

The Mammals of Sri Lanka

Description

The Mammals of Sri Lanka is the first comprehensive treatment of the subject in eighty years. Although the book is intended for the wildlife enthusiast and observer, it will be of value to students and professional zoologists. *The Mammals of Sri Lanka* summarizes information currently available on both terrestrial and marine mammals that occur in and around Sri Lanka. Richly illustrated, it carries a coloured portrait of almost every species. For the first time, there are distribution maps for all the terrestrial mammals, drawings of dive sequences for the large whales, and representations of footprints and faeces of selected species. A comprehensive Bibliography containing over 500 references will assist those wanting to find out more about Sri Lanka's rich mammal fauna. All revenues from *The Mammals of Sri Lanka* will go towards furthering zoological field research in Sri Lanka.

A little known fact is that Sri Lanka is home to 125 Mammalian species. Much has been written about elephants, leopards and even on primates individually, but after W.W.A. Philips' review of Sri Lanka's mammals in the 1930s, there was no comprehensive review undertaken. Filling this void, is the new book *The Mammals of Sri Lanka*.

With all of 1012 pages, the book authored by Asoka Yapa, with illustrations by the world renowned Sri Lankan wildlife artist Gamini Ratnavira, is a mammoth effort. The book also contains many photos of mammals taken in the field by veteran photographers such as Vimukthi Weeratunga, Nadika Hapuaarachchi, and Dr. Janaka Gallangoda. Experts in the field too have contributed photographs of lesser known mammals and the book also contains a few 'first time' photos of some of the rarest mammals.

Yapa and Ratnavira's book has several unique features. For the first time it carries colour illustrations of almost all of Sri Lanka's mammal species. Indeed, there are illustrations even of new species that are proposed as endemic additions to the island's fauna. A possible new loris, a new chevrotain, and a new beaked whale are among the animals pictured. Also for the first time there are distribution maps for the land mammals. Illustrations of scat and spoor are provided for selected species; after all, those are often the only signs left by a wild animal. Dive sequences are given for the larger whales to aid identification.

Each taxonomic order of mammals in Sri Lanka is introduced in their evolutionary, taxonomic, and ecological contexts. Family descriptions follow, after which are species by species accounts that cover morphology, behaviour, ecology, diet, reproduction, distribution within Sri Lanka, and conservation status and concerns. Where there are significant differences among subspecies within the island, these are described and illustrated.

The book is in full colour and is printed and bound in Sri Lanka with sustainably produced papers and vegetable inks."

– Malaka Rodrigo, *Sunday Times* (Sri Lanka), 8th December 2013

Contents

Foreword by Rohan Pethiyagoda	11
Encomiums	17
Sri Lanka's Mammals: An Introduction	23
Mammals in Sri Lanka: Primary Sources	35
Sri Lanka: Geology and Biogeography	43
Author's Note and Acknowledgements	51
 Sri Lanka's Terrestrial and Marine Mammals	 63
Order Sirenia: Dugongs and Manatees	65
Order Proboscidea: Elephants	79
Order Primates: Lorises, Monkeys, Lemurs, and Relatives	121
Order Rodentia: Rats, Squirrels, Mice, Porcupines, and Relatives	189
Order Lagomorpha: Hares and Pikas	293
Order Eulipotyphla: Shrews, Hedgehogs, and Moles	303
Order Chiroptera: Bats	337
Order Carnivora: Cats, Civets, Mongooses, Dogs, Bears, Weasels, and Pinnipeds	459
Order Pholidota: Pangolins	585
Super-Order Cetartiodactyla: Even-Toed Ungulates and Whales	599
Order Artiodactyla: Deer, Chevrotains, Antelopes, Pigs, Giraffes, True Ruminants, and Hippopotamuses	605
Order Cetacea: Whales and Dolphins	685
 Introduced Mammals	 857
Bibliography	876
 Appendix I: Glossary	 916
Appendix II: The Cetacean-Watching Industry	930
Appendix III: Dive Sequences of the Larger Whales	936
Appendix IV: Spoor and Scat of Selected Genera of Sri Lankan Mammals	944
Appendix V: Dental Formulae of Selected Genera of Sri Lankan Mammals	954
 Addenda	 960
Index of Common Names	972
Index of Scientific Names	976
Sri Lanka's Mammals Names: Scientific, English, and Sinhala Equivalents	980
Sri Lanka's Mammals Names: Scientific, English, and Tamil Equivalents	988
Checklist of Sri Lankan Mammals	996