

# Wildlife Imports in Britain 1975

John A. Burton

Each year Britain imports large quantities of furs, ivory, leathers, and other wildlife products, mainly for the luxury goods market. The exact species involved is often hard to determine, and the summary below, reproduced by kind permission of HM Customs and Excise Statistical Office, gives an idea of the quality of the records kept for wildlife. 'Reptile Leather' includes the skins of many snakes (pythons, boas, elephant-trunk snakes *Acrochordus javanicus*, etc.) lizards (iguanas, teids, monitors, etc.), and crocodilians. The linking of jaguar and cheetah, a South American and an African species, is surprising. One would expect the exported skins from Brazil under this heading to be jaguar, but Kenyan trade figures disclose an export of cheetahs to Brazil. Is Britain importing cheetahs via Brazil?

The UK is in the throes of implementing the Washington Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species. Hopefully attention will be paid to products and not only to live animals. The 17,000 kg of reptile skins from India were probably mainly monitors and snakes. If so this figure could represent 1,700,000 animals, and certainly includes monitor lizards which, according to the Washington Convention should be banned. (It should be noted that in the changeover to metrication, both cwt and kg are used in the official figures.)

## CORAL & SIMILAR & SHELLS

Unworked or simply prepared

All Countries Total

NATURAL SPONGES; raw

All Countries Total

	Quantity	Value £
	cwt	
	93010	240,339
	cwt	
	65	38,296

Country of origin	Quantity	Value £
IVORY, unworked or simply prepared powder & waste of ivory		
Switzerland	12 cwt	2,484
Fed. Rep. Germany	21	11,750
Netherlands	51	42,168
Belgo-Lux.	370	169,504
France	153	
Kenya	52	36,135
Tanzania	3	1,914
Zambia	8	2,787
Botswana	12	7,887
South Africa	26	10,968
Hong Kong	1	885
Australia	8	2,581
Canada	7	17,137
USA	1	350
All Countries Total	572	306,703

## Other Articles of IVORY

All Countries Total	5002 kg	149,794
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## TORTOISE SHELL & SCALES, unworked; claws & waste

Fed. Rep. Germany	12 cwt	1,539
Tanzania		3,955
Bahamas	2	729
Cayman Islands		365
Haiti		594
All Countries Total	23	7,182

## TORTOISE SHELL; Other Articles

France	2 kg	125
Italy	41	2,309
India	94	1,726
Hong Kong	20	147
Philippines	2	361
Mexico	46	182
All Countries Total	205	4,850

**REPTILE SKINS: raw, not split**

Switzerland	kg	1579	34,547
Austria		20	150
Fed. Rep. Germany		1646	16,961
Netherlands		235	1500
France		958	3,824
Yugoslavia		521	5,474
Nigeria		1879	24,369
Dubai		307	8,813
India		16974	101,472
Nepal		59	399
Bangladesh		427	2,795
Thailand		642	7,456
Singapore		5355	43,596
Surinam		560	3,761
Paraguay		90	1,149
<b>All Countries Total</b>		<b>31252</b>	<b>256,266</b>

**REPTILE LEATHER: Dressed**

Sweden	kg	73	2,299
Denmark		21	216
Austria		79	1,961
Fed. Rep. Germany		172	4,800
Belgo-Lux.		26	870
France		1892	37,513
Italy		120	3,223
Spain		7	311
Irish Republic		50	178
India		1128	25,668
Thailand		12	637
Japan		1640	6,914
Australia		10	295
USA		247	6,202
Surinam		8	261
Paraguay		106	3,165
Argentina		192	4,163
<b>All Countries Total</b>		<b>5783</b>	<b>98,676</b>

**FUR SKINS: Raw, Leopard**

Switzerland	no.	416	47,000
Fed. Rep. Germany		1	100
Nigeria		177	6,285
<b>All Countries Total</b>		<b>594</b>	<b>53,385</b>

**FUR SKINS: Raw, Ocelot**

Switzerland	no.	11774	158,132
Fed. Rep. Germany		5768	276,267
France		1203	7,972
Canada		2357	98,329
Guyana		60	1,860
Surinam		1841	78,413
Brazil		49141	361,526
Paraguay		4694	96,475
<b>All Countries Total</b>		<b>76838</b>	<b>1,078,974</b>

**FUR SKINS: Raw, Otter**

Switzerland	no.	757	6,019
Fed. Rep. Germany		9701	95,415
France		87	887
Irish Republic		161	1,236
China		1000	9,578
Canada		448	6,560
USA		278	5,648
Guyana		154	1,650
Surinam		837	13,328
Brazil		6499	87,148
Paraguay		968	18,205
Argentina		2036	34,766
<b>All Countries Total</b>		<b>22926</b>	<b>280,460</b>

**FUR SKINS: Raw, Cheetah and Jaguar**

Switzerland	no.	340	35,654
Fed. Rep. Germany		516	42,900
Canada		210	21,663
Guyana		15	1,359
Surinam		117	12,107
Brazil		1031	97,873
Paraguay		113	9,533
<b>All Countries Total</b>		<b>2342</b>	<b>221,089</b>