

A STUDY OF THE MAMMALS OF IRAN

RESULTING FROM THE STREET EXPEDITION

OF 1962-63

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Distribution.—

PREVIOUS: Blanford (1876, p. 36), **Fars**: Khist, northeast of Bushire; Shahpur; near Borasjan; Karagatch (River). "Common in Western Persia and on the Caspian . . ." Pocock (1951, p. 152), **Fars**: Pir-i-Bam, 14.5 km. south of Shiraz. **Kerman**: Gursala, [in] Jiruft [Dist.]; Seistan; 100 miles east of Bampur, south of Jebel Bariz Range. [Because the Jebel Berez Range lies approximately 250 km. northwest of Bampur, it would seem that 100 miles east is a mistake and should read 100 miles west].

STREET EXPEDITION SPECIMENS: **Gorgan**: 4.8 km. east of Aliabad, 1; 8 km. east-northeast, 1.2 km. south of Gorgan, 1 (skeleton). **Mazanderan**: 12 km. west, 1 km. south of Chalus, 1 (skeleton). **Fars**: northeastern bank of Lake Famur, 1 (skeleton).

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS: **Khuzistan**: 6.4 km. west, 8 km. south of Haft Tappeh (553 C. A. Reed, YPM material).

RANGE: The jungle cat is presently known in Iran from the forested northern slopes of the Elburz Mountains and from south of the 32nd parallel of latitude.

Remarks.—*Felis chaus* seems to confine its range in Iran to forested or well vegetated situations. The stomach of one of these cats contained only a single whole dormouse, *Glis glis*, that of another held four *Mus musculus* and five *Apodemus sylvaticus*. We found numerous catches of bird carcasses (largely *Fulica atra* [coot]) around Lake Famur and trapped a large jungle cat there. These birds and a variety of other species were in the habit of roosting on the banks of the lake at night. Three jungle cats were observed walking along the main road about 16 km. south of Gonbad-i-Kavus in mid-afternoon. Though seemingly abundant in the forests, *Felis chaus*, according to our observations, did not occur in the nearby Turkmen Plains, an area inhabited by *F. catus libycus*.

A specimen collected October 25 was in the process of shedding its deciduous canines. The mammary tissue of a female taken September 8 had degenerated into narrow interrupted bands. From this it appears that parturition may take place in the spring (April-May) or early summer.

Specimens from southern Iran are slightly lighter than ones from the northern forests.

Felis pardus Linnaeus

Leopard

Felis pardus Linnaeus, 1758, Syst. Nat., 10th ed., 1, p. 41.

Type locality.—Egypt.

Distribution.—

PREVIOUS: Griffith, Smith, and Pidgeon (1827, p. 469) mention specimens "brought from the Gulf of Persia." De Filippi (1865, p. 343), Ghilan and Mazanderan Provinces. Blanford (1876, p. 34-35), throughout Persia and Baluchistan. Kennion (1911, appendix I, p. 278), **Kerman**: Palang Kuh. Pocock (1927, p. 213-214), **Gorgan**: Gorgan. **Kerman**: Seistan; Perso-Baluch border. Pocock (1930, p. 79), **Fars**: Mishun; Chak-i-Buzza Pa. **Khuzistan**: Marsh Ao Gorge in the Pusht-i-Kuh range; northeast of Dizful. Zukowsky (1964, p. 152), **Fars**: Miriz. **Khorassan**: Mastchid range north of Meched.

STREET EXPEDITION SPECIMENS: **Khorassan**: about 8 km. southeast of Shahrabad Kaur, 1 (skin only). **Kerman**: Damin, 2 (skins only). **Fars**: Ahram, 1 (skin only).

RANGE: Leopards occur throughout Iran.

Remarks.—Although we did not observe leopards in the field, we noted fresh tracks on several occasions. Two of our hunters at Iranshahr reported seeing two of these animals in the mountains south of that town. At virtually every expedition camp, local hunters reported leopards present in the vicinity and fresh skins were for sale at Gorgan, Shiraz, and Kermanshah as well as the localities cited for Street expedition specimens.

His Highness Prince Abdul Reza shot a female with two cubs in the fall of 1962 on the National Almel Hunting Preserve, Khorassan Province. A cub skin purchased November 8 at Damin was said, and appeared, to have been collected within the preceding two months.

Leopards probably prey on wild sheep, goat, and pig, but at times are said to feed on domestic animals. A shepherd brought us the fresh skin of a large leopard he killed by poisoning the carcass of a leopard-killed sheep of his flock.

Felis uncia Schreber

Snow Leopard

Felis uncia Schreber, 1776, Säugethier, 3, pl. 100 (1776) and text pp. 386, 586 (1777).

Type locality.—Fixed by Pocock (1930, p. 332) as the Altai Mountains [Mongolian Peoples Republic and Sinkiang and Kansu Provinces, China].