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**To cite this article:** John Corse Esq. (1799) II. Account of the method of catching wild elephants at Tipura in the East Indies , Philosophical Magazine Series 1, 3:9, 5-12, DOI: [10.1080/14786449908676948](https://doi.org/10.1080/14786449908676948)

**To link to this article:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14786449908676948>



Published online: 18 May 2009.



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and others like ferruginous pyrites covered with an efflorescence by the action of the atmosphere and water. The above-mentioned substances must be considered as the principal causes of the violent commotions which appear in this crater. They are supplied from a large stratum of pyrites; and from the violence of the combustion, we may conjecture that it must be very deep. It is probable also that this stratum is of considerable extent, for very hot springs are found at the distance of a mile both to the north and south of the volcano. Such substances accumulated in different parts of the earth, when accidentally combined with other substances, such as air, water, and inflammable bodies, produce earthquakes and other convulsions of nature. Though the internal re-action of these substances on one another seems to threaten danger, it however occasions no damage to the colony, because they have immediate communication with the atmosphere, and the whole soil is penetrated by water so that it cannot take fire: neither are coal, bitumen, or such inflammable bodies found in the neighbourhood.

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II. *Account of the Method of Catching Wild Elephants at Tipura\* in the East Indies.* By JOHN CORSE, Esq. From The Asiatic Researches.

**I**N the month of November, when the weather has become cool, and the swamps and marshes, formed by the rains in the five preceding months, are lessened, and some of them dried up, a number of people are employed to go in quest of elephants.

At this season the males come from the recesses of the forest into the borders and outskirts thereof, whence they

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\* The ancient name of the province was *Tripura*, or *with three towns*, which has been corrupted into *Tipra* or *Tipraa*.

make nocturnal excursions into the plains in search of food, and where they often destroy the labours of the husbandman, by devouring and trampling down the rice, sugar canes, &c. that they meet with. A herd or drove of elephants, from what I can learn, has never been seen to leave the woods: some of the largest males often stray to a considerable distance; but the young ones always remain in the forest under the protection of the *Palmai*, or leader of the herd, and of the larger elephants. The *Goondahs*, or large males, come out singly, or in small parties, sometimes in the morning, but commonly in the evening; and they continue to feed all night upon the long grass, that grows amidst the swamps and marshes, and of which they are extremely fond. As often, however, as they have an opportunity, they commit depredations on the rice fields, sugar canes, and plantain trees that are near, which oblige the farmers to keep regular watch, under a small cover, erected on the tops of a few long bamboos, about 14 feet from the ground: and this precaution is necessary to protect them from the tigers, with which this province abounds. From this lofty station the alarm is soon communicated from one watchman to another, and to the neighbouring villages, by means of a rattle with which each is provided. With their shouts and cries, and noise of the rattles, the elephants are generally scared and retire. It sometimes, however, happens, that the males advance even to the villages, overturn the houses, and kill those who unfortunately come in their way, unless they have had time to light a number of fires: this element seems to be the most dreaded by wild elephants, and a few lighted wisps of straw or dried grass seldom fail to stop their progress. To secure one of the males, a very different method is employed from that which is taken to secure a herd: the former is taken by *Koomkees*, or female elephants trained for the purpose, whereas the latter is driven into a strong enclosure called a *Keddah*.

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As the hunters know the places where the elephants come out to feed, they advance towards them in the evening with four Koomkees, which is the number of which each hunting party consists; when the nights are dark, and these are the most favourable for their purpose, the male elephants are discovered by the noise they make in cleaning their food, by whisking and striking it against their forelegs, and by moonlight they can see them distinctly at some distance.

As soon as they have determined on the Goondah they mean to secure, three of the Koomkees are conducted silently and slowly by their Mahotes (drivers) at a moderate distance from each other, near to the place where he is feeding; the Koomkees advance very cautiously, feeding as they go along, and appear like wild elephants, that have strayed from the jungle. When the male perceives them approaching, if he takes the alarm and is viciously inclined, he beats the ground with his trunk and makes a noise, showing evident marks of his displeasure, and that he will not allow them to approach nearer; and if they persist, he will immediately attack and gore them with his tusks; for which reason they take care to retreat in good time. But should he be amorously disposed, which is generally the case, (as these males are supposed to be driven from the herd at a particular period by their seniors, to prevent their having connection with the females of that herd,) he allows the females to approach, and sometimes even advances to meet them.

When, from these appearances, the Mahotes judge that he will become their prize, they conduct two of the females, one on each side close to him, and make them advance backwards, and press gently with their posteriors against his neck and shoulders: the third female then comes up and places herself directly across his tail; in this situation, so far from suspecting any design against his liberty, he begins to toy with the females and caresses them with his trunk. While thus engaged, the fourth female is brought near, with ropes and proper assistants, who immediately get under the belly of the

third female, and put a flight cord (the Chilkah \*) round his hind legs: should he move, it is easily broken; in which case, if he takes no notice of this flight confinement, nor appears suspicious of what was going forward, the hunters then proceed to tie his legs with a strong cord (called Bundah †), which is passed alternately, by means of a forked stick and a kind of hook, from one leg to the other, forming the figure of 8; and as these ropes are short, for the convenience of being more readily put around his legs, 6 or 8 are generally employed, and they are made fast by another cord (the Daugbearee ‡), which is passed a few turns perpendicularly between his legs, where the folds of the Bundahs intersect each other. A strong cable (the Phand §) with a running noose, 60 cubits long, is next put round each hind leg immediately above the Bundahs, and again above them, 6 or 8 additional Bundahs, according to the size of the elephant, are made fast, in the same manner as the others were: the putting on these ropes generally takes up about 20 minutes, during which the utmost silence is observed, and the Mahotes, who keep flat upon the necks of the females, are covered with dark coloured cloths, which serve to keep them warm, and at the same time do not attract the notice of the elephant. While the people are busily employed in tying

\* Chilkā—is a very flight soft cord, which the hunters at first put around the hind-legs of a Goondah, before they begin to tie him: this is not used for Keddah elephants.

† Bundah—a middle-sized cord, six or eight cubits long, which is put round either the hind or fore legs of elephants, in order to secure them. From ten to twenty are employed.

‡ Daugbearee—is generally a continuation of every second Bundah that is put on, a few turns of which are passed round, where the folds of the Bundahs intersect each other, in order to fasten and keep them firm. When the Bundah is not long enough, another cord is made use of.

§ Phand—is a cable nearly the same size as the Dool, the noose of which is put round each leg of the Goondahs, and then it is tied to trees or stakes. The Phands, used for the Keddah elephants, are only about thirty cubits long.

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the legs of the Goondah, he careffes fometimes one, and fometimes another, of the feducers (Kootne), examining their beauties and toying with different parts, by which his defires are excited and his attention diverted from the hunters, and in thefe amorous dalliances he is indulged by the females. But if his paffions fhould be fo roused, before his legs are properly fecured, as to induce him to attempt leaping on one of the females, the Mahote, to infure his own fafety and prevent him gratifying his defires any further, makes the female run away, and at the fame time, by raifing his voice and making a noife, he deters the Goondah from purfuing: this however happens very feldom, for he is fo fecured by the preffure of a Koomkee on each fide and one behind, that he can hardly turn himfelf, or fee any of the people, who always keep fnug under the belly of the third female, that ftands acrofs his tail, and which ferves both to keep him fteady and to prevent his kicking any of the people who are employed in fecuring him; but in general he is fo much taken up with his decoyers, as to attend very little to any thing elfe. In cafe of accidents, however, fhould the Goondah break loofe, the people upon the firft alarm can always mount on the backs of the tame elephants, by a rope that hangs ready for the purpofe, and thus get out of his reach. When his hind legs are properly fecured, they leave him to himfelf, and retire to a fmall diftance: as foon as the Koomkees leave him, he attempts to follow, but finding his legs tied, he is roused to a proper fenfe of his fituation, and retreats towards the jungle; the Mahotes follow at a moderate diftance from him, on the tame elephants, accompanied by a number of people that had been previously fent for, and who, as foon as the Goondah paffes near a ftout tree, make a few turns of the Phands, or long cables that are trailing behind him, around its trunk: his progrefs being thus flopt, he becomes furious, and exerts his utmoft force to difengage himfelf; nor will he then allow any of the Koomkees to come near him, but is outrageous for fome time,

time, falling down and goring the earth with his tusks. If by these exertions the Phands are once broken, which sometimes is effected, and he escapes into the thick jungle, the Mahotes dare not advance for fear of the other wild elephants, and are therefore obliged to leave him to his fate; and in this hampered situation, it is said, he is even ungenerously attacked by the other wild elephants. As the cables are very strong and seldom give way, when he has exhausted himself by his exertions, the Koomkees are again brought near and take their former positions, viz. one on each side and the other behind. After getting him nearer the tree, the people carry the ends of the long cables around his legs, then back and about the trunk of the tree, making, if they can, two or three turns, so as to prevent even the possibility of his escape. It would be almost impossible to secure an elephant in any other manner, as he would tear up any stake that could at the time be driven into the ground, and even the noise of doing it would frighten the elephant: for these reasons, as far as I can learn, nothing less than a strong tree is ever trusted to by the hunters. For still farther security, as well as to confine him from moving to either side, his fore-legs are tied exactly in the same manner as the hind-legs were, and the Phands are made fast, one on each side, to trees or stakes driven deep into the earth. During the process of tying both the hind and fore-legs, the fourth Koomkee gives assistance where necessary, and the people employed cautiously avoid going within reach of his trunk; and when he attempts to seize them, they retreat to the opposite side of the Koomkees, and get on them, if necessary, by means of the rope above mentioned, which hangs ready for them to lay hold of. Although by these means he is perfectly secured and cannot escape, yet as it would be both unsafe and inconvenient to allow him to remain in the verge of the jungle, a number of additional ropes are afterwards put on, as shall be mentioned, for the purpose of conducting him to a proper station. When the Goondah has

become more fettled, and eat a little food, with which he is supplied, as soon as he is taken, the Koomkees are again brought near, and a strong rope (Pharah\*) is then put twice round his body, close to his fore-legs like a girth, and tied behind his shoulder; then the long end is carried back close to his rump and there fastened, after a couple of turns more have been made round his body. Another cord is next fastened to the Pharah, and from thence carried under his tail like a crupper (Dooblah †), and brought forward and fastened by a turn or two, to each of the Pharahs, or girths, by which the whole is connected, and each turn of these cords serves to keep the rest in their places. After this a strong rope (the Tooman ‡) is put round his buttocks and made fast on each side to the girth and crupper, so as to confine the motion of his thighs and prevent his taking a full step. These smaller ropes being properly adjusted, a couple of large cables (the Dools §) with running nooses are put around his neck, and after being drawn moderately tight, the nooses are secured from running closer, and then tied to the ropes on each side forming the girth and crupper already mentioned; and thus all these ropes are connected and kept in their pro-

\* Pharah—a rope that is put round the body of an elephant, like a girth, and to which the Dooblah and Dools are connected.

† Dooblah—is that rope which is made fast on one side to the aftermost Pharah, then carried under the tail and fastened to both the Pharahs on the opposite side, so as to answer the purpose of a crupper, and to keep the Pharahs in their places.

‡ Tooman—is the rope that is passed round the buttocks of an elephant, and prevents his stepping out freely: it is fastened to the girth and crupper, that it may not slip down.

§ Dool—is a large cable, about sixty cubits long, with a running noose. Two of them are put round the neck of the elephant, and fastened to the foremost Pharah or girth, one on each side, in such a manner as to prevent the nooses from being drawn too tight or coming too far forward: and this is effectually done by the Dooblah; for, whenever the elephant draws back, the Dools pull the crupper forward, which must gall him very much, and prevent him from using all the force he might otherwise exert, in order to free himself.



per places, without any risk of the nooses of the Dools becoming tight, so as to endanger the life of the elephant in his exertions to free himself. The ends of these cables are made fast to two Koomkees, one on each side of the Goondah, by a couple of turns round the belly, close to the shoulder, like a girth, where a turn is made, and it is then carried across the chest and fastened to the girth on the opposite side. Every thing being now ready, and a passage cleared from the jungle, all the ropes are taken from his legs, and only the Tooman remains round his buttocks to confine the motion of his hind legs: the Koomkees pull him forward by the Dools, and the people from behind urge him on. Instead of advancing in the direction they wish, he attempts to retreat farther into the jungle; he exerts all his force, falls down and tears the earth with his tusks, screaming and groaning, and by his violent exertions often hurts and bruises himself very much; and instances happen of their surviving these violent exertions only a few hours, or at most a few days. In general, however, they soon become reconciled to their fate, will eat immediately after they are taken, and, if necessary, may be conducted from the verge of the jungle as soon as a passage is cleared. When the elephant is brought to his proper station and made fast, he is treated with a mixture of severity and gentleness, and in a few months (if docile) he becomes tractable, and appears perfectly reconciled to his fate. It appears somewhat extraordinary, that though the Goondah uses his utmost force to disengage himself when taken, and would kill any person coming within his reach, yet he never or at least seldom attempts to hurt the females that have ensnared him, but on the contrary seems pleased (as often as they are brought near, in order to adjust his harnessing, or move and slacken those ropes which gall him), soothed and comforted by them, as it were, for the loss of his liberty. All the elephants, soon after they are taken, are led out occasionally for exercise by the Koomkees, which attend for that purpose.

[To be concluded in our next.

III. On