

Rarities in a Museum

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The authors have compiled a list of specimens of endangered and recently extinct mammals in the outstanding collections of the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter. All those listed are in the IUCN *Red Data Book* except the extinct quagga, koala (recently endangered but now greatly increased and well protected), diademmed sifaka, rufous rat-kangaroo and Astor and Kashmir markhors.

The natural history collections of the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, were established in 1869 during the curatorship of the eminent Devonshire naturalist, W. S. M. D'Urban. Continual additions since then have made the mammal collection one of the finest in the country, and the bird study skin collection ranks third in size outside the national museums (Stansfield 1965). The size and scope of the mammal collection is largely due to C. A. V. Peel's collections (mainly of mounted big game) presented in 1919 and 1932. Little seems to have been published on these remarkable collections, apart from Lowe (1939) who described the bird collections as a 'find'. In order to document the material and record the location of the specimens of mammals which are extremely rare or recently extinct, we carried out a survey of the museum's displayed and reference collection and compiled this list of the species included in the *Red Data Book* of the IUCN. The scientific names are those used in Ellerman & Morrison-Scott's *Check-list of Palaearctic and Indian Mammals*, London, 1951.

Marsupials

Koala <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>			
Mounted adult	East Australia	C. A. V. Peel	60/1920.3
Mounted adult	South-east Australia	Purchased	5/1950
Rufous rat-kangaroo <i>Aepyprymnus rufescens</i>			
Mounted adult	East Australia	C. A. V. Peel	99/1919.127
Eastern native cat (melanic var.) <i>Dasyurus viverrinus</i>			
Mounted adult	New South Wales	J. Teschmaker	A.1118

Lemurs

Aye-aye <i>Daubentonia madagascariensis</i>			
Mounted adult	Madagascar	Purchased	
Diademmed sifaka <i>Propithecus diadema holomelas</i>			
Mounted adult	No data	Purchased	34/1939.3

Apes

Orang utan <i>Pongo pygmaeus</i>			
Mounted adult	Borneo	C. A. V. Peel	99/1919.1
Mounted juvenile	Borneo	C. A. V. Peel	118/1932.16

Rodents

Chinchilla <i>Chinchilla laniger</i>			
Mounted adult male	No data	A. G. Priddey	55/1964

Manatees

Dugong <i>Dugong dugon</i>			
Mounted skeleton	Kipini, Tana River, Kenya	G. N. Chrisford	304/1911
female			
Six teeth from a male	Ceylon	R. G. Pole	11/1941
Tusks	Ceylon	A.654	

Carnivores

Indian Lion <i>Panthera leo persica</i>			
Entire skin of which the head and fore legs are mounted.			
This specimen was shot December 19, 1912, at Jamwala in the Gir forest, Junagadh, by order of the Political Administrator of Junagadh after it had killed eight villagers.			

Fossa <i>Cryptoprocta ferox</i>			
Mounted immature specimen	Madagascar	Rt. Rev. R. K. Kestell	997/1904
Mounted head	Madagascar	Rt. Rev. R. K. Kestell	509/1906
Maned wolf <i>Chrysocyon brachyurus</i>			
Mounted adult	Brazil	P. H. Maxwell	62/1938

Walruses

Atlantic walrus <i>Odobenus rosmarus rosmarus</i>			
Mounted head	No data	C. A. V. Peel	99/1919.15
Skull and mandibles of 1800 lb male	Greenland, east coast	Devon & Exeter Institution	A.560.1866

Perissodactyla

Black rhinoceros <i>Diceros bicornis</i>			
Mounted adult male	Foot of Aberdare Mts., Kenya	C. A. V. Peel	99/1919.20
Mounted juvenile	No data	C. A. V. Peel	118/1932.11
Mounted head	No data	Admiral J. H. Baker	81/1919.51
White rhinoceros <i>Ceratotherium simum</i>			
Mounted head	Sudan (1908)	C. A. V. Peel	118/1932.3
Anterior nasal horn	South Africa	U. B. Barrat	A.771
Great Indian rhinoceros <i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>			
Mounted immature male	Brahmaputra Valley, Assam February 20, 1919	C. A. V. Peel	99/1919.19
Skull (only)	No data	J. McAlpine-Woods	49/1949.161
Somali wild ass <i>Equus asinus somalicus</i>			
Mounted head	Guban maritime plains, Somaliland	C. A. V. Peel	99/1919.31

Quagga	<i>Equus quagga</i>			
Hoof	Bontebok Flats British Kaffraria S. Africa	W. S. M. D'Urban	A.758	
Artiodactyla				
Astor markhor	<i>Capra falconeri falconeri</i>			
Mounted head	Baltistan	Capt. F. E. A. Fulford	37/1941.1	
Mounted head	Baltistan, June 1907	R. Walpole	3405 6/19941.5	
Mounted head	No data			
Kashmir markhor	<i>Capra f. cashmiriensis</i>			
Mounted head	Kashmir	Col. A. H. C. Kimball	23/1921.2	
Nilgiri tahr	<i>Hemitragus hylocrius</i>			
Mounted head	Nilgiri Hills, India	Lt.-Col. O. G. B. Philby	78/1947.4	
Mounted head	Nilgiri hills, India	Col. D. E. P. Hodgson	43/1947.7	
Mounted head	Nilgiri hills, India	Col. D. E. P. Hodgson	43/1947.8	
Mounted head male	Anaimalai Hills, India	H. J. Porter	100/1933.1	
Mounted head male	Anaimalai Hills, India	H. J. Porter	100/1933.2	
Mounted head male	Agra Hills, India	H. O. Vincent	21/1923.1	
Swayne's hartebeest	<i>Alcephalus busephalus swaynei</i>			
Mounted head male	Somaliland	C. A. V. Peel	99/1919.96	
Mounted adult (entire)	Somaliland	C. A. V. Peel	99/1919.94	
Wild yak	<i>Bos grunniens mutus</i>			
Skull and horns	Tibet 1900	C. A. V. Peel	118/1932.34	
Asiatic buffalo	<i>Bubalus bubalis bubalis</i>			
Mounted head	No data	Lt.-Col. H. B. Grundy	290/1911	
Mounted head	No data	Lt.-Col. H. B. Grundy	297/1911	
Mounted head	Ceylon	F. Trimble	24/1953.3	
Asiatic buffalo	<i>Bubalus b. fulvus</i>			
Skull and horns	North Assam	J. McAlpine- Woods	49/1949.152	
Père David's deer	<i>Elaphurus davidianus</i> (not known in the wild)			
Mounted adult male	No data	C. A. V. Peel	99/1919.114	
Antlers	No data	C. A. V. Peel	118/1932.36	