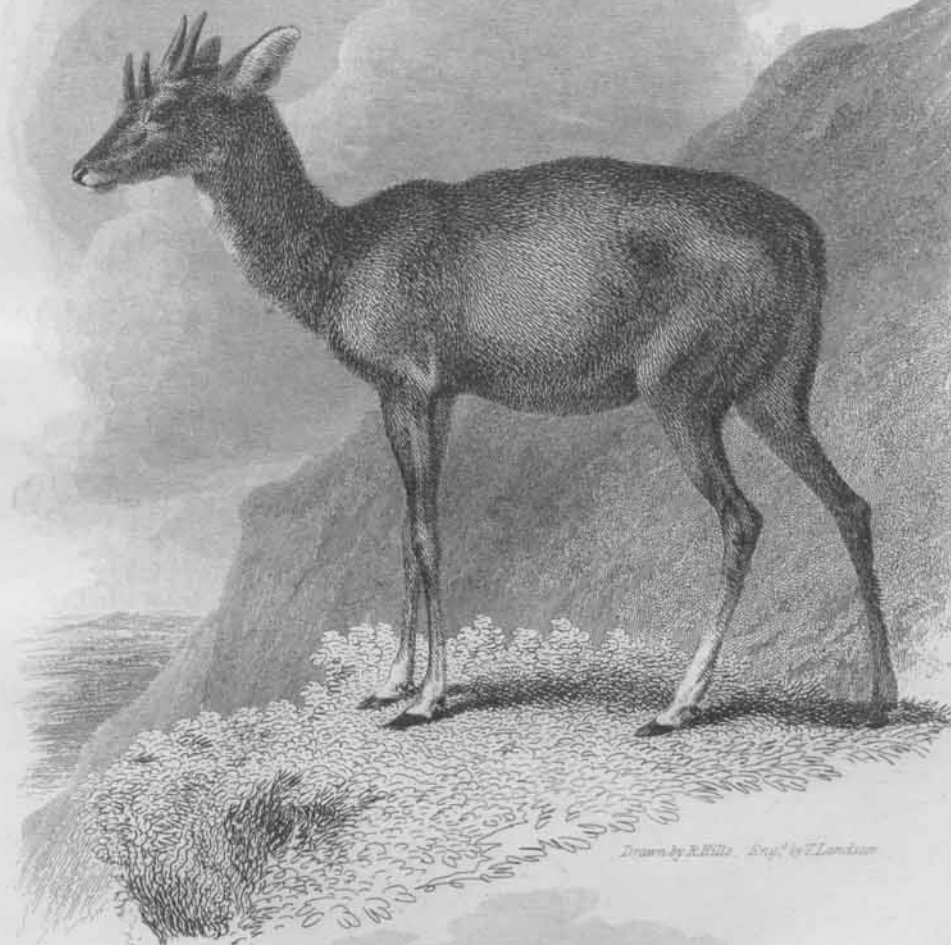
The general hue is a fulvous brown, which however will probably, as in the Stag, become duller at the approach of winter. Along the vertebral line the colour is rather darker; it is lighter and neutralized on the insides of the limbs*, which are pied of the general colour and white. The upper part of the rostrum is of a brown chocolate, which gradually, as it approaches the nostrils, melts into their colour,—a deep purplish gray. Along the margin and side of the nether jaw, from symphysis to ramus, white. The throat, breast, and abdomen, a low-toned, and, in parts, yellowish-white. In form and colour the ear closely resembles that of the *fallow-coloured* specimen of the common *Cervus palmatus*. Eye large and prominent, and the pupil very large even when exposed to a strong light.

In most of the Deer tribe, in the Ox, Sheep, Goat, and also in every other Antilope that I have seen, the lubricous character of the apex and alæ of the nose comes in pretty contrast with the hair-clad parts that surround them and form the muzzle; but in this creature the covering of the facial ridge, from a little below the first pair of horns, becomes shorter and shorter so gradually, that there is no such line of termination. The nostrils are small, and more perpendicularly placed than in any of the animals just alluded to. These points, and the tumidulous appearance of the flap that protects the *sub-*, or, as I should rather call it, *ante-ocular sinus*, give a less agreeable aspect to the head, when viewed in front, than it has in profile.

The following is, though perhaps unsatisfactory, the best description I can give of the horns:—Length of the first or smallest pair, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch, slightly recurvate towards their tips; length of the second pair, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, irregular, wavy protended cones, obtusely pointed; in a trifling degree concave anteriorly,

* This is so common a circumstance among all quadrupeds, that it may seem scarcely worth mention.

and



Drawn by R. Ellis. Eng'd by T. Landrum



Antelope Chickara.

and rather more divergent from each other than the first pair ; in colour resembling those of the Goat.

There is in Deer a curly tuft of hair on the outside of the limb near the upper head of the metatarsus. In this animal it is wanting ; but as the hair has been nearly all rubbed away from the knees on ship-board, it is possible that these tufts may have shared the same fate.

The fore-hoofs, of which the outermost are nearly a third longer than the inner ones, are larger and of a coarser character than those of the hinder feet.

The tongue appears to have unusual powers of projection, as in licking the face it may be seen reaching far above the eyes.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

ROBERT HILLS.

SIR,

Margaret Street, Sept. 25, 1827.

THE Four-horned Antilope died about the 20th of last month, and his skeleton is now among the treasures of the College Museum. I am induced, and am enabled by these circumstances, to add a few particulars to the paper that accompanied the drawings.

A comparison of the horns borne by the subject of the present consideration, with those before in the College Museum, will perhaps warrant a conjecture that it may have its varieties. The skulls are nearly of the same size, and exactly agree in character ; there are also the same three annulate ridges (concealed by hair in the living animal) at the bases of the horns ;

but there is this difference between them,—a transverse section of the smallest pair in the old specimen (the larger ones are unfortunately wanting) would exhibit a figure of a lozenge-like character, while those of the new one are nearly circular. The tips of the old horns are rather acute, of the new ones obtuse. The state of the epiphyses shows the new specimen to have been a young animal (I should presume in his second year), and the old skull appears to have belonged to an adult; but this difference in point of age does not account, as it might in deer, for such a variance of character in the horns.

To my former remarks on the nose or muzzle I beg to add, that I can recollect only one animal which in this feature resembled our Antilope,—it was a very small Deer, in the menagerie of the late Duchess of York: it was said to be Brazilian, and its horns resembled those of the Pricket *Cervus dama*. In the Nyl Ghau this part manifestly belongs to the same class with the nose of the Cow and Stag. In all other Antilopes it will, I believe, be found to accord in character with that of the Goat and Sheep.

The resemblance between the tail of this Antilope when the drawing was taken, and the “single” of the Stag, dissection has since accounted for. The number and character of the caudal vertebræ show that part to have possessed the same powers of motion as the tail of a Fallow Deer; but he must at that time have been in a state of sickness and pain, of which the *flinching, tucked-in* position of this member is as expressive as it is of fear.

After carefully considering the article in the 14th volume of the *Linnean Transactions* on the *Antilope Chickara*, and that in the 44th number of the “*Histoire Naturelle des Mammifères*,” I am of opinion that the *Chickara* described by General Hardwicke and M. Duvaucel, and the animal whose portrait I have
sent

sent you, are individuals of the same species, although shades of difference do exist amongst them. I submit that the descriptions and drawings of the General's Antilope and M. Duvaucel's, by a singular coincidence, must have both been made from imperfect specimens with regard to the first pair of horns, as an inspection of the two skulls now in the College Museum will make clearly manifest.

There is a difference of three inches between the height at the shoulder, as estimated by General Hardwicke, and that which I have given ; but I followed the projection of the shoulder from the spine. The General probably placed his animal under an horizontal bar.

How easily it may happen, that accounts drawn up with equal care and correctness, by different persons, of the same animal, and even of the same individual (and more particularly if it be of the deer kind), shall, owing to some unconsidered variation of circumstances, appear to arraign the fidelity of each other !

I am, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

ROBERT HILLS.

TAB. XX.