

A GUIDEBOOK TO HIDDEN ANIMALS

A TREATISE ON CRYPTOZOOLOGY

Text and illustrations Philippe Coudray
Translation by Margaret Webb



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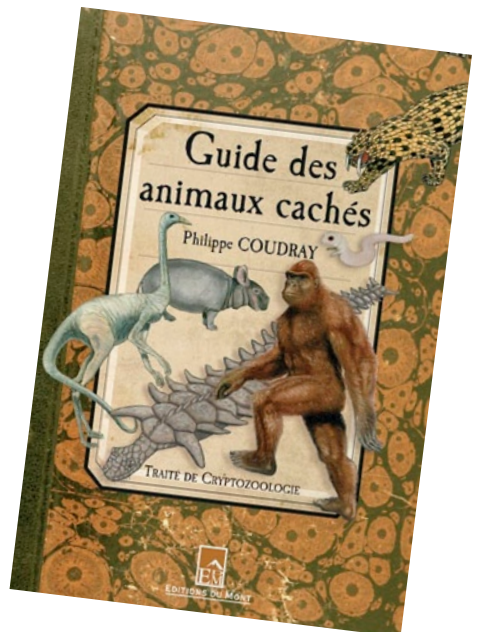
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An English-language publisher for a printed version is sought. For this, contact the author :

philippecoudray@gmail.com
website of the author :
<http://www.philippe-coudray.com>

We shall be grateful for any comments you may have.

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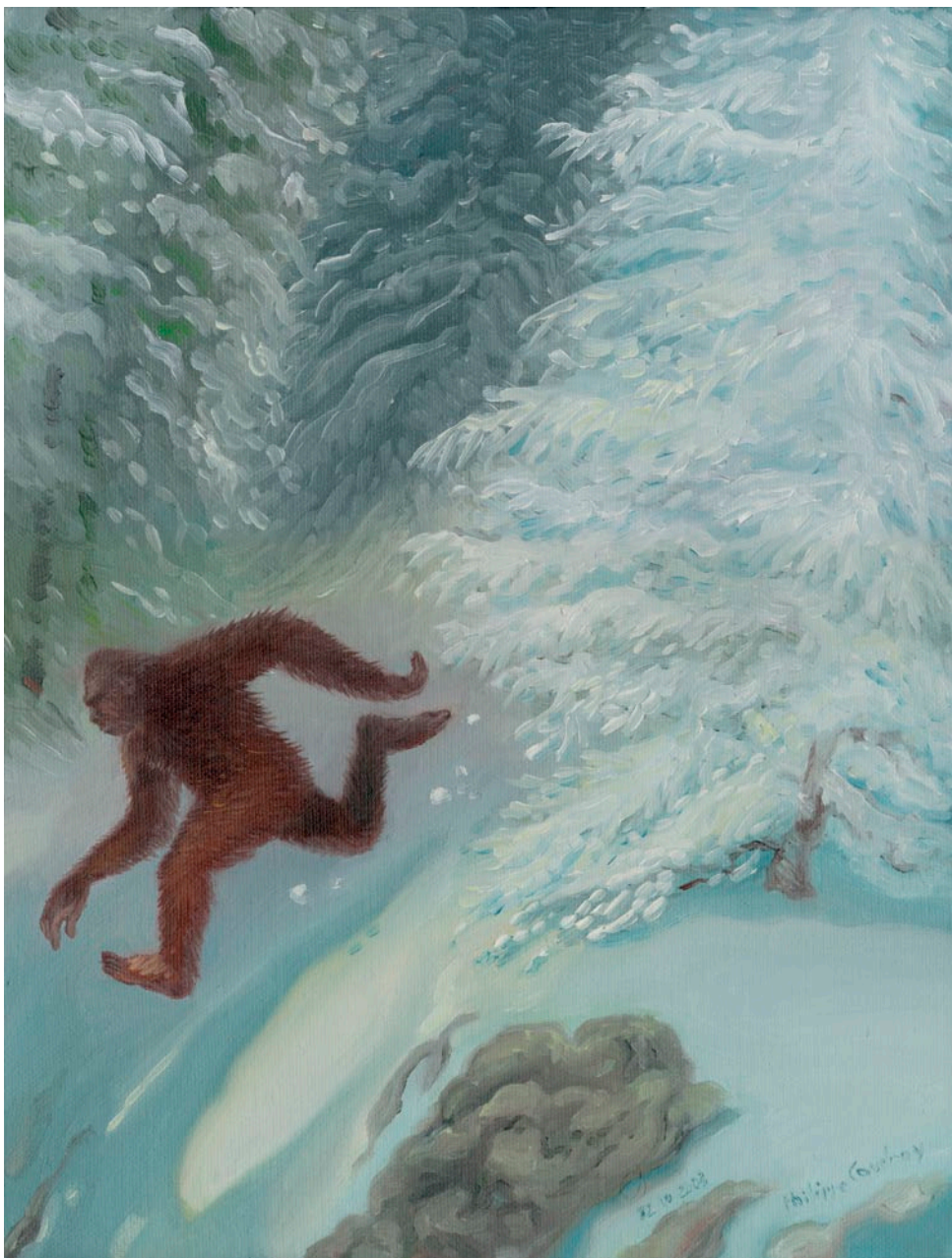
CONTENTS

Introduction to cryptozoology	5
Why this book ?	8
1- Hominids	10
The big yeti	12
The little yeti	14
The <i>teh-lma</i>	16
The wild man of Asia	17
The small gracile man of India	20
The <i>nittaewo</i>	21
The <i>orang-pendek</i> , <i>sedapa</i> or <i>batûtût</i>	22
The <i>menehune</i>	23
Primitive men of Malaysia	24
The <i>proto-pygmy</i> of Malaysia	25
The <i>kapre</i>	25
The <i>hibagon</i>	26
The <i>kappa</i>	28
The <i>oni</i>	29
South-east Asian giants and dwarfs	30
The bipedal ape of Vietnam	32
The <i>yowie</i>	33
The <i>jimbra</i>	34
The <i>tjangara</i>	35
The <i>jundadee</i>	35
Map of Asian bipedal primates	36
Comments on the map of bipedal Asian primates	38
The X1	40
The X4	41
The <i>kakundakari</i>	42
The <i>agogwe</i>	43
The hairy dwarf of the Ivory Coast	44
The <i>apamandi</i>	45
The spiny primate	46
The <i>dodu</i>	47
<i>Kalonorô</i> , <i>trétrétré</i> , and <i>ombas</i> of Madagascar	48
Comparison of maps of hairy dwarfs and australopithecus fossils of Africa	49
The giant of Tano	50
The <i>bili</i> or other anthropoid ape	51
The <i>mulahu</i> or <i>kikomba</i>	52
The black and white anthropoid ape	53
The pygmy gorilla	54
The small thumbless anthropoid ape	55
Map of bipedal primates,	

of the dwarf gorilla and of the <i>bili</i> ape of Africa	56
The <i>bigfoot</i> or <i>sasquatch</i>	58
The <i>skunk</i> ape	60
The <i>dwendi</i> of Central America	61
Hairy dwarfs of South America	62
The <i>vasitri</i> , the <i>shiru</i> , the <i>guayazi</i> , The <i>didi</i> , the <i>bacloo</i> , the <i>yoshil</i> , The <i>vasitri</i> , the <i>oocoomar</i> , the <i>mapinguary</i>	63
Map of American bipedal primates	64
Footprints	66
Classification of bipedal hominids	68
2- Felines	70
The <i>big cats</i>	71
The <i>mngwa</i> or <i>nunda</i>	72
The aquatic saber-toothed feline	74
The mountainous saber-toothed feline	75
The <i>dingonek</i>	77
The <i>ndalawo</i>	78
The forest lion	79
The <i>damasia</i>	80
The <i>n'goli</i>	81
The <i>onza</i>	82
The South American mountainous saber-toothed feline	83
The South American aquatic saber-toothed feline	84
The water tiger or ou <i>entaieva-yawa</i>	85
The <i>shiashia-yawa</i>	86
The tiger-tapir or <i>pama-yawa</i>	86
The rainbow tiger or <i>tshenkutshen</i>	87
Other mysterious South American felines	88
The marsupial tiger	89
The <i>warrigal</i>	90
Australian black panthers and pumas	91
3-Other non-marine mammals	92
Unknown sirenians	93
The <i>adjule</i>	93
The unknown elephant	94
The small hairy elephant	96
The monster of Lake Tanganyika	97
The unknown rhinoceros of Gabon	98
The dwarf rhinoceros of Liberia	99
The nandi bear	100
The thylacine	102
The <i>bunyip</i>	103
The <i>waitoreke</i>	104

The <i>gazeka</i>	105
The giant sloth	106
The giant armadillo	108
The Andean wolf	109
<i>Esakar-paki</i> or the unknown peccary	110
The <i>habeby</i>	111
The <i>mangarsahoc</i>	112
The <i>tsomgoby</i>	113
The mammoth	114
The dwarf bear of Nepal	116
The white bear of Tibet	116
The giant bear of Kamchatka or <i>irkuier</i>	117
The <i>sukotyro</i>	118
Giant bats	120
4- Reptiles except snakes	122
The three-toed lizard	123
Flying reptiles	124
The <i>mokélé-m'bembé</i>	126
The <i>chipekwe</i>	128
The <i>railalomena</i>	129
The monster of Kafue	130
The spiny-backed reptile	131
The <i>gauarge</i>	132
Giant monitor lizards	133
Aboriginal memories	134
The giant tortoise of Madagascar	135
The <i>lipata</i>	136
The <i>kipumbubu</i>	137
The <i>nsanga</i>	138
The beast of Karoo	139
The worm with legs or <i>tatzelwurm</i>	140
5- Birds	142
The moa	143
The <i>roa-roa</i>	144
The <i>koau</i>	145
The great auk	146
Giant raptors	148
6- Fishes	150
The unidentified shark	151
The <i>lau</i>	152
The <i>yero</i>	153
The megalodon	154
Giant fishes	155
The eel-shaped one	156
The yellow one	157
7- Marine cryptids	158
The colossal squid	159
The giant jellyfish	160
The luminous creature	160

The beast of Soay	161
The web-footed crocodile	161
Marine reptiles	162
The marine horse	163
The long-necked eared seal or Loch Ness monster	164
The pygmy seal	167
The <i>multi-fin</i>	168
The <i>multi-humpback</i>	169
The super otter	170
The <i>ri</i>	171
Steller's sea-cow	172
The marine monkey	173
The whale with two dorsal fins	174
The two cetaceans with high dorsal fins	175
The southern narwhal	176
The whale without a dorsal fin	177
The white-finned whale	177
The whale with a marked back	177
Alula's whale	178
The Greek dolphin	178
The Senegalese dolphin	178
Illigan's dolphin	178
The rhinoceros dolphin	179
8- Snakes, batrachians and the like	180
The crested cawing cobra	181
The northern giant snake	182
The <i>taguerga</i>	183
The <i>tzuchinoko</i>	184
The <i>olgoi-khorkhoi</i>	185
Giant snakes	186
The Californian giant salamander	187
Bibliography	188



Introduction to cryptozoology

A humble science and two premises

Cryptozoology is the science of hidden animals. It is the study of all large-sized animals (the smallest cryptid is of the size of a moorhen) whose existence is suspected but not possible to prove. This means that, as soon as an animal is fully discovered, it leaves the realm of cryptozoology to enter that of zoology. It is also possible to go in the opposite direction : a perfectly known animal can become officially extinct and, if witnesses continue to observe it without being able to prove its existence, it enters the realm of cryptozoology. This is the case of the thylacine, the Australian marsupial wolf, and the auk, the nordic equivalent of the Emperor penguin. Created by the zoologist Bernard Heuvelmans (1916-2001), this original branch of zoology is based on two premises : the first states that western man has not yet explored the whole planet nor discovered all the large species living therein. The second alleges that animals unknown to science are known to the indigenous population. The cryptozoologist's first basis for data collection is to take seriously the reports of natives to the region. Traces of footprints, hair, skin, feces, photos, films and other material clues complete this research. In other words, cryptozoologists have never considered natives to be primitive.

A field of hypotheses

Because cryptozoology studies subjects which are (for the time being) out of reach, it is related to astronomy, astrophysics or quantum physics. It joins these disciplines because they too study objects that we cannot see, such

as exoplanets or black holes, whose existence is deduced by the « traces » that they leave around them. Cryptozoology creates a field of hypotheses. This means that, in spite of the rigor displayed by the majority of cryptozoologists, identikits of the animals listed inevitably contain errors, the importance of which is inversely proportionate to the number and quality of reports collected. In the same way, an unknown animal may have several local names (vernacular names) which, if the descriptions are slightly hazy, can lead to the belief in the existence of several distinct species. In other cases, two distinct species can be given the same name by the local people who do not know them well (under the vague name of « monster », for example).

Unrecognized by science

Officially, cryptozoology is not recognized by science, even if numerous zoologists and paleontologists are unofficially interested in it. This is partly due to the fact that its methods of investigation are more those of a police enquiry than those of classical science. It is also perhaps due to the failure of numerous «yeti expeditions » supposed to capture a flesh and blood creature (which did nevertheless each time observe traces of footprints in the snow). Finally, this discipline can attract certain individuals of an unrigorous frame of mind who harm the reputation of this branch of zoology.

Animals which are not animals

But the real reason stems probably from the subjects cryptozoology is interested in. If this discipline only listed animals such as the unknown South

American peccary or the unknown Saharan wolf, this would hardly upset academic zoologists, who would appreciate the likelihood of these researchers extending the lists in natural history museums. However, cryptozoologists' researches also concern animals which are perhaps not animals : numerous bipeds of clearly separate species are observed worldwide. The famous yeti is just one example of these quasi-humans which haunt most of the inaccessible regions of all the continents and, particularly, mountainous forests. These creatures, whose origin remains mysterious (prehistoric men or evolved apes), touch on a sensitive subject : our own identity and our degree of separation from the animal world.

Ape-men who undermine scientific objectivity

Psychological reluctance to tackle such a subject undermines the scientific objectivity of many scientists. Even if they remain objective in their work methods, they are not always so in their choice of subjects studied. They simply put aside those which, unconsciously, come up against their common sense. The history of science abounds in examples of stubborn psychological resistance on the part of the scientific world to most of the major discoveries (the only two countries in the world to possess an official centre of research into cryptozoology are the ex-Soviet Union and China). The file on wild men (distinct from the yeti) of Neandertal type in Asia is, however, particularly full, rich, precise and not to be discounted. It has been studied for many years by such persons as Marie-Jeanne Koffmann or Jordi Magraner, whose seriousness and rigor are beyond question. No official budget is at present made available on the subject. Today one comes up

against a surprising phenomenon : the more interesting a subject is, the less interest is taken in it.

Paleontological models baffled

In addition to hairy bipeds, numerous « cryptids » (animals belonging to cryptozoology) turn out to be prehistoric animals with the arrogance of not having really disappeared : that, too, which invalidates a good number of paleontological models, strikes the scientists who often refuse to know more about it.

Forests, swamps and mountains : a fragmented universe

Another cause can be added to the official rejection : recognition of the fact that the current scientific world has not yet explored all the parts of our planet. Because it is a question of a persistent myth : at a time when we are sending probes to the planets of the solar system, and even to exoplanets, it is generally considered that the Earth has been well known for a long time. Many inaccessible regions have, however, not been investigated or have only been rarely penetrated. It is, in fact, far more difficult to explore distant corners of the Amazonian forest than the bare surface of the planet Mars. Surprising an attentive animal with fine hearing in the labyrinth of an impenetrable African swamp, extending over areas as large as several French departments, represents a far greater challenge than walking on the Moon. Covering in depth the Siberian taiga at -60°C for several months, without a budget, is a wager that is much more difficult to win than it is to discover exoplanets.

To flush out a wary and exclusively nocturnal animal at an altitude of 5000 meters is a greater exploit than sending a probe to Titan ... For it must

be understood, impenetrable forests, swamps and mountains are much vaster universes than plains, because of their fragmented nature : covering a hundred meters in a tropical forest is the equivalent of dividing the distance up into small portions ; scrambling up a mountain, negotiating numerous boulders and avoiding crevices, increases the distances. In the same way, all these worlds of plants, water and rocks multiply at every possible opportunity hiding-places and unsuspected nooks and crannies. Without forgetting the worldwide network of caves which is far from having been fully explored, nor the underwater world whose abyssal depths, it is well known, hide a totally unknown world.

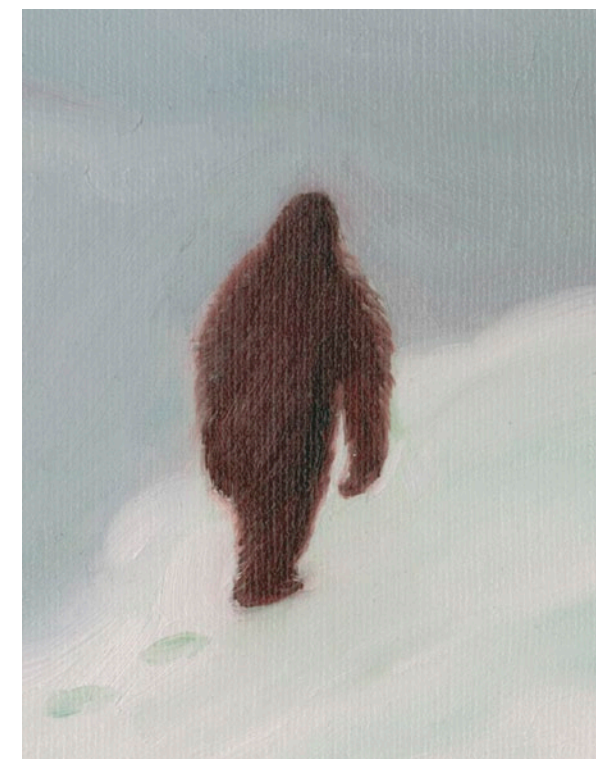
The dogma of omniscience

A classical intellectual error of the scientific world consists in thinking that whatever has not been discovered or demonstrated does not exist. Whence the feeling of knowing all in certain domains. Let us not forget that, at the beginning of the last century, physicists declared that physics had reached the end of its prospecting and had nothing more to discover. This was prior to the discovery of relativity and quantum physics. Another error consists in concluding that a species disappeared at the date of its most recently discovered fossil.

Discovery before disappearance

The mystery surrounding these unknown species, among which are several

bipeds, would not pose a problem if our world were lasting. To discover and prove their existence would only be a question of time and mankind is not in a hurry. However, most of their habitats are today threatened in the short term with disappearance, quite a number of cryptids risk becoming extinct even before having been discovered. And it is perhaps already the case for some of them. Destroying habitats is a way for humans, unbelieving of the richness of their world, to be right one day : the earth will soon resemble the idea they have always had of it : a planet poor in species, without unknowns and without surprises. To show that large, unknown species still exist gives one more reason to save natural environments. It is also a case of struggling against the impoverished view of the world that those who would transform it into car parks for supermarkets wish to impose on us.



Why this book ?

An aide-mémoire

Literature concerning cryptozoology exists and several books already present a compilation on the subject, unfortunately often incomplete. All the same, an illustrated book allowing the visual discovery of cryptids did not exist. Furthermore most of the works indicate the geographic places corresponding to the observations but do not show their location on a map. Finally, the subject is rather dense, not to say confused. Between the cryptids that resemble each other but have different names and those, distinct from them, which hide under the same name, the situation is often unclear. I wanted to create a work permitting, at a glance, to visualise the situation. The drawings, the summarised texts and the maps allow for this global vision and make this guide-book an aide-mémoire.

Drawing cryptids, or the between-the-two phenomenon

The curiosity inspired by bipedal, hairy hominids probably stems from their ambiguous nature : it is difficult to decide whether they are men or animals. When we observe a human being, we immediately feel the need to find out if it is a man or a woman. When this is not possible (a helmeted motorcyclist, for example) we cannot stop wanting to solve the problem so as to retrieve our tranquillity. When we are dealing with an androgyne, exactly between a man and a woman, the individual upsets us. This troubled feeling, provoked by the hairy man, by the man-animal ambiguity, can be, depending on the individual, a source of pleasure or worry. It explains

at the same time the interest and the rejection provoked by the creature. When it comes to drawing « cryptids », creatures described by cryptozoology, one finds again this « between-the-two » phenomenon. One has to draw a real animal but its aspect remains imaginary, in the absence of precise photographs. There exists, in terms of illustrations, a similar case : representations of the surface of unexplored planets.

Where is the proof ?

Many readers will ask, and it is completely natural : « Where is the proof of everything that you state ? » Wishing to produce an essential work, an aide-mémoire on the subject, I have deliberately left out all references to the sources from which I quenched my thirst. I have even omitted, mostly, to quote the names of the witnesses and explorers. However, the bibliography into which I delved for cryptozoological sources is to be found at the end of the work, and it also contains names of magazines and websites. Most of the authors who have looked into the subject have kept the names and addresses of the witnesses, even when they have wished to remain anonymous. Bernard Heuvelmans, Ivan Sanderson, Jean-Jacques Barloy, Michel Raynal, Christian Le Noël, Jean-Luc Drevillon and Eric Joye (ABEPAR) are the principal sources to whom most cryptozoologists refer, to mention only the French-speaking world. It is important to know that the collected documents and archives of Bernard Heuvelmans, who died in 2001, are deposited at the Cantonal Museum of Zoology in Lausanne. I have also been able to obtain information from Grégory Beaussart, who made

investigations in Japan for a year. Most of the information concerning the mysterious felines of Ecuador come from Angel Morant Forés, who sounded out that region in 1999. We must also mention Michel Ballot's researches in Africa concerning the *mokélé m'bembé* (a sort of aquatic dinosaur).

A point of departure

This book, which necessarily includes some degree of personal interpretation, does not claim to be the point of arrival of scientific knowledge. It only narrates, as closely as possible, what the witnesses, almost always natives to the region, claim to have seen with their own eyes. As it is a question of animals which have not yet been discovered, the existence of each one requires confirmation. This book is therefore a point of departure, inciting the reader, on the one hand, to find and delve into the reference books on the subject (most of which have not been republished and are to be found on second-hand bookstalls or on the Internet) and, on the other hand, to make enquiries in the field, searching for the animals in question. It is clear that, between the vision of a native and the realisation of a drawing in this work, the possibilities of error are numerous : the witness's own interpretation, collection of his testimony, translation into different languages, second-hand accounts, tendency to exaggerate, confusion of terminology, incomplete footprints, artist's interpretation ...

Personal interpretation

This resides firstly in the way of drawing animals. The more imprecise the descriptions are, the more important is the reconstitution : a nose has to be drawn on the face of a yeti, even if its shape

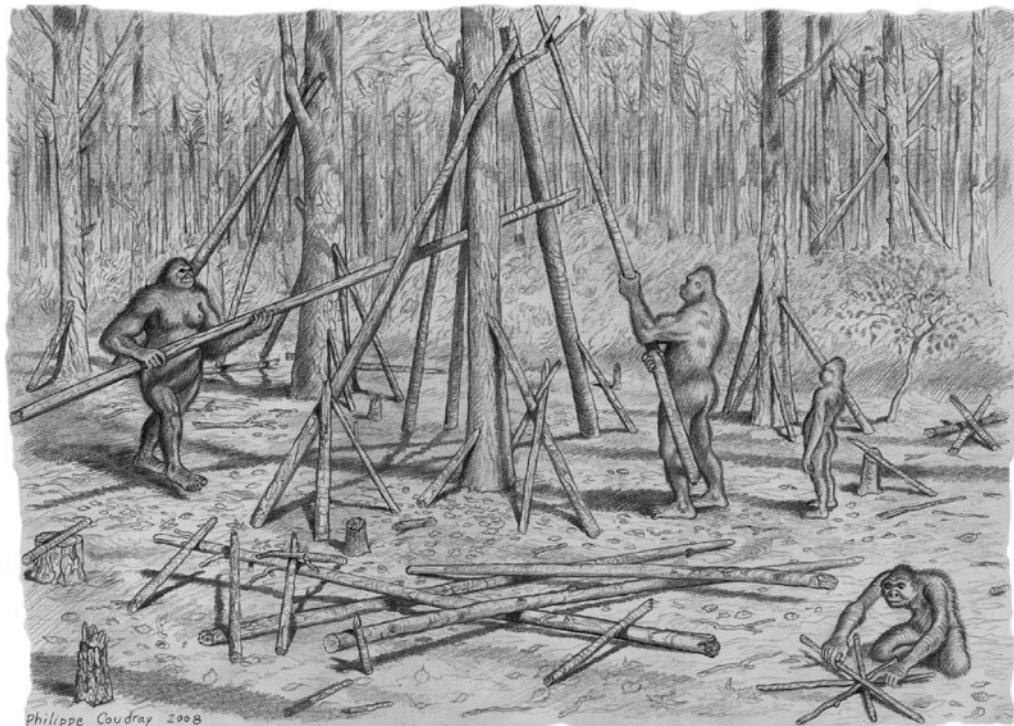
is totally unknown. It is to be found also in the choice of differentiating between cryptids. As far as the African hominids are concerned, for example, it is difficult to assert which belong to one species and which to different species. I have limited myself to separating those whose descriptions showed really different characteristics. It must not be forgotten that gorillas and chimpanzees themselves show shapes, colors and sizes which vary sufficiently from one region to another to deserve being differentiated.



1 – Hominids

The yeti is the only hominid known slightly to the public. But recent accounts collected among indigenous populations show that there exist – still today – several distinct species of wild hominids, spread out in almost all regions that are difficult to access, mainly in mountainous forests. None of the five continents escapes from it. Most of the hominids are hairy. Their sizes vary from 60 cm to 3 meters or more. In most cases, a correlation exists with prehistoric remains unearthed in the same region. A number of these bipeds would be survivors of prehistoric species officially considered extinct, like Neandertal man. Entirely unknown species seem also to exist.

These hominids being difficult to approach, proof of their existence is difficult to establish. This incites many people to doubt the accounts, which are nevertheless precise and numerous, and agree with each other. Footprints, found regularly, remain today the most convincing material proof of their presence. Their furtiveness can be explained by several factors : their rarity, their intelligence allied to an innate suspicion of man (a condition of their survival), their habitually nocturnal habits (night vision), the fact that they may bury their dead and, if this is not so, the acidity of the forest's soil does not conserve dead bodies for very long. As far as hominids are concerned, in most cases, hunters hesitate to shoot at a hairy man, for fear



of committing murder, either because they consider that the hairy biped is not an animal, or, in certain cases, because they believe that it may be a human being in disguise. The best way to come across one, according to any specialist of the subject, is to arouse its curiosity. A meeting with a wild hominid is seldom unexpected. It is, as Marie-Jeanne Koffmann declares, always at the initiative of the wild man.

In the following pages, the different hominids reflect the descriptions that vary according to region. It is very difficult to determine whether this diversity is the fact of really different species and sub-species or whether it merely expresses distortions in testimonies stemming from different regions. This is why the large number of distinct hominids shown, which can be surprising, quite probably does not reflect such a great biodiversity. Until the situation is clearer, it would be imprudent not to show the whole picture, with its plurality, leaving each person to interpret the situation in his own way.

The illustration on the previous page represents bigfoots, North American hominids, building structures with trunks and branches of trees. These structures, in the form of crosses, stars and cones, are visible in many North American forests. Some could be the result of chance, because of branches and trunks that fall naturally in forests, but others are striking because of their geometric organization and due to the fact that the trunks are some distance from the stumps, showing that they have been moved. If these structures are artificial, they can only be made by bigfoots, or hunters, the only humans to enter these forests, others being fearful of bears. However, hunters have no reason to amuse themselves by building rough and useless constructions. On the other hand, the rudimentary aspect of these structures could correspond to the primitive degree of development of a bigfoot.

No one knows why they assemble these trunks and branches. These collections seem to us the most obvious means of ascertaining the presence of a bigfoot in the region. Perhaps this allows them to ascertain for themselves, within the framework of their moving around, that they are entering a territory that is free, or occupied by other bigfoots, or previously occupied by them.

The big yeti



China, *tchoutchou-na* in Siberia, where it is often identified as a Neandertal). In the Himalayas, it is observed only in the east. This large territory expresses the nomadic character of the species.

It has colonized America : crossing the Bering Straits when it was frozen during the last glacial period (25 000 to 14 000 years ago), it was able to invade America, where we find it today in the form of the mysterious *bigfoot*. Cases have been reported even in Great Britain (particularly in Scotland) : could it have arrived by swim-

Three yetis : three *yetis* are described in the country of the sherpas : the big one (*dzu-teh*), the little one (*meh-teh*) and the very little one (*teh-lma*). The big *yeti* is a colossus reaching 2.50 meters or more (footprints of 40 cm or more like a human footprint but larger). It is covered with brown hair, walks upright, runs on all fours or upright. Although mainly vegetarian, it eats a few insects and, in the Himalayas, attacks and devours livestock.

A vast territory : as opposed to the little *yeti*, confined to the Himalayas, it is observed everywhere in Asia, even in Finland (1988) and in Sweden (1985). In Asia it is given various names (*yeren* in

ming or is it a population dating back to the glacial period ? In spite of the variations in the color of the body hair and length of the head hair, the giant observed in Asia would appear to belong to a unique species, to be distinguished from a wild man also observed in Asia, not so large, never walking on all fours, and whose habits would be slightly less nocturnal (see page 17).

The testimony of a shepherd girl : in 1974, in the Himalayas, the guardian of a herd of yaks and zoms (hybrid ox-yak) was pushed into a torrent by a big yeti. It grabbed one of the zoms by its horns and broke its neck. It opened up its stomach with its hands and devoured

its entrails. Finally, it killed a young yak by hitting it on the forehead, and then its mother, whose legs it broke open to suck out the bone marrow. It did not kill the shepherd girl.



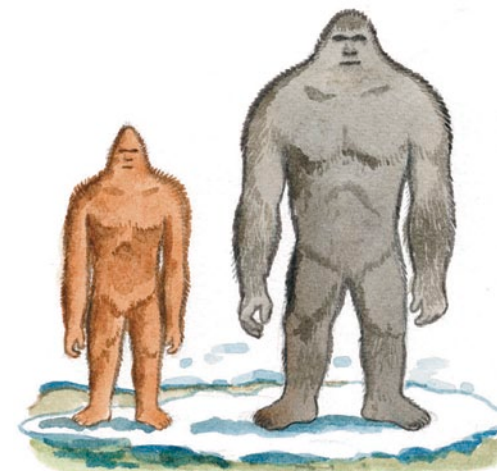
Cases of albino big yetis have been reported.

Official study in China : Chinese scientists, who have been very seriously studying the mysterious hairy creature since 1994, have collected more than 2 000 footprints, analysed the hair and assert that it is an ape.



In China, under the name of yeren, it is often described with long head hair.

A mysterious identity : the gigantopithecus was an enormous prehistoric Asian ape, officially extinct 500 000 years ago, estimated at 3 meters high and weighing 500 kg. This is perhaps what witnesses still come across rounding a corner. The meganthropus (a jaw found on the island of



The little and the big yeti.

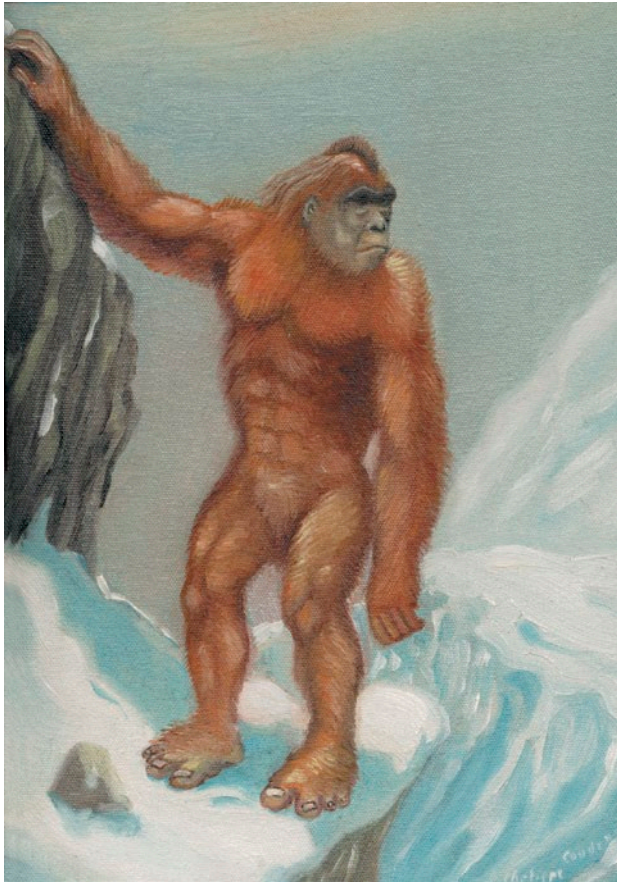
Java), another not well known prehistoric giant, was a *Homo erectus* of 2.50 to 3 meters. It is also a good candidate for our big yeti, which would be a prehistoric man rather than a developed ape.

Strong, intelligent, peace-loving and protected by a thick coat, is not the yeti a greater success than man ?



The extent of the big yeti's territory can be impressive. It is just the reflexion of its nomadic habits : it is never in all places at the same time.

The little yeti



Footprint of little yeti (33 cm) compared with that of a man.



Presumed foot of a little yeti corresponding to the prints.

Kilometers of tracks : contrary to legendary animals, such as the unicorn, the little yeti leaves footprints... All the expeditions launched to find it have discovered kilometers of tracks of naked feet in the snow, leaving no doubt : the animal is bipedal. The little yeti only shows itself to men who are alone. It is so timid that none of the large expeditions (up to 300 men) have succeeded in seeing it. Fortunately, the man of the snows is less reticent to show himself to solitary walkers, whose testimonies are precious.

Measuring 1.50 to 1.70 meters, it is a reddish colour. In the snow and in the mud, traces of its square, four-toed

naked feet have been found. In the mud, a fifth somewhat atrophied toe has often been found. It lives in forests of giant rhododendrons and, higher up, among the rocks, at between 4 000 and 5 000 meters. It rests in caves or makes a nest of branches. In the winter, it occupies shelters left by shepherds, leaving an appalling smell. It feeds, as does a bear, on plants, fruit, insects and small animals from which it removes the innards, as would a human.

Seeing a man makes it nervous : it can throw stones with two hands, or pull up tufts of grass to throw them at the witness ... But it does not attack the man.



In 1949, a shepherd, followed by a little yeti, hid in a hut and observed it closely through a crack. It had the size and appearance of a sturdy adolescent, covered with very short, straight brown-red hairs. On the upper part of the body, the hair grew upwards, downwards on the rest of the body. The chest was lighter, the feet very hairy. The head was very pointed, the hair hung down on each side, but a band of hairs grew



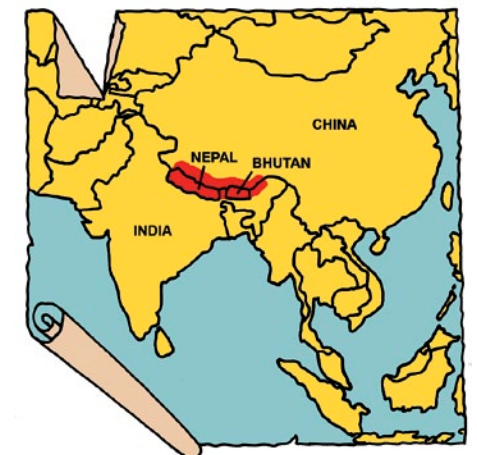
In the winter, it takes refuge in shepherds' huts.

from the forehead to the top of the skull, making a cock's crest. The face was beardless, flatter than a man's. Feeling itself watched, it growled and showed large teeth. It walked with large strides, leaning slightly forward, its arms hanging down.

Analysed hairs : the hairy wild man sometimes loses some hairs. Studied, they indicate an unknown species close to the orang-utan. Analysed feces show new parasites, proof that they come from an unknown species. The little yeti is perhaps a sort of developed orang-utan, somewhere between ape and man.



Traces in the snow show that it adores making slides.



Present in the Himalayas (rhododendron forests) and in parts further north.

The *teh-lma*



guide and another witness saw a *teh-lma* in the middle of a creek situated in Choyang River Valley in April 1958. Although Russell did not see the creature himself, he found its traces on more than one occasion.



Footprint of the *teh-lma* based on a sketch by Ivan Sanderson, guided by Gerald Russell.

The dwarf of the Himalayas : the *teh-lma*, which means « this little thing », is the smallest of the three yetis. It measures 0.90 to 1.20 meters, has stooping shoulders, a pointed head, a sloping forehead and greyish-red hairs. It eats frogs and other small animals.

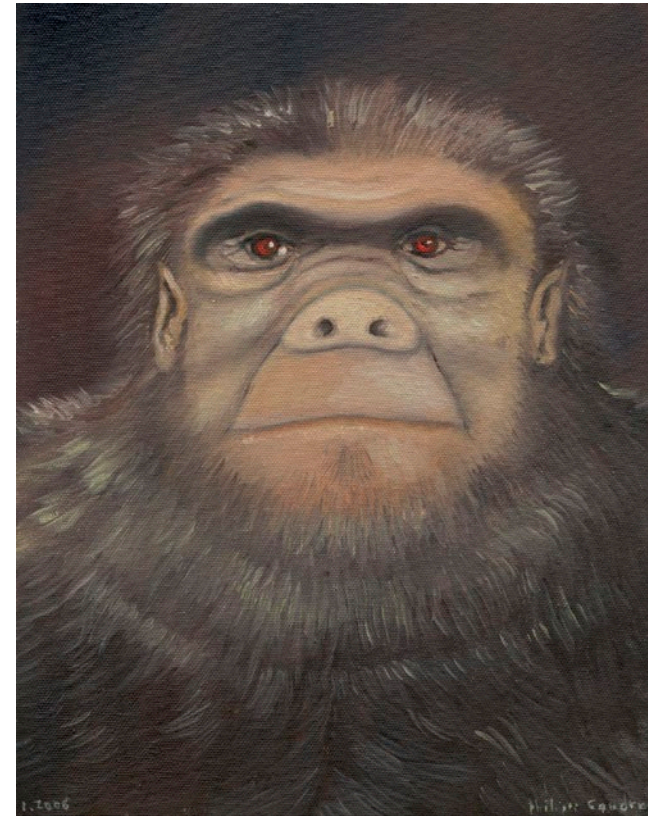
Excrements : during the 1954 Himalayan expedition, Gerald Russell, an American naturalist, heard for the first time of this miniature yeti. On that occasion, he was able to examine excreta presumed to be from this creature.

A yeti that feels the cold : Russell concluded from his studies that the *teh-lma* lives in the tropical valleys of Nepal. He was able to return there in 1958. His



The *teh-lma* could have the same territory as the little yeti, though living at lower altitudes.

The wild man of Asia



is muscular, entirely covered with hair, the legs slightly bent. The individual possesses, contrary to the bigfoot, a goitre under the neck, which could come from a vocal area reminiscent of that of an orang-utan. It has well-developed eyebrow arches, sloping forehead and chin, possibly pointed ears, no visible lips (adaptation to the cold) and above all a snub nose. Contrary to the three yetis and the bigfoot, it does not have a conic skull (absence of sagittal crest destined to receive powerful jaw muscles). The female, another difference with the bigfoot, has breasts which are not hairy, and rather long and flabby.

A living Neandertal man ? Observed in the whole of central Asia, from the Caucasus to Vietnam, this hominid has all the characteristics of the Neandertal man. Numerous accounts collected by Boris Porchnev, Marie-Jeanne Koffmann, Jordi Magraner and others give a precise description of it, which tallies with the frozen corpse found in 1968 by B. Heuvelmans and Ivan Sanderson, exhibited in a fair in the United States and originating no doubt in Vietnam.

A detailed anatomy : its size varies from 1.80 to 2.20 meters, the trunk is rounded, like a barrel, the arms slightly longer than a man's, an effect coming mainly from the larger hands. The body

She throws them behind her back to run or feed her baby. She can be as big and muscular as her companion. The foot is larger than a human one, the toes more mobile. The hand possesses a less opposable thumb than a man's and the little finger seems longer. The individual grabs sticks with the five fingers on the same side. It has hair reaching down to its shoulders. Depending on the region, anatomic differences appear : variations in size, color of body hair or skin, length of head hair.

A revolting smell : a trait shared between these hairy men and the bigfoots is the revolting smell often described throughout the world in accounts concerning these hominids. This smell,

compared to that of carrion, appears to be the prerogative of the male.

Night vision : most of the sightings take place at twilight or at night. Wild men's eyes show red reflexions, characteristic of night vision.

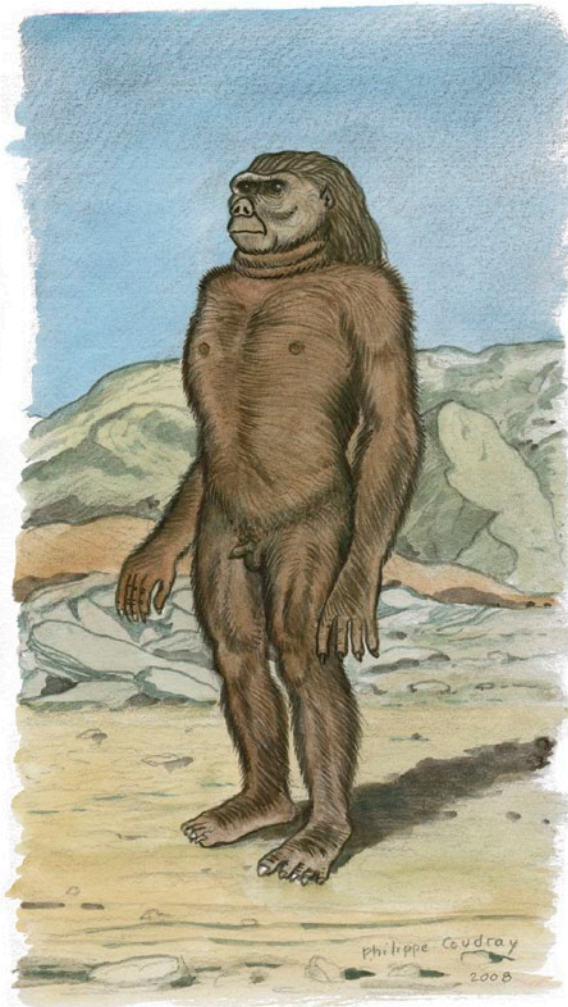
Hairless babies : the offspring, occasionally observed in nests made of vegetation, are born without hair and resemble our babies.

A « rectus » sexual organ : one of the characteristics of the males is that the sexual organ is said to be « rectus », that is to say in a state of permanent minimum rigidity, as is the case of the Bushmen of the Kalahari, another difference apparently with the bigfoot, who is described as having a sexual organ like that of men (other than the Bushmen).

Fertile crossbreeding with the human being : several cases have been notified, particularly in 1880, in the Caucasus, describing a female captured by the villagers, named Zana, who gave birth to four children sired by the villagers. These children themselves had descendants, found by Boris Porchnev. It seems that, in the case of crossbreeding, human characteristics are the dominant ones. Another case, dating from 1920, was noted in the Spanish Pyrenees.

Recent presence of Neanderthal men in Europe : the most recent accounts concerning hairy men in Europe go back to the end of the 19th century in the Alps, where they are described as being of a small size, till 1875 in the French Pyrenees, and much later in the Spanish Pyrenees, where sightings continued until 1994.

One sighting is found in Italy, close to the French frontier in 1997, and other recent ones in northern Europe. The latter could concern individuals of another species, of the bigfoot type, coming from northern Asia. The accounts from northern Europe or Italy need to be distinguished, following a possible return of wild men of the east, favoured by an increase in wasteland from those from Spain, which could concern an isolated population, established on the spot since time immemorial, and passing unnoticed due to a nocturnal life and a hidden habitat in the network of caves.



Large presence in the Middle Ages : as Christian Le Noël shows in his book *La race oubliée*, they seem to have proliferated in the forests of Europe under the name of « lous-garous » or « satyrs » in the Middle Ages. Thousands of trials of « lous-garous » took place at that time, corresponding to a real genocide of this type of man considered as « satanic ». Sculptures are to be found on churches representing these wild hairy men, some of them showing the famous goitre below the neck, a detail which could not have been invented.

Its behaviour : Marie-Jeanne Koffmann's work showed that, in the Caucasus, and particularly in the past before Stalin, these wild men lived partly at the expense of cultivated land, even having relations with the local people : the latter gave shelter to and fed the females and their young during the winter in barns. These wild men sometimes steal clothing left out to dry, to dress themselves, do not make fire but can relight warm cinders. They do not seem to use tools and have little or no language. They look for food at night, sleep during the day so deeply that it is possible to approach them. Contrary to the big yeti-bigfoot, they never run on all fours. Isolated males are the most often observed.

Its diet : vegetarian, slightly carnivorous, its diet is close to that of the bear, and forces it to make seasonal migrations.

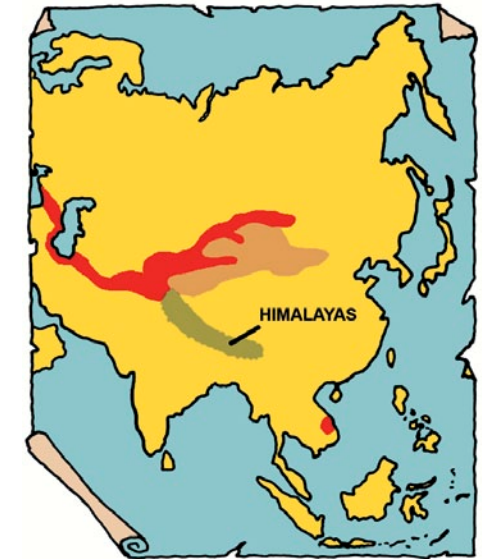
Hibernation : without really hibernating, during the winter it falls into a slumber, no doubt accompanied by a decrease in its metabolic rate.

Different types : depending on the regions, the size of the individuals is different. The *almasty* of the Caucasus is quite big : 2 meters, the *almass* of the

highlands of Mongolia smaller. Most of them seem to be mountain dwellers and adapted to climbing (large and mobile foot), but some of them like reedy swamps (the Lopata, Volga delta).



Empreinte de l'homme sauvage 27 cm.



The wild man (in red) is reported in the mountains which start from the Caucasus (in the west), cross Iran, Afghanistan, touch the Himalayas then go up north, above the Tibetan plateau as far as Mongolia. The pink part corresponds to a smaller and less mountainous sub-species, called *almass*. The wild man also exists in the forests of Vietnam (south-east on the map) under the name of *ngoui rung*, corresponding to the pongoid man, the body of which was found frozen in a fair in the United States by B. Heuvelmans in 1968. Its presence on the Tibetan plateau is not well known for lack of information.

The small, gracile man of India



The Indian ape-man : in India, a small hairy, gracile man is described, measuring between 1.25 and 1.55 meters, known locally as ape-man.

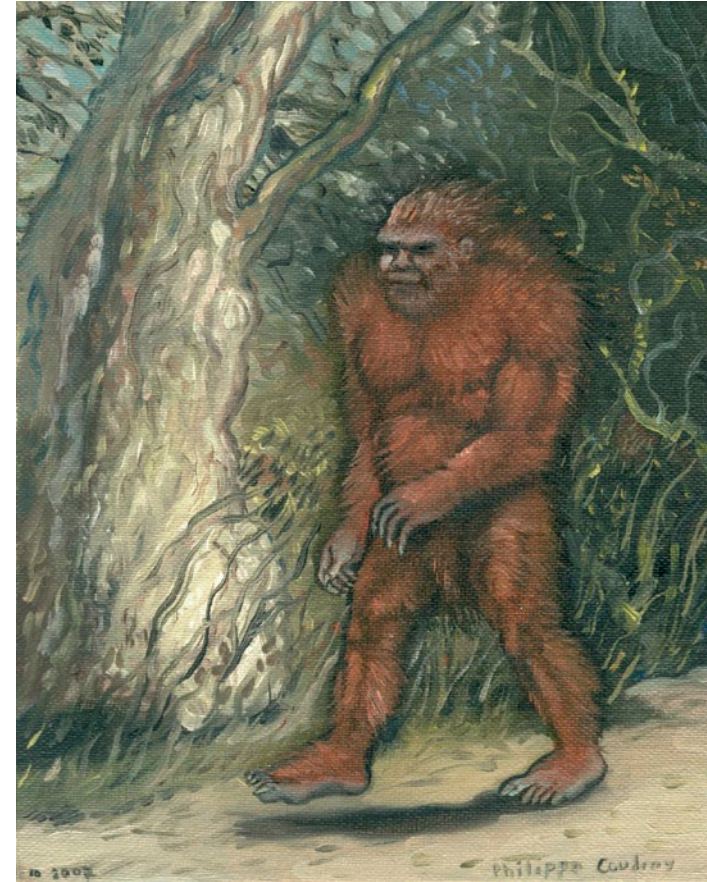
Relationship with men : some of them apparently cohabit with the Indians in remote villages, in small, roughly-built cabins.

Other bipedal, hairy dwarfs exist in the regions of south Asia, Oceania, Australia, Japan ... (see further on). It remains to be known how many different species are represented by all these small hominids which seem to have spread out in all these islands during glaciations permitting crossing on foot.



The small, gracile man is generally observed on the Deccan Plateau, but also near Delhi.

The *nittaewo*



the night in nests of branches covered with a roof of leaves, or in caves. They hunted squirrels, tortoises, small goats, lizards and crocodiles, whose stomach they opened up with their long « claws » to devour the intestines.

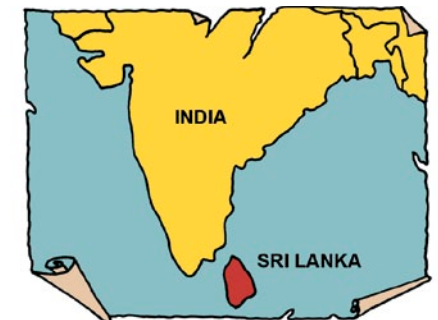
Small but aggressive : sometimes they stole meat from the Veddas, which created hostility between the two peoples. The Veddas hunted the *nittaewo* with arrows and the latter disembowelled the sleeping Veddas with their « claws ».

A genocide two centuries ago : around 1800, the Veddas encircled the

Dwarfs with claws : in the remote mountains of Sri Lanka, small bipedal beings are traditionally described, 0.90 to 1.20 meters tall, believed to have disappeared today. They are covered in thick red hairs, have short, strong arms, short hands armed with long claws (to be translated by pointed nails, this description bringing to mind the hairy dwarfs of Kenya named « X4 » by Jacqueline Roumeguère-Eberhardt).

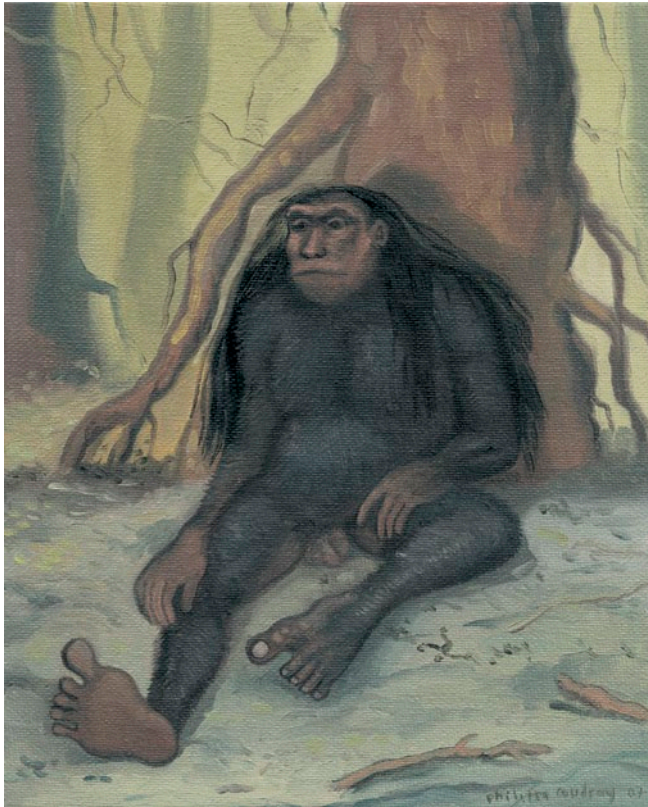
A special language : they produced a jabbering understood only by the Veddas (local pygmies of about 1.50 meters, swarthy, with very long, curly hair, who have become very rare in the island). They lived in small groups, spending

last *nittaewos* in a cavern, where they smoked them to death. Certain crypto-zoologists believe that they still exist.



Sri Lanka, an island close to southern India, used to be called Ceylon.

The *orang-pendek* or *sedapa* or *batûtût*



several footprints attributed to the *orang-pendek*, showing a definitely opposable big toe, contrary to all those discovered at the beginning of the 20th century. They measured about 18.5 cm long, corresponding to an individual of 1.50 meters height. The position of the big toe remains confused. Furthermore, the footprints from the beginning of the 20th century show a heel which is sometimes small, sometimes as wide as the front of the foot.

The *batûtût*, an *orang-pendek* of Borneo : in the north of Borneo, a similar individual is described. Its long head hair terminates in a dorsal

Strong canine teeth : known in Sumatra to the natives and the Dutch colonists, the *orang-pendek* is a very shy bipedal dwarf, with short dark brown to black hairs, of 1.50 to 1.60 meters height. Its face is brown and without hair, and it has long black head hair reaching halfway down its body. It has human-like eyes but strong canine teeth (a simian characteristic), the tops of its hands are slightly hairy. It seldom climbs trees.

A language : it whistles and vocalises. It feeds on young shoots, fruit, molluscs, worms and snakes which it finds by overturning stones with great strength. It also eats bananas and sugar cane.

An expedition in 2001 : in the Barisan mountains, researchers found

mane, like the hairy dwarf of Africa, the *kakundakari*, and a hairy dwarf of Central America, the *dwendi*. Its footprints, discovered in 1970, have an opposable



Footprint of an *orang-pendek* (12 cm), from a sketch by Dr Jacobson in 1915, north of the Barisan mountains.

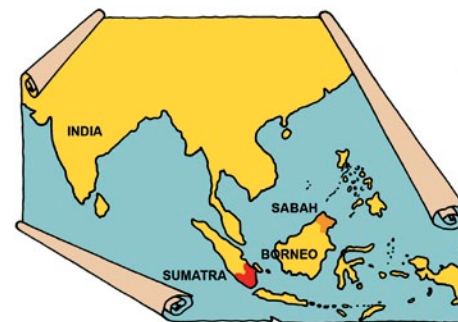
Interpretation of a cast of a footprint of an *orang-pendek* produced in 2001 (18.5 cm).

big toe and a pointed heel. The *batûtût* is nocturnal, runs away from adult men but is attracted to children. It can kill men and take away their liver.

Food : the *batûtût* eats, among other things, river snails.



The *batûtût* of northern Borneo.

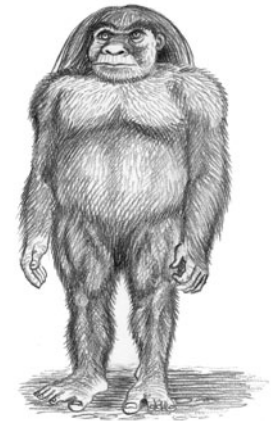


The *orang-pendek* lives in the south of Sumatra, in the south-west, in the forests of the Barisan mountains perhaps as far as the swamps of the south-east (red). The *batûtût* frequents the north of Borneo, in the region of Sabah (orange).

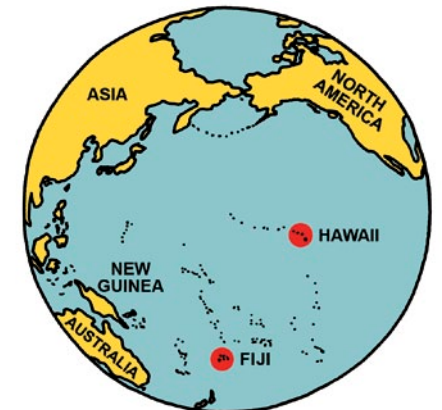
Origin : certain authors connect the *orang-pendek* and the *batûtût* with *ramapithecus*, one of the first apes to walk upright and possess a human jaw, which lived 10 million years ago.

Le *ménéhuné*

Another island dwarf : in the Fiji islands and in Hawaii, a hairy dwarf with long head hair falling down its back is spoken of, being stocky and round, of 60 to 90 cm height, the *ménéhuné*. The skin of the face is red, the eyes large (nocturnal vision ?), the eyebrows long, the nose wide and flat.

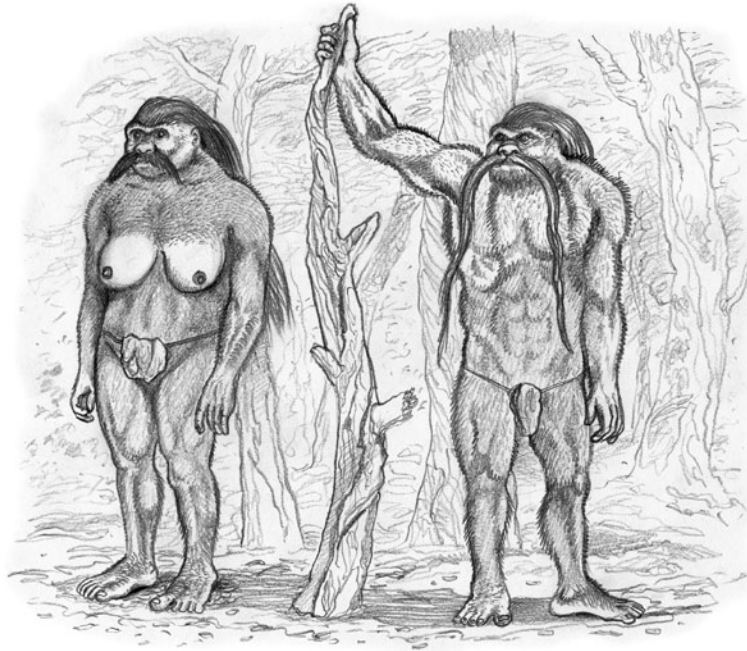


The *ménéhuné* of the Fijian and Hawaiian islands.



The *ménéhuné* is found in the islands of Fiji and Hawaii, which poses the question of its origins.

Primitive men of Malaysia



A language : accounts other than that of 1953 and in various other regions of Malaysia describe a language like guttural growls.

Tapioca lovers : they pull up and consume the roots in tapioca plantations.

Hypotheses : these hominids, which feel the need to wear loincloths and seek friendly relations with humans, are

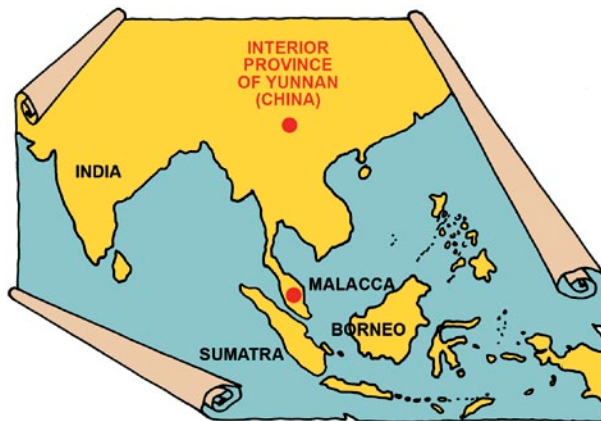
Moustached ones : they are described as being hairy, with a white skin, sporting long black head hair and above all a moustache, present in the female and so long in the male that it reaches the waist. Up till now, no hairy man had ever been seen with a moustache. The size of the individuals, which is not mentioned, must be as that of humans. Some descriptions speak only of very hairy limbs.

A loincloth made of bark : dressed in a minute loincloth made of bark, a female was seen in 1953, accompanied by two males. She emitted an appalling smell.

An indigenous legend says that hairy aborigines used to haunt the forests north of Malacca.

perhaps less primitive than the other Asian hominids, which make it all the more difficult to establish their identity. They are perhaps very primitive humans.

Chinese primitive men : in China, in the interior province of Yunnan, primitive hairy men of the same type have been reported.



Primitive men have been observed not only in the forests north of Malacca, but also in the Chinese interior province of Yunnan.

The *proto-pygmy* of Malaysia

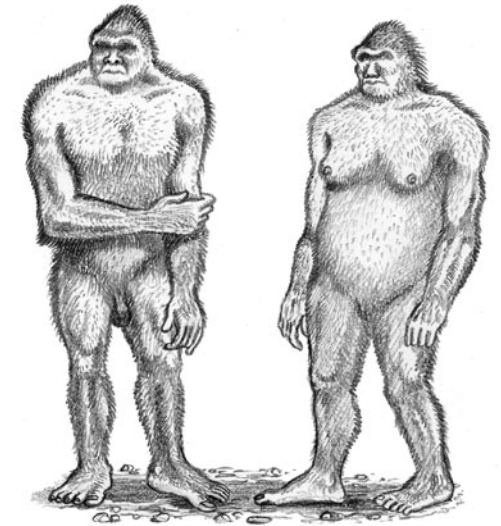


In Malacca, at the tip of the Malaysian peninsula, the Malays speak of the *Hantu Sakaï*, a population of very primitive « *proto-pygmy* » supposed to live and move around in trees. According to cryptozoologists, they would be individuals prior to *Homo sapiens sapiens* such as ourselves, but nevertheless fairly close, reminiscent of the « X4 » described in Africa near to Kilimanjaro, and perhaps the *apamandi* in the centre of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see pages 41 and 45). In a way, our direct ancestor.



The *proto-pygmy*, in green, in Malacca, in the Malaysian peninsula, and the *kapre*, in red, in the islands of Luzon and Samar (south-east of Luzon), which belong to the Philippines.

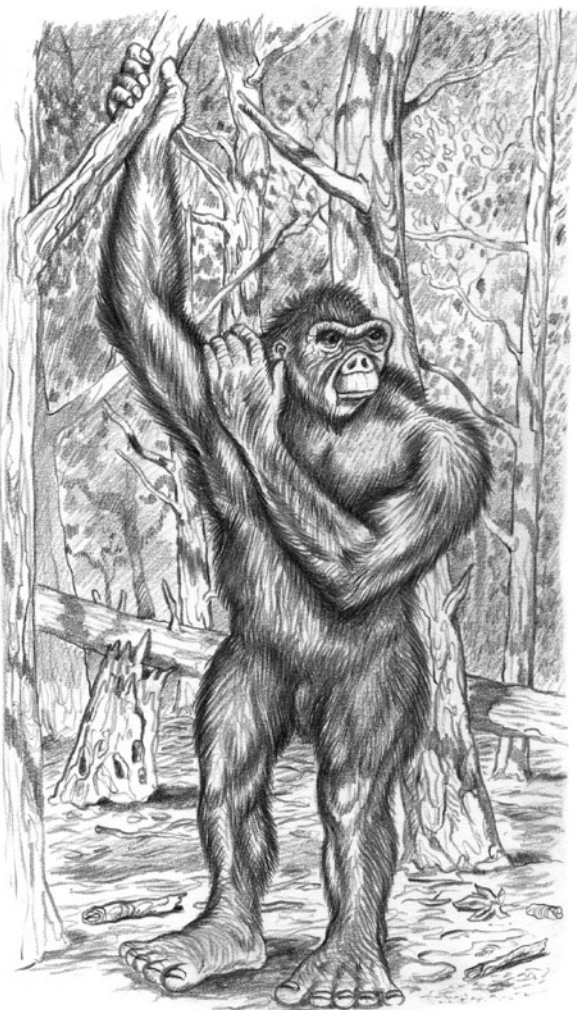
The *kapre*



The *kapre*, or *xueren*, measures 2.40 meters and is to be found on the island of Luzon (or Luzon), in the Philippines. Its size would be similar to that of the *bigfoot* individuals. It is for this reason that I have shown the female with round, hairy breasts, like those of the *bigfoot* rather than the hairless, hanging breasts of the wild man of central Asia. Her foot shows an unopposable, bulbous big toe. The same individual exists in the east of the island of Samar, under

the name of *waray-waray*, and *beruang rambai* in general in the Philippines.

The *hibagon*



A limited territory : the *hibagon* is observed in Japan only in a confined region : on the flanks of Mount Hiba near Hiroshima. It is black or a reddish-brown. It possesses a few exceptional characteristics.

A small hominid : neither dwarf nor giant, it measures around 1.50 to 1.60 meters, up to 1.80 meters (with a unique case of 2 meters). It is therefore separate from the hairy dwarfs of the whole world (smaller), the wild men of central Asia and the *bigfoots* or big ye-

tis, all of them larger. The only hominids of the same size as the *hibagon* are the little yeti, confined to the Himalayas, and the *orang-pendek*.

A square foot : here again, we are surprised at the shape of its foot. A photo (unfortunately hidden partly by the measuring ruler) shows a square foot close to that of the little yeti. Another document mentions a foot 30 cm long by 27 cm wide. Most traces are smaller (21 cm long).

A triangular face : its face resembles a triangle, pointing downwards, a new characteristic, never previously described for a wild man. It would also have a snub nose, reminding one of the wild men of central Asia. Its head is often reported as large compared with its body. Its face is not flat like man's but rather protuberant.

Intelligent eyes : this remark is frequently made by witnesses. Again, this is new. In the case of wild men of central Asia, captured in the past by the military, they speak of an empty, inexpressive look, animal-like. Hominids, in general, do not seem to shine by the expressiveness of their look.

It sometimes walks on all fours : a detail which excludes the hypothesis of the wild man of central Asia, which, contrary to the large or little yeti, never moves on all fours.

It sometimes has some white hairs : this could be a case of confusion with the Asian black bear escaped from



Footprint of a *hibagon* interpreted from a photo on which a measuring ruler hid the first and second toes. Footprint roughly 30 cm long.

a zoo, which has a white mark on its chest, or come from old individuals.

A repulsive smell : in almost all cases of close sightings of hominids, the witnesses reported a stink compared to that of carrion. In 1974, a witness compared the smell of the *hibagon* to that of manure or a septic tank.

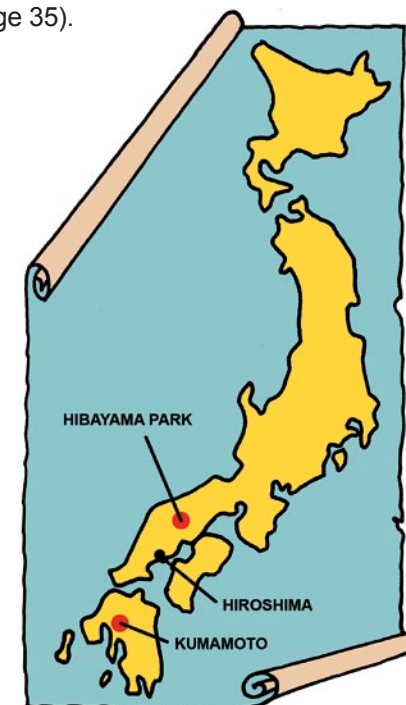
A silent hominid : contrary to his bipedal colleagues, this hominid never seems to produce sounds. The *bigfoot* of North America does not deny itself long, lugubrious cries and short, rising « woops » !

Observations from 1970 to 1982 : it is during this period that the sightings were most numerous, with a peak in 1974. From 1982, there have apparently been no more sightings.

The man-beast of Kumamoto : legends also exist concerning a « man-beast » in the region of Kumamoto, situated a few hundred kilometers south-east of Mount Hiba.

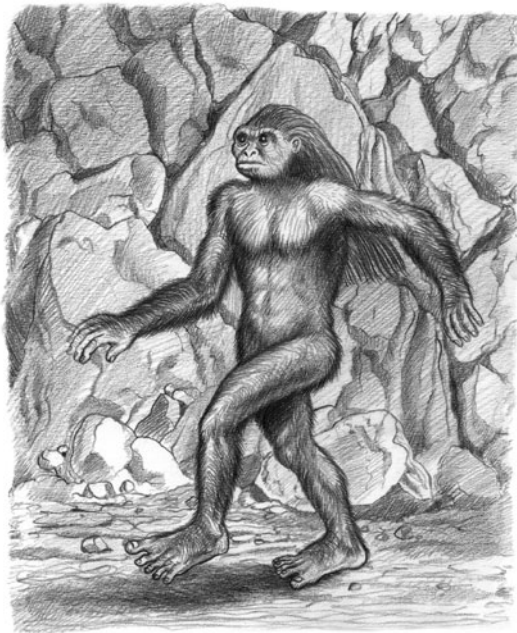
Hypotheses : if one sets aside cases which can be explained by bears that have escaped from zoos, by macaques isolated from their group (although smaller and of a light color) and wounded (case of a lame *hibagon*), it seems

that we are dealing with an abnormal hominid, particularly shown by the shape of its footprint. All the same, the square foot and its size remind one of the *orang-pendek* of Sumatra, present also in the north of Borneo under the name of « *batûtût* ». The latter also measures from 1.50 to 1.60 meters. Apart from the difference in hairiness (the long hair of the *orang-pendek* is not mentioned here), it could be a case of the same species. The traces found of the *orang-pendek* are smaller (12 cm) but it could be a case of individuals that are not adult, and they show, in some cases, an opposable thumb, which creates a problem of identification. It can also be compared with the *jundadee* of Australia (see page 35).



The *hibagon* has been observed in the Hibayama Park and several times in 1970 on the slopes of Mount Hiba, in Japan. The « man-beast » is observed in the region of Kumamoto.

The kappa



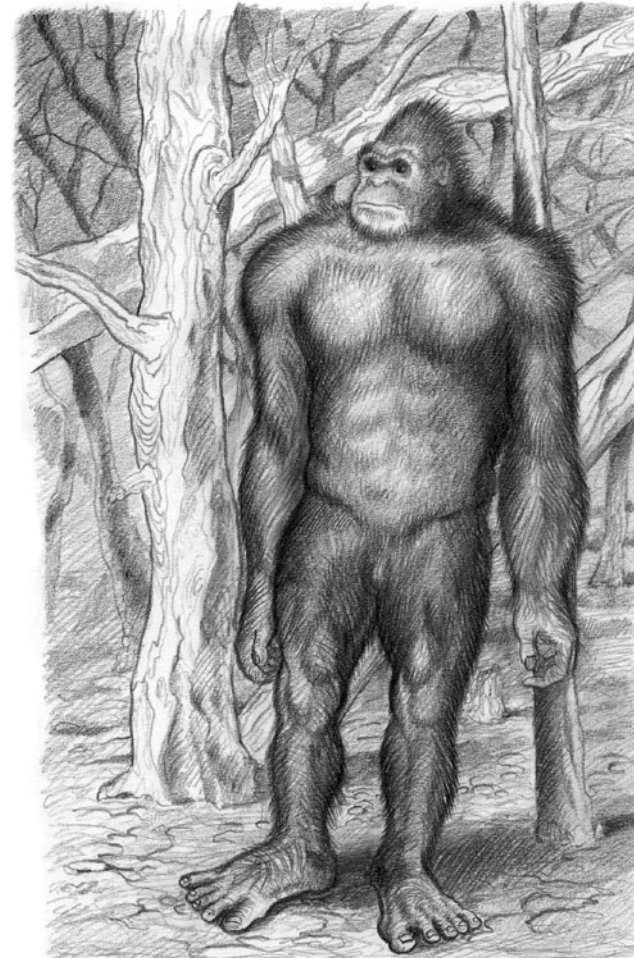
A Japanese legend : the *kappa* is linked to the water-god Suiko, a cult practised mostly in the north of the main island of Japan. It is represented as a small being living in water, which would be responsible for the drowning of children. It would attract children and horses into the liquid element, to devour their liver which it would reach via the anus, as well as the *shirikodama*, an imaginary part of the body supposed to be a centre of energy close to the anus. The *kappa* would have a hollow area at the top of its head which would contain the water that is at the origin of its strength. If this hollow becomes empty, the *kappa* loses its power. Its two arms are considered to be of one limb : if one is pulled, the other follows. It adores cucumbers, which it steals from men, to whom it brings secrets about medicinal plants.

From legend to reality : this legend could be purely imaginary if it did not contain some realistic aspects : *kappas* are often described with a fine down on the body and the size of a child. Furthermore, visual accounts describe them as having the aspect and face of the monkey, the face red (like the *ménéhuné* of the Fiji islands) and with long head hair. Other elements appear such as webbed hands and feet, or the fact that they leave the mountain in the spring, to invade the rivers in the plain and go back to the mountains in the autumn. Certain Japanese claim that it has disappeared due to pollution.

From the hairy man to the turtle-man : living in the water, the *kappa* is often represented as a man endowed with a turtle's shell. It is even occasionally likened to the tiger. The representations of the wild man are the oldest, and those of the turtle-man the most recent, taken up by the « mangas ». It would seem that there are no more observations nowadays. The legend used to be widespread throughout the country. It is particularly concentrated in the regions where there is a likelihood of children drowning.

Hypotheses : if one believes that a real being is behind this legend, it would be close to the man of Flores, the small prehistoric man one meter tall whose skeletons dating back 12 000 years were found on the island of that name (other identical skeletons were discovered on the island of Palau in March 2008, which, according to carbon 14 dating, would have lived only 1 410 to 2 890 years ago). These two islands are situated to the north of Australia and therefore not very far from Japan.

The oni

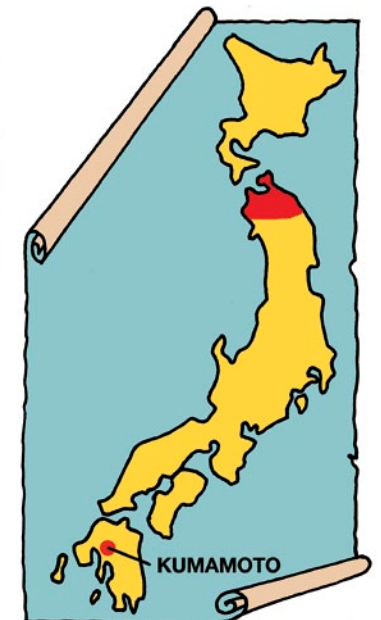


A third Japanese hominid : the *oni* has been mentioned since antiquity, in the literature and in orally transmitted stories.

A colossus : contrary to the two preceding ones, it is over two meters tall and would be the size of a colossus. It is sometimes described with a loincloth made of tiger-skin and a club, sometimes horns. It is the equivalent of the European ogre. The number of its eyes varies between one and three... It is sometimes shown as a marine monster.

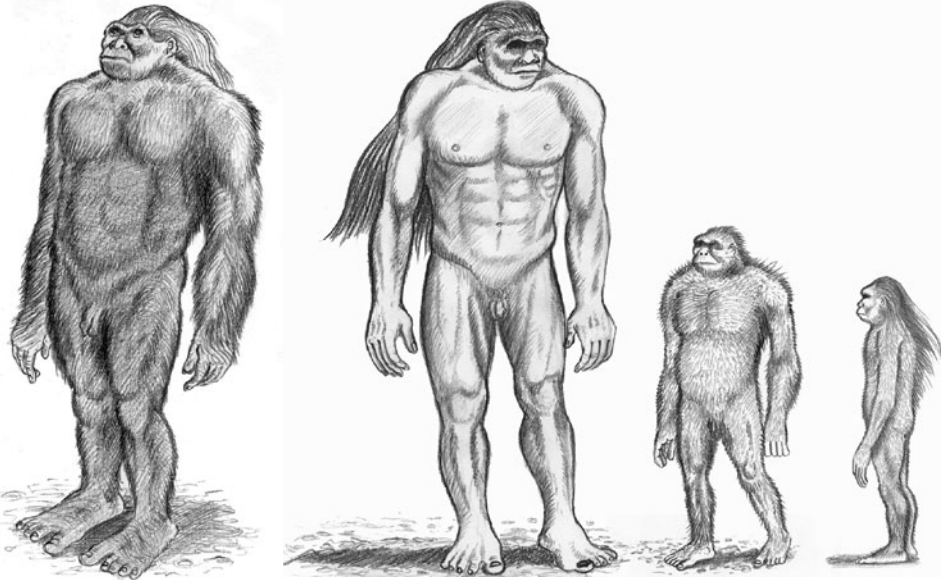
A Japanese bigfoot ? This description forces one to think of a *bigfoot* (or big yeti), present on the Asiatic continent.

A report in 1995 : a trail of footprints 20 x 40 cm was found in 1995 in the department of Kumamoto (southern Japan). The *hibagon* (see before) possesses nearly square feet, the largest prints of which are not longer than 30 cm long by 27 cm wide. It is therefore another hominid, larger, whose feet remind one of the American *bigfoot* or the big yeti. It could correspond to the legend of the « man-beast » of the region of Kumamoto.



The legends concerning the *kappa* are more present in the north of the main island of Japan. In the south, traces of the *oni* in 1995.

South-east Asian giants and dwarfs



The *orang-gigi* or *garang-jiji* of the Malaysian peninsula. Sumatra : the *orang-gadang*, the human-size hominid and the *orang-pendek*.

In the Malaysian peninsula, in Sumatra and in the Solomon islands, giants of 3 meters height have been reported whose presence can be connected with the discovery, in 1941 in Java, of the remains of a megalanthropus, a *Homo erectus* of 3 meters height, dating from 1.7 million years ago.

Malaysian peninsula : the *garang-gigi* is a hominid of 3 meters height seen near to Singapore. It is covered with brown fleece and has long blond head hair. Footprints of 45 cm (15 cm wide) are regularly found, which seems short for an individual 3 meters tall. A sighting report mentions red eyes as large as a tennis ball, reminding one of the description (see further on) of the giants of Guadalcanal. It is also called « yeti of Johor ».

Sumatra : the *orang-gadang* is a 3 meters tall hominid living in Sumatra. It has long head hair but its skin is hairless. Its footprints, 65 cm long and

20 cm wide, resemble those of a human being, with a big toe proportionately larger than the others. In Sumatra, there is a third hominid the size of an ordinary man.

The island of Guadalcanal contains a **giant population** 3 meters tall or more. They have long reddish-brown head hair, round red eyes, a flattened nose, sloping eyebrows and a large mouth. There are apparently two other types, one smaller and less hairy and another, even smaller and even less hairy, albeit larger than a man. The natives relate the latter to wild men living in the jungle. The largest among them live in the mountainous rainforests and can cross the island from east to west using the network of caves. Their footprints are larger than 90 cm, suggesting an enormous height (logically 5 meters). Going on foot from one village to another at the foot of Mount Tatuva, it is possible, according to the locals, to

perceive them regularly. Robust dwarfs of 1.20 m height can also be found in this island.

Choiseul island : there are apparently as many giants on this island as on Guadalcanal. The absence of villages throughout the island is an indication of their presence.

Santa Isabel island : the giant population, in the centre-north and the centre north-east of the country, is smaller than in the two preceding islands.

Makira island : a population of robust dwarfs 1.20 tall, present also on Guadalcanal, is all that is to be found there.

Malaita island : the same giants as on Guadalcanal are to be found there, with a different culture, called *ramo*. Thousands of skeletons are apparently spread around and buried in the depths of the jungle in a funereal site near Kwara'ae, north of the region of Kwao, in the centre of the island.

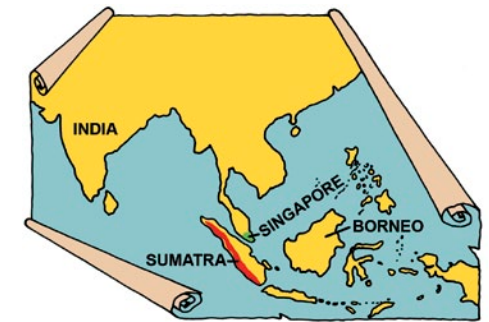
Throughout the Solomon islands, the giants are called *moo-moo*. They are supposed to have a language not very different from the Guadalcanal dialect, itself not very different from that of the other islands.

In **New Guinea**, large hairy hunters are talked about, white-skinned and armed with cudgels.

In **Tasmania**, in the Cradle valley (mountainous centre) the *makoron koro*, a giant with long head hair, is to be found.

In the main island of **New Caledonia**, giants are reported to be in the mountains.

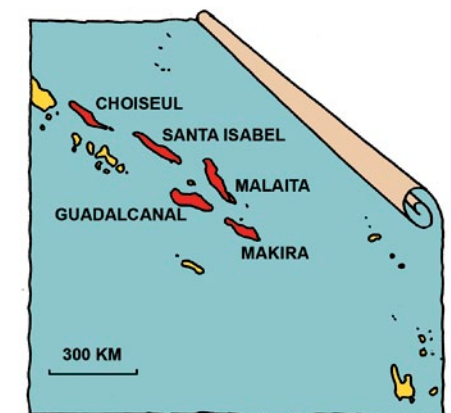
N.B. the *moehau*, or *maero*, of **New Zealand**, long-haired giants about which the indigenous people, the Maoris, speak in the past tense. They made stone tools.



The *jarang-jiji* is reported near Singapore (in green). The *orang-gadang* is reported in the mountains of Sumatra (in red).

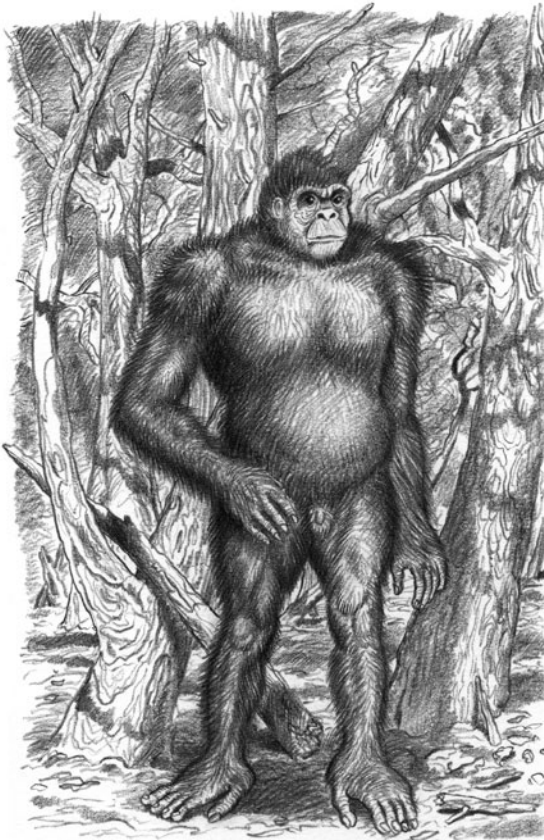


The giants of Guadalcanal are seen all over the island, but mainly in the zone colored in red.



The Solomon Islands, situated to the north-east of Australia, seem to be inhabited by populations of long-haired giants and other hairy hominids.

The bipedal ape of Vietnam



An ape : in the centre of Vietnam, the indigenous people speak of an enormous bipedal ape which, according to them, would be neither a man nor an anthropoid ape. Anthropoids are large apes without a tail and with a highly developed brain such as the gorilla, the chimpanzee, the orangutan and the gibbon.

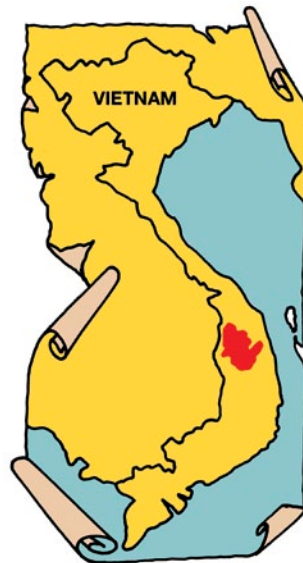
A killer : it is said to have killed a man in 1943, near Kontum. There was a trial but the archives cannot be found today. It is supposed to have aggressive habits and willingly attacks human beings.

The local name of the animal is « *kra-dhan* » or « *bêc-bôk* ».

Origin : the big yeti, which became *bigfoot* when passing into North America, is considered to be a *gigantopithecus* or a *Homo erectus*. The

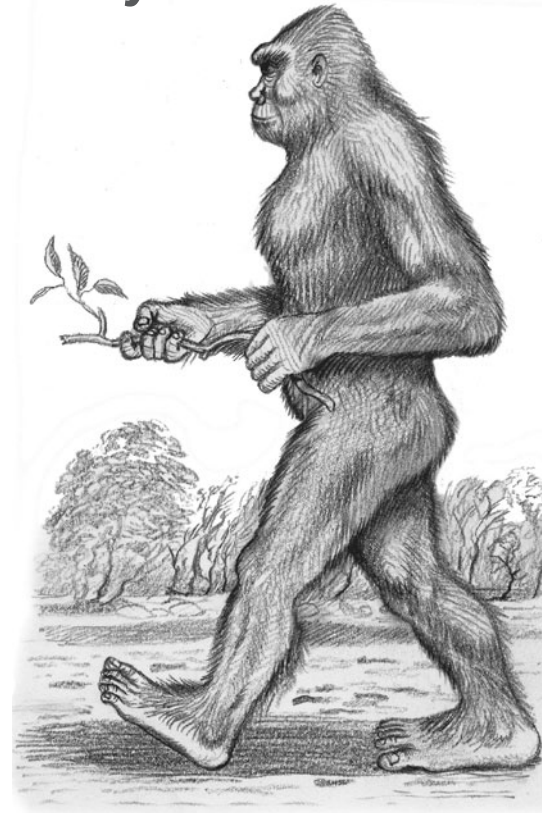
gigantopithecus was a sort of giant gorilla of which only fossilized jaws have been found ; it is not known whether it was bipedal and it has been estimated as being 3 meters tall. If the hypothesis of *bigfoot* as *Homo erectus* is accepted, the bipedal Vietnamese ape could be a good candidate for *gigantopithecus*. Remains of this enormous anthropoid have been found in southern China, in the north of India and in Pakistan. It lived until at least 1 million years ago.

Another bipedal ape ? The Vietnamese ape is close to the Australian *Jimbra* (see page 34), a biped of 2 to 4 meters height (the latter measure is perhaps an exaggeration following an impressive encounter), the feet of which have an opposable big toe, like apes, and the African *mulahu/kikomba*.



The bipedal ape inhabits the region of the plateau of Kontum in the centre of Vietnam.

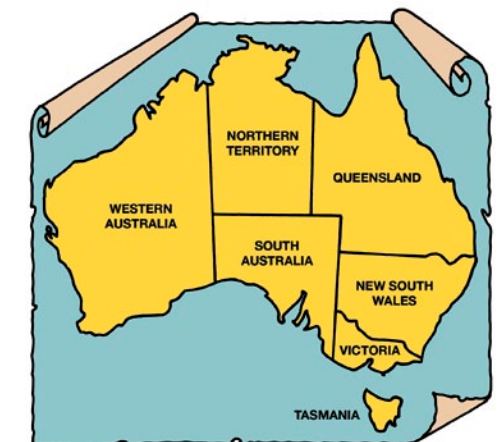
The yowie



Four hairy Australians : Australia seems to be home to several hominids : a medium-sized one (the *yowie*), two large ones and a small one.

The yowie, a hairy man of medium height : aboriginal traditions and colonizers from the end of the IXth century speak of a mountainous hominid of about 1.70 meters height.

A close encounter of 1912, in New South Wales, describes this creature precisely : 1.80 m., covered with long russet brown body hair, small head, human face, canine teeth sticking out of the mouth, large deepset eyes, very long arms, long thighs compared with short tibias, feet with short metatarsals and long toes. The hominid was standing up but ran away on all fours.



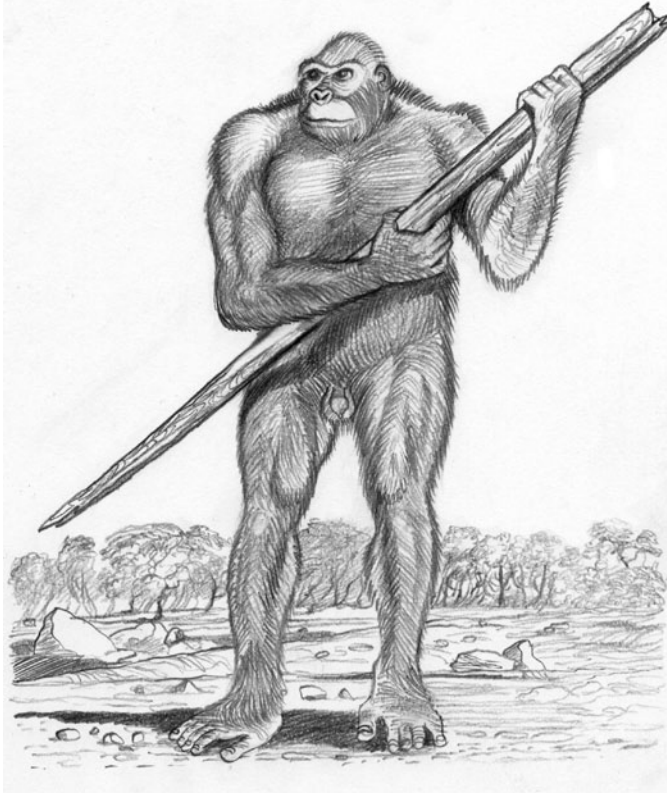
The yowie was observed in 1912 in New South Wales.

Short tibias : this detail brings it close to *Homo erectus* which did in effect have tibias proportionately shorter than *Homo sapiens* (Neandertal man too, but in a lesser degree).

Escape on all fours : this capacity to run on all fours is also found in the large Asiatic yeti and the *bigfoot*, which doubtless belong to the same species, as well as the little yeti, another species. On the other hand, this is never mentioned in connexion with the wild man of central Asia, of Neandertal type. In the *erectus* or *gigantopithecus* debate concerning the big *yeti-bigfoot*, the detail of the short tibia would confirm the *erectus* hypothesis.

Remains of erectus : in the Kow Swamp region, skulls of hybrids of *erectus*-modern man have been found, dating back 9 000 to 10 000 years, which would confirm the *erectus* hypothesis.

The *jimbira*



observations date from 1960 and 1972.

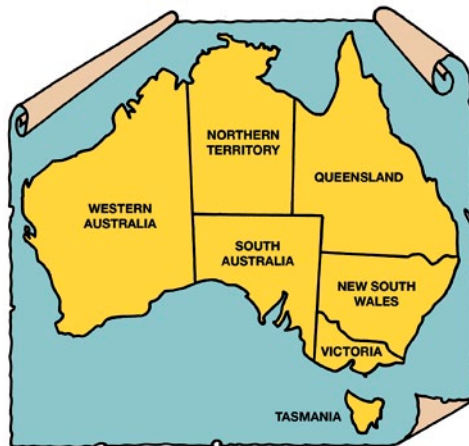
A *gigantopithecus* ?

This giant gorilla, of which only the jaws have been found, which disappeared apparently a million years ago, was perhaps bipedal. Can it be rediscovered in the *jimbira*, as well as in the bipedal ape of Vietnam (see page 32) ? If the big yeti is not a *gigantopithecus* but rather a *Homo erectus*, the hypothesis of the *gigantopithecus*, more simian, could account for these two Australian and Asiatic bipedal apes, shown by the opposable big toe of their large foot.

An impressive size : measurements from 2 to 4 meters are assigned to it. One should be sceptical about sizes of hominoids above 3 meters, because the unexpected sight of such a giant can impress the witness to the point of exaggerating the size of the individual.

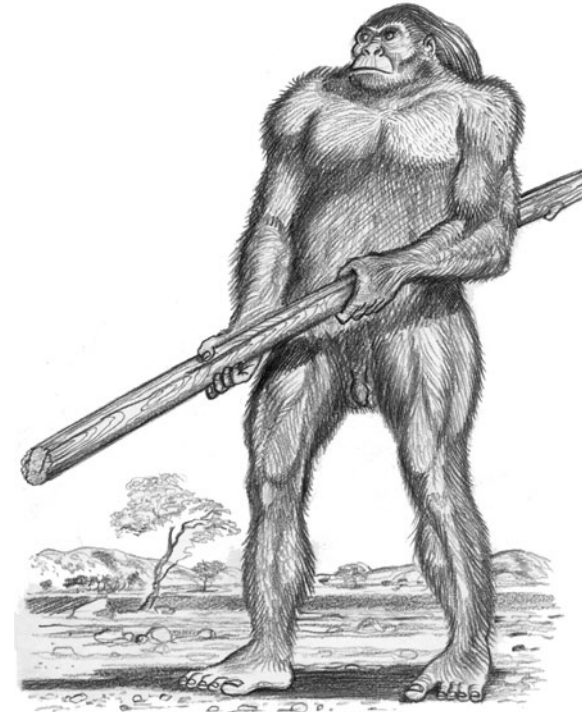
An ape's foot : more than 60 cm long, its feet have a separate big toe, that is to say one which sticks out from the other digits, like that of the gorilla. If this impressive foot length is compared proportionately with that of the human, the size of the individual would be 3.36 m. The genital organs are visible.

Cannibalistic customs : tired of being eaten, the indigenous population ended up by exterminating the *jimbras*. Apparently there are still some. Obser-



The *jimbira* is supposed to live in the arid region of the north and west of Australia. The *tjangara* would live in the arid area of the Australian west, and the *jundadee* in Queensland.

The *tjangara*

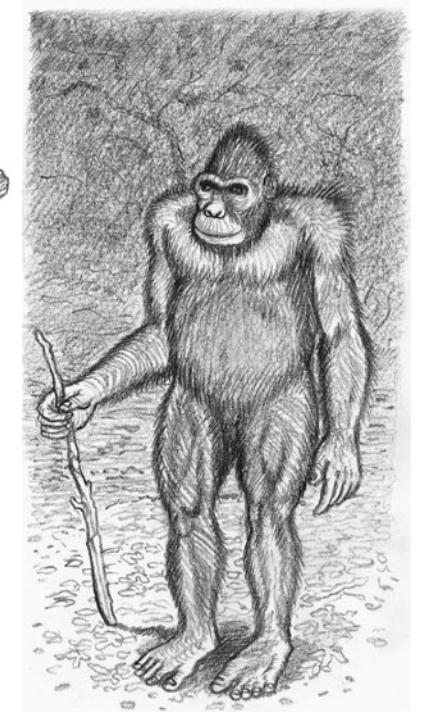


A cannibalistic giant : this other Australian giant of more than 3 meters' height is not presented as an anthropoid, but has curiously the same cannibalistic habits as the *jimbira*, eating the indigenous people. It would use a large stick. It would have long head hair.

Attack in 1972 : a man who was attacked by the hominid saved his life by throwing his ice-axe in its face.

Identification : if this biped is not the same as the *jimbira*, it could be considered close to the giants of the Oceanic islands, which have long head hair and are sometimes aggressive, possibly being *Homo erectus* of the type of those whose fossils have been found in Java (estimated at 3 meters tall).

The *jundadee*



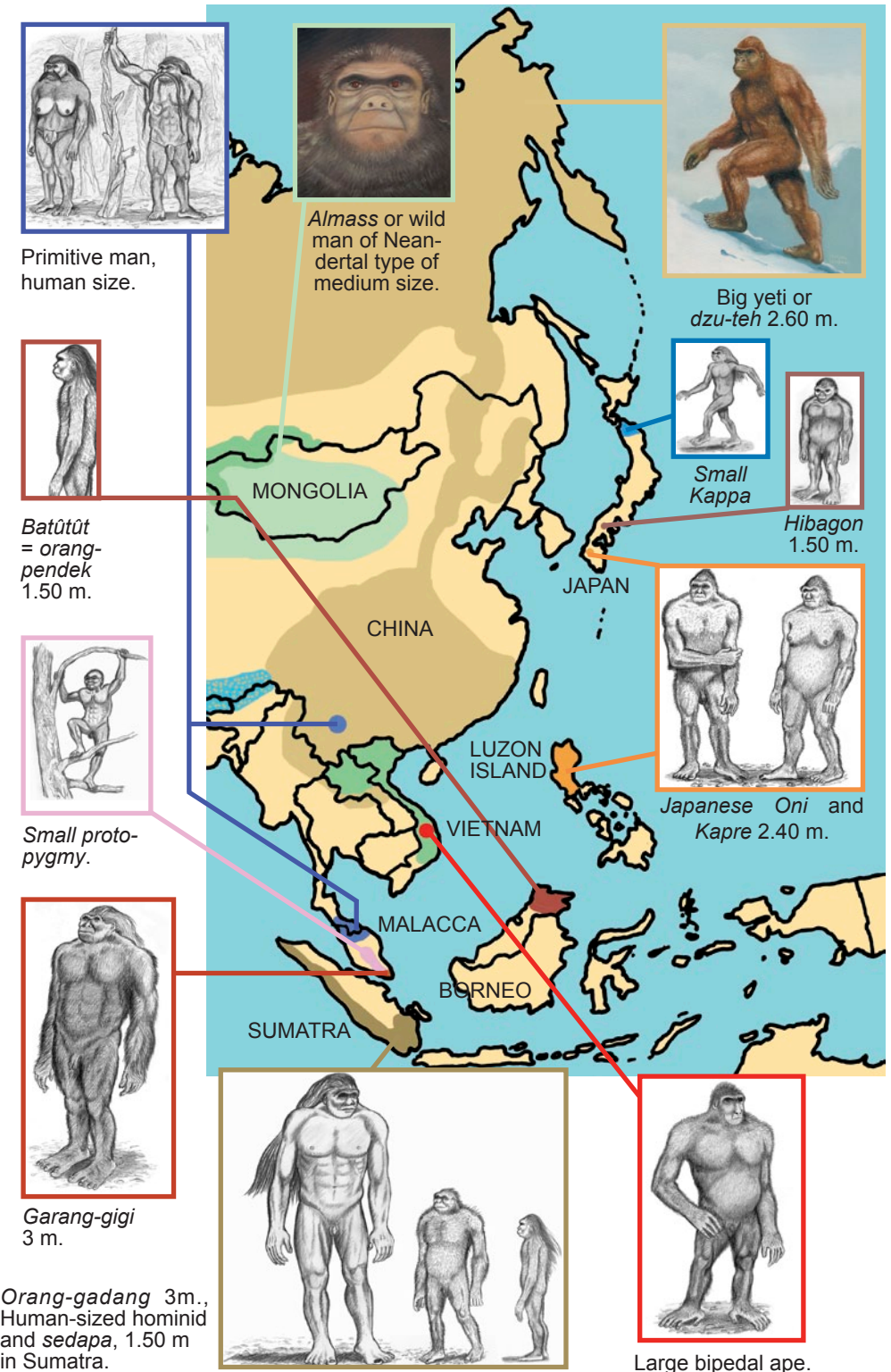
An Australian dwarf : at a height of 1 m to 1,40 m, this little hairy man can be likened to a young *yowie* or represent a separate species.

Blue fur : such would be the color of the male, interpreted as gray-blue or bluish-black. The head is elongated, the body has a human appearance, with limbs like those of apes (does this mean feet with opposable big toes ?)

Tools : tools and rudimentary hunting weapons made of stone and wood are attributed to it.

Identification : its size would be that of the *orang-pendek* of Sumatra, and it would be larger than the *ménéhuné* of the Hawaiian and Fijian islands. This little hairy man remains mysterious. There is also talk of the *yuuri*, a bipedal anthropoid ape taller than 1.20 m.

Map of Asian bipedal primates



Comments on the map of bipedal Asian primates

Asia, and its islands, is a continent particularly rich in unknown hominids and, apparently, distinct species. As always, certain distinctions can just be regional ones of a single species, or else stem from lack of precision in descriptions varying from one region to another, all encouraged by the multitude of names given to the same creature depending on the local dialect. It is possible, though, to identify with some certainty various distinct species.

- **The little yeti or meh-teh**, confined to the Himalayas, is really a separate species, to be distinguished first of all by the originality of its footprints. In fact, most hominids show feet that are quite close to the human foot. They are differentiated by their length, the length-width relationship, certain muscular thicknesses, the fact of always being flat (although a man who always walks barefoot possesses a callus that diminishes the arch of the foot) and certain other characteristics, but they always bring to mind the human foot, apart from bipedal anthropoid apes with a clearly opposable thumb. The little yeti has a square foot, with two large toes and two small ones, as well as a fifth atrophied one that is not seen in tracks in the snow but only in those in mud, which are clearer. This foot is really unique. It is not to be found anywhere else.

- **The wild man of central Asia.**

- **The big yeti or dzu-teh**, these two latter species are differentiated by their footprints, but mainly by anatomical details : the wild man is the only one to possess a snub nose, a ridiculous pig-like nose, that is clearly visible on the frozen body found by Bernard Heuvelmans and Ivan Sanderson in the USA in 1968, which probably came

from Vietnam. The nose of the big yeti, which is doubtless the same species as the *bigfoot*, is described as flat, or human-like, but never snub. The big yeti-*bigfoot* sometimes runs on all fours, which the wild man, with similar proportions to a Neandertal, never does. Furthermore, it is considerably larger (2.60 m. for males, as opposed to 1.80 to 2.20 m. for the wild man). Finally, the penis of the big yeti-*bigfoot* is described as being similar to that of a man, which is not the case of the wild man, described for the deep-frozen one as being spindly and slender, reminiscent of that of the chimpanzee. Christian Le Noël concludes in his researches that the wild man has a penis rectus, a characteristic of certain human populations such as the Bushmen of South Africa, which gives it a permanent semi-erection and a more pointed gland. Finally, our big yeti has a skull like an obus, witness to a sagittal crest able to support strong jaw muscles, like that of the gorilla. For the wild man, a flat calf and a goitre which would act as a vocal bag must be added. With its 2.40 m., the *kapre* of the island of Luzon could be a big yeti. The Japanese *oni* seems to belong to the same species.

- **The giants** : whether it is a question of the *garang-gigi* of Malacca, the *orang-gadang* of Sumatra or the giants of Oceania, these bipeds of 3 m. height must be *Homo erectus* like that of a similar height, the fossils of which were found on the island of Java. The big yeti being perhaps itself a *Homo erectus*, it may be a question of geographic variations within the same species. It should not be forgotten, however, that the *orang-gadang* of Sumatra has a larger big toe than the human being, a charac-

teristic which has not been observed in the big yeti.

- **The dwarfs** : among the Himalayan *teh-lma*, the small gracile man of India, the *nittaewo*, the *orang-pendek-batûût*, the Japanese *kappa* and the *proto-pygmy*, there are a large number of hairy dwarfs, without mentioning the very small *ménéhunés* of the Fijian and Hawaiian islands. It is not easy to make head or tail of this hairy confusion. There again, footprints, where they exist, are of great help. Those with a pointed heel like the *teh-lma* are quite different from those with the wide heel of the *orang-pendek*. The gracile man of India is perhaps a small-sized wild man. For the rest, the mystery remains. The identity of the man of Flores, whose fossils were recently found on the island of the same name (near Java), measuring only 1 m. in height, has not been identified with absolute certainty (Neandertal, *erectus*).

- **Bipedal apes** : there is that of Vietnam and another in Australia (the *jimbura*). Good candidates for *gigantopithecus*.

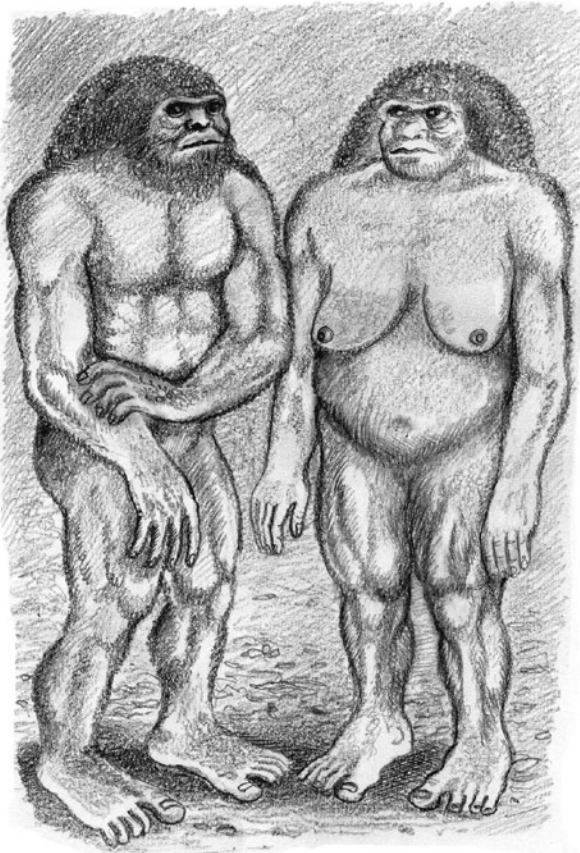
- **The proto-pygmyes and primitive men of Malacca** : no doubt still primitive men and perhaps our direct ancestors.

It is interesting to note that the areas of distribution of the two hominids of medium and large size, the wild man and the big yeti, do not seem to overlap, except in a vaguely defined zone of southern China. The area of the wild man appears to be divided into two : one part in central Asia and the other in Vietnam and Laos. Some people see the *yeren*, in south-east China, as a Neandertal, others as a long-haired big yeti. The situation is confused and cohabitation between these two species raises questions.

There remains the unknown one of the Tibetan plateau, for which there is a lack of information.



The X1



The face is human, with, however, a hairy forehead. It can have a thick beard (like X4).

It clubs buffaloes to death with an uprooted shrub, drinks their blood and devours their liver. It is carnivorous and is also a berry-eater.

It speaks but utters raucous barks as well.

It steals fire from villages or sometimes puts it out.

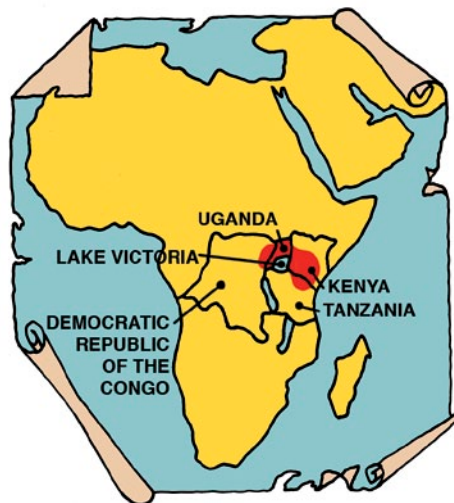
Identity : *erectus* or *australopithecus*, Bernard Heuvelmans likens it to the *kikomba*, which would be none other than a bipedal anthropoid ape ...as well as the *apamundi*, described also as a dwarf : a somewhat confusing situation.

Jacqueline Roumeguère-Eberhardt's five hominids : X1, X2, X3, X4, X5 are the names she gives to the hominids revealed in her book : *Les hominidés non-identifiés d'Afrique* (1990). Three would seem to be unknown modern men. There remain X1 and X4.

X1, the Hercules of Kilimanjaro : it measures 1.80 to 2.50 m., is very muscular, has wide shoulders, thick thighs and forearms, but is inoffensive. The female has pendulous breasts.

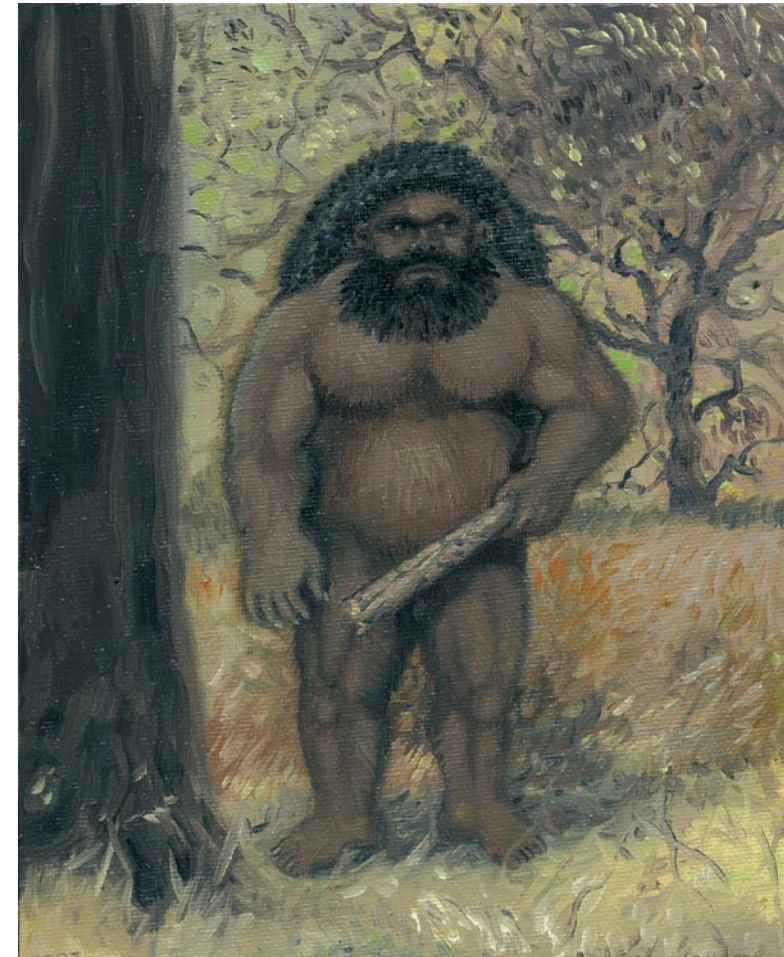
Its body hair is gray and woolly in the adult but reddish.brown or tan in the juvenile.

Its hippie-type head hair is long, dark and curly.



The 5X are observed in the mountainous forests surrounding Lake Victoria.

The X4

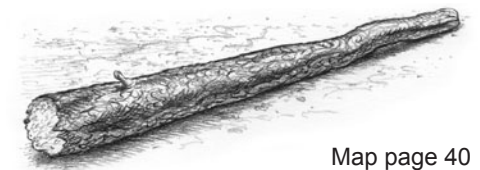


X4, a huge dwarf : it would not be taller than 1.30 m. It has impressive muscles, well-developed torso and neck, short, powerful arms, and long, pointed nails. This description reminds one of the *nittaewo* of Ceylon (Sri Lanka). It has fine body hair. Its head is large, with long, curly hair (like X1). The males are bearded.

Cloak, tools, hut and articulated language : it digs up roots and tubers, using a simple stick, sometimes wears a cloak made of skin, its offspring collect mushrooms, and it is crazy about honey. Unable to hunt for lack of wea-

pons, it falls back on meat stolen from men. It appears to be curious about them sometimes, while keeping its distance. It has the reputation, however, of chasing after women. In Tanzania, where the natives call it *kapwoopwo*, it supposedly builds huts in the trees. Its language, which is incomprehensible, apparently resembles the dialect of the Sokoma, of the Bantu linguistic group.

A mysterious individual : it has human characteristics (language, huts, skin cloaks) and yet seems to be archaic. According to Bernard Heuvelmans, it could be an ancestor of the Twi pygmies and the Bushmen, the latter perhaps a descendant of *Homo habilis* ... It can be compared to the *proto-pygmy* of Malaysia, although the latter is described as more arboreal.



The *kakundakari*



A small hairy man : it is bipedal and 60 to 90 cm tall. Its face sticks out like a monkey's, its body is covered with dark fur, and it has a kind of mane on the back of the neck (like the *batûtût* of northern Borneo, page 22) and the *dwendi* of central America, page 61).

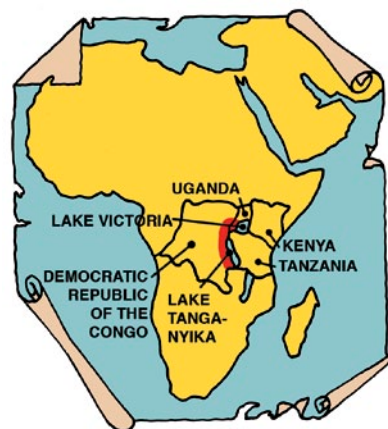
Manufacture of an object : at night it ventures close to streams, where it fishes for crabs and other shellfish which it puts in a bag made of leaves attached round its waist. It does not know how to swim but can cross a river along a dead tree. In daytime, it sleeps among the leaves.

A tough little fellow : it runs away from men but, if confronted, can show great strength.

Capture of individuals : one was apparently captured in 1957 and kept in a cage, where it was seen by several hundred people before escaping. Another is supposed to have escaped from

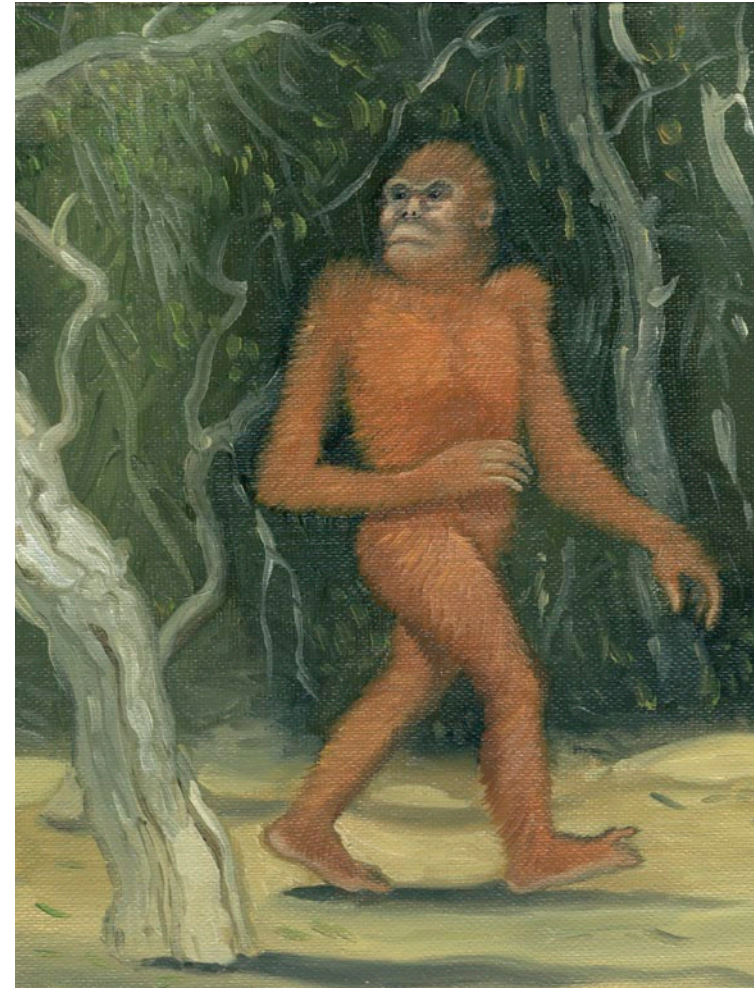
nets held by hunters, and was hit by a lance which showed whitish blood.

A dwarf australopithecus ? The gracile australopithecus was small : 1.20 m. and became extinct, in principle, a million years ago. Might a nanified form survive to our day ?



The *kakundakari* lives to the west of Lakes Victoria and Tanganyika.

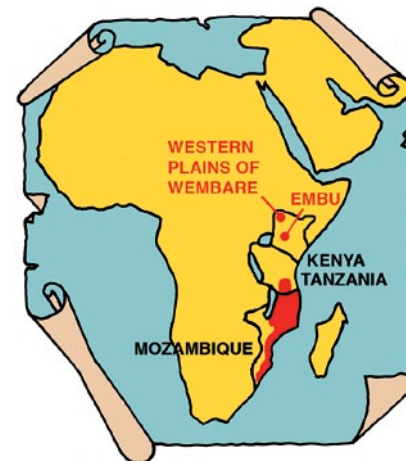
The *agogwe*



Larger than the *kakundakari*, the *agogwe* or hairy dwarf of Mozambique measures 1.20 m. to perhaps 1.50 m. Rarely observed, it is described as a graceful little bipedal being covered with woolly down. The color of its body hair is normally reddish, but sometimes gray or black. Its skin color would be yellowish to reddish. It has long arms. Its footprints measure 12.5 cm in length.

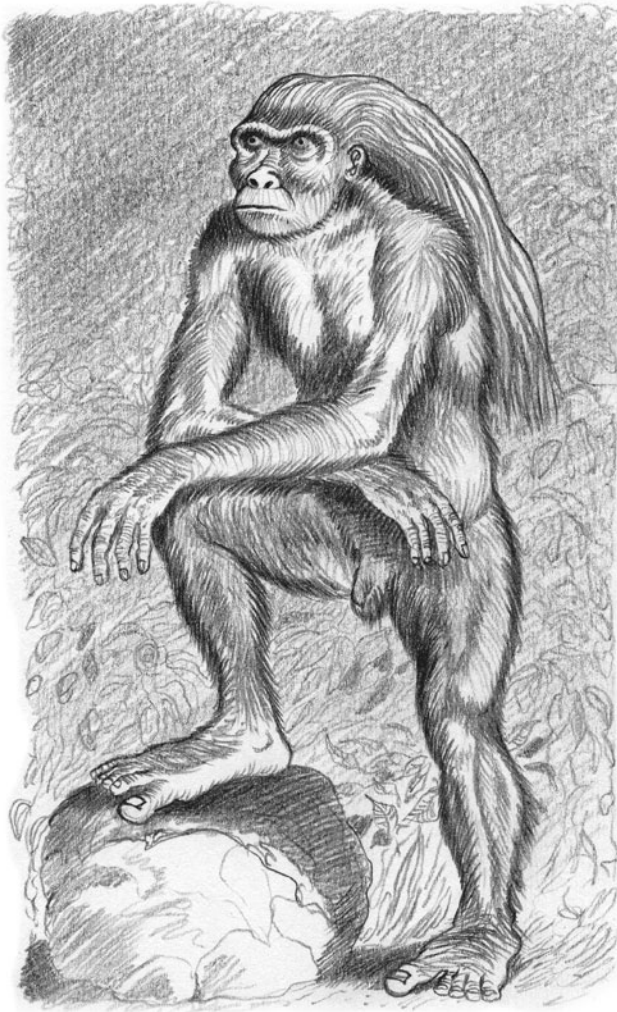
A longer big toe : the big toe is slightly separated and longer than that of the

human being. It has been observed in a troop of baboons, which would suggest an understanding between the two species. Like the *kakundakari*, the *agogwe* makes one think of a surviving form of the gracile australopithecus.



The *agogwe* lives mainly on the eastern slopes of the mountains of Mozambique. It was seen from a boat off the coast of this country in 1927. It was also reported in the hills of Dwa Ngombe (1 800 m) 24 km from the station of Embu during the 1920s.

The hairy dwarf of the Ivory Coast



A long-haired agogwe ? In the Ivory coast, « little men of the forest » are talked about, with red body hair and long reddish head hair. They remind one of the *agogwes* of Mozambique, much further to the East, with hair as well. Is it the same species ?

Stone industry : stone tools have been discovered in this country.

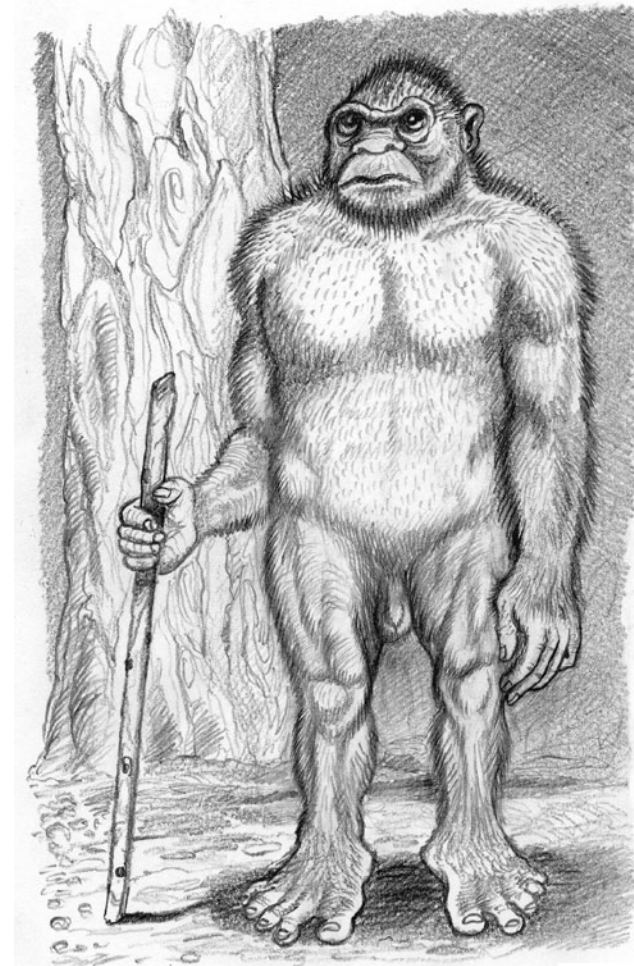
Habitat : narrow tunnels dug out of the cliffs have also been discovered.

Fating'ho : this is the name of a hairy dwarf of Senegal and northern Guinea, perhaps the same species.



This hairy dwarf has been seen in the south of the Ivory Coast and in the massif of Guinea, but no doubt its territory extends to all the mountainous forests of this region.

The *apamandi*



agogwe, the hairy dwarf of the Ivory Coast, the *kakundakari*, X4 and the *apamandi* represent distinct species or simple geographical variations ? It must not be forgotten that there were at least four species of australopithecus, and probably more.

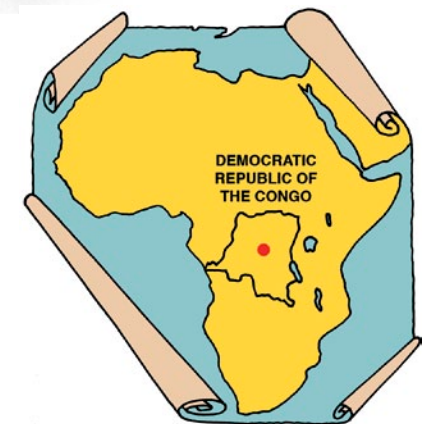


20 cm *apamandi* footprint from a sketch by Charles Cordier.

Unknown footprints, 20 cm long, were recorded by Charles Cordier during the 1960s. The second toe is longer than the others and the big toe is separated from the rest. The natives claim that these prints belong to the *apamandi*, a tough little man

A broad-shouldered dwarf? The size of the feet lead one to imagine a man of 1.20 m. It has light skin but black down. The *kakundakari*, further to the east of the country, is smaller. As for the robust X4, it is almost without body hair.

How many species ? Do the



The *apamandi* would live near Bakumu, in the centre of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The spiny primate



Spiny identity : the spines on the back could remind one of the dorsal manes of three hairy dwarfs. The *batûtût* (Borneo), the *kakundakari* (Democratic Republic of the Congo), and the *dwendi* (central America). If these spikes are only misinterpreted body hairs, we could be dealing with a *kakundakari*, which lives in the same country. The only difference is the brown color of the *kakundakari* and its small size. Our biped hunts in groups and has a diet that is at least partially carnivorous.

Location : unknown for the moment, but no doubt not far from water, because

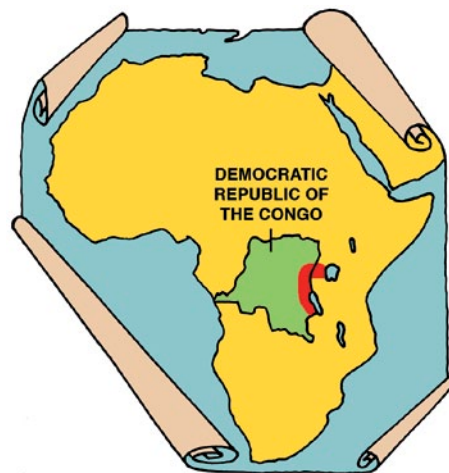
Witnessed by the army : a sighting has been brought to us by a member of a unit of the American Marines, on a mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo between 1997 and 2002, who prefers to remain anonymous for the moment.

Bipedal chimpanzees : thirteen creatures resembling chimpanzees were seen by the whole team. They moved around upright and were killing another animal.

Monkey-porcupines : they were between 1.35 and 1.50 m. tall and were of a uniformly gray color. The most surprising feature is the row of spikes covering the back, like those of porcupines. These spikes stood on end when the bipeds became excited.

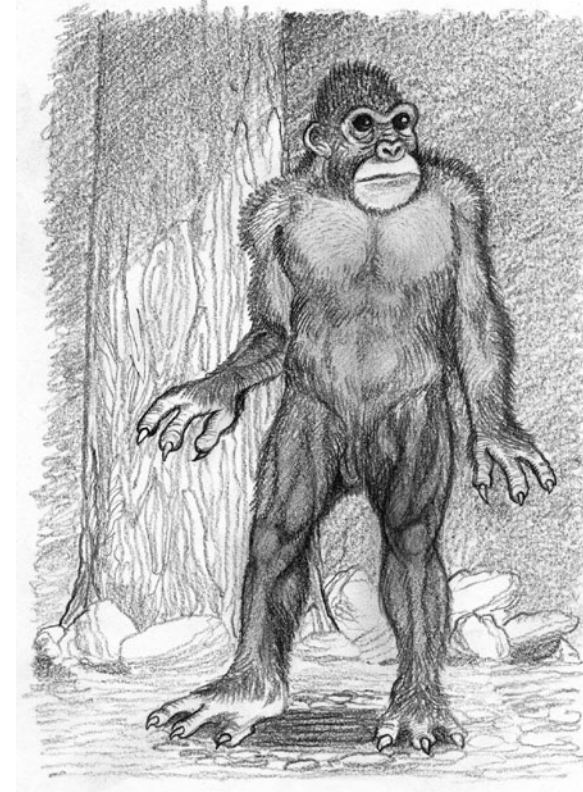
Video : a three-minute sequence was filmed but unfortunately is a military secret. Normally, without a leak, we would never have known about this fact.

of the marine activities of the soldiers, which leads one to suppose that it could be an area close to Lake Tanganyika, thus in the centre of the *kakundakari*'s territory.



The spiny primate is somewhere in the Congo (in green). In red, the territory of the *kakundakari*.

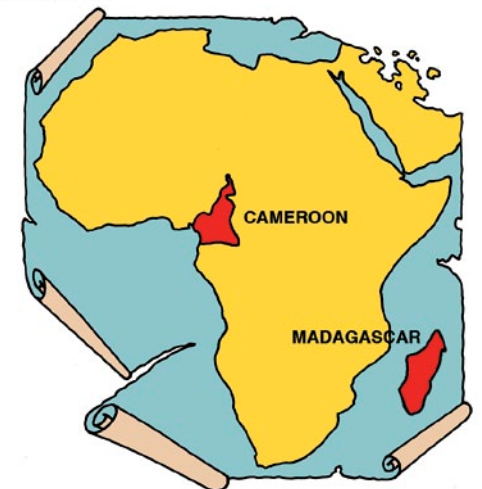
The dodu



A common past : how to explain the simultaneous presence of this primate in Cameroon and in Madagascar ? Madagascar, according to B. Heuvelmans, was separated from Africa only in the pliocene, 5 million years ago. It must not be forgotten that the lemurs, primates originating in Madagascar before its separation from the continent, have a claw and not a nail on the second toe. It is only a step for a lemur to become a biped and its aptitude to develop claws to be transmitted to the other fingers, thicker and less numerous for greater efficiency, a step taken perhaps by the *dodu* and the *kalonoro*, even if one must admit that hands and toes with three digits remain an unlikely characteristic.

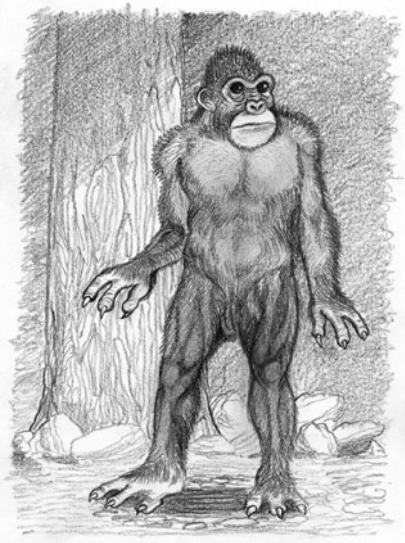
Observation based on an illustration : by chance, when a team of researchers seeking the *mokélé-mbembé* (mysterious African dinosaur, page 126) showed an illustration of the *kalonoro*, hairy biped of Madagascar (see page 48), to Baka pygmies and Bantus, in the forest of Cameroon, they received the astonishing declaration : « those hairy dwarfs with three fingers exist here ». This was in November 2000.

Three fingers and three toes : this is the way the *kalonoro* of Madagascar is described. This unexpected characteristic could explain the fact that, in Madagascar, they are supposed to have claws. Having only three fingers allows them to be thicker, therefore with stronger nails, true claws.



The *dodu* is to be found somewhere in the forests of Cameroon. Those regions that combine forests, mountains and high rainfall, three conditions which are favorable to hominids, are mostly in the south-west of the country.

Kalonoro, trétrétré and ombas of Madagascar



The kalonoro, an aquatic three-fingered dwarf : a replica of the *dodu* of Cameroon (see page 47), with three clawed digits on its feet and its hands, it is one meter tall, has dark, moth-eaten body-hair, lives in the water and scours villages in search of food.

Kidnapper, it takes away children and gives them back alive in exchange for food (village of Ambalakedi and Andoboara cave).

Capture and observation : in 1889 the capture of one was reported to the Royal Geographical Society. A certain Chase Salmon Osborne saw, in 1924, two kalonoros copulating.

The trétrétré : a unique sighting is revealed in *Histoire de la grande isle de Madagascar*, by Admiral de Flacourt, published in 1658.

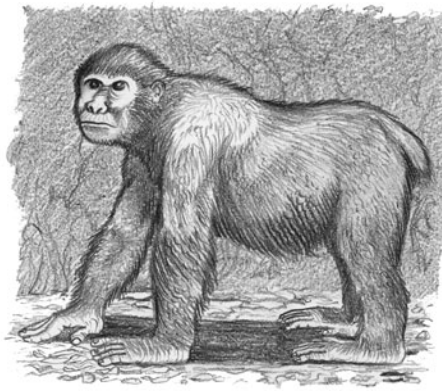
Description : the size of a two-year-old calf, with a round head, a man's face, feet and hands of an ape, frizzy body-hair, short tail, men's ears, solitary.

Identity : giant lemurs resembling chimpanzees or gorillas by convergent

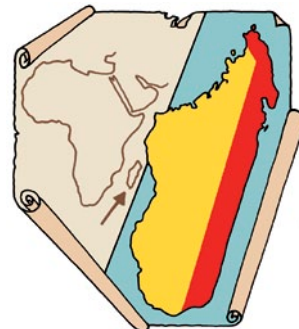
evolution have existed on the island. See the hadropithecus (which had a round head and a flat face, eyes close together, a straight and prominent nose, a chin ...) and the paleopropithecus.

No doubt extinct: nobody seems to mention it nowadays.

The ombas : *Homo sapiens sapiens* like us, they should not have a place in this book. But these white-skinned, long-haired wild men, who have apparently lost language, communicating by banging on tree-trunks and bartering silently with the inhabitants (wild honey for rice), remain enigmatic. They would seem to show an example of cultural regression which could also apply to certain species of hairy hominids.

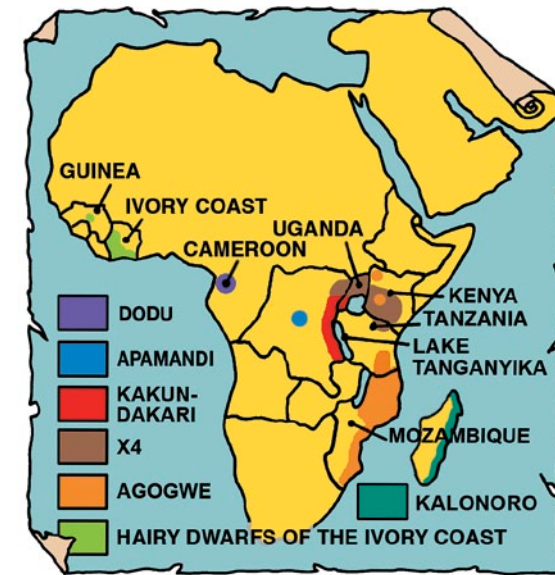


The trétrétré, no doubt extinct.

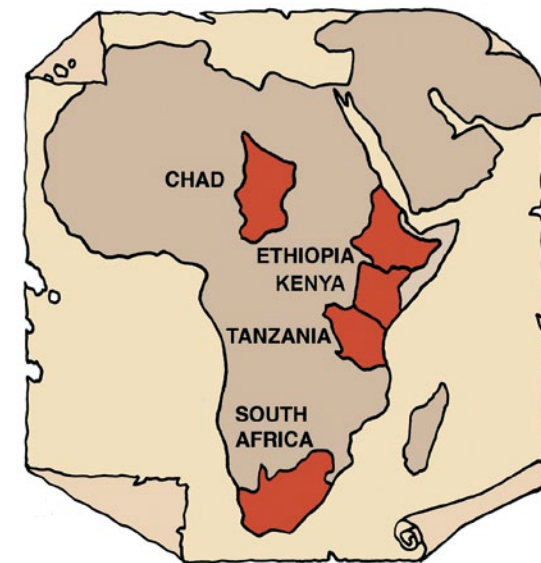


The *kalonoro* is reported by the indigenous people in eastern Madagascar.

Comparison of maps of hairy dwarfs and australopithecus fossils in Africa



Map of all the hairy dwarfs of Africa, to which a possible hairy dwarf of South Africa can be added : the *chimanimani*.



Map of countries containing australopithecus fossils.

The giant of Tano



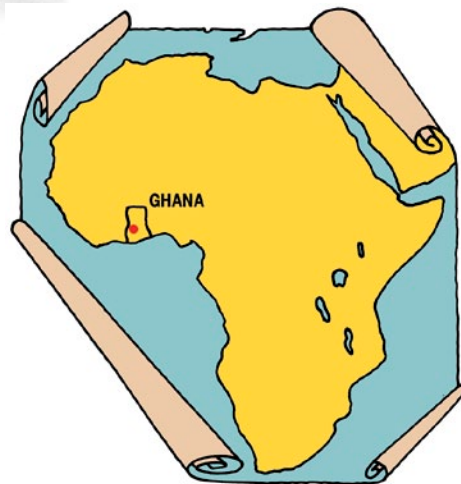
Kidnapper of women and children : a woman who was kidnapped was never seen again. Children carried off were found disembowelled, the entrails devoured.

Cow's skin : apparently it covers its shoulders with a wild cow's skin when it is cold.

Food : to calm the animal down, the natives put plantain and grilled manioc on the trails leading to the village. When, in spite of that, it enters the village at night, they chase it away by throwing burning objects at it.

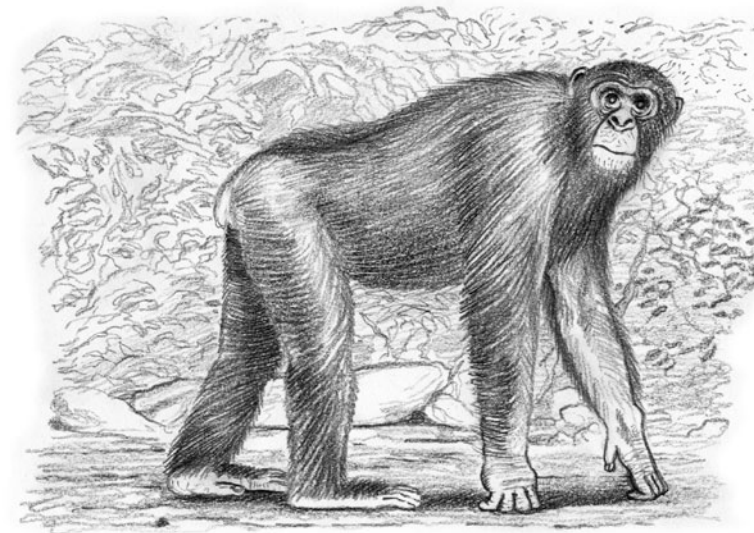
Hominid or anthropoid ape ? Protruding teeth make one think rather of an anthropoid ape, but its interest in women and its carnivorous diet, a hominid.

Terror in the depths of the woods : in the forests of Ghana, the indigenous people describe an enormous bipedal anthropoid ape that inspires panic-stricken fear in them. Its skin, white like that of Europeans, is covered with black body hair. It is larger than a human being, its arms being as big as a man's body. Its head is flat and at least as large as that of a great ape, whose mouth and protruding teeth it possesses. It does not have thumbs on its hands, but they can be imagined to be small and scarcely opposable.



The giant of Tano lives in the region of Tano, in the forests of central west Ghana.

The *bili* or other anthropoid ape



sical chimpanzees make their nests in the tree-tops.

Numerous skulls have been found : they are one centimeter larger than those of the largest chimpanzees, and one of them has a sagittal crest, like that of gorillas.

DNA, taken from their excreta, show a close relationship to chimpanzees.

A mysterious anthropoid ape with a gorilla's body and a chimpanzee's head has been mentioned since 1777 in the north of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a region where there are no gorillas but where there are chimpanzees.

A first photo in the 1930s shows, in the diary of a German explorer, a dead giant chimpanzee, exhibited between two men.

A second photo in 2000 represents a very large male chimpanzee killed by hunters near the landing strip of Bondanda.

A third photo in 2004 : a trip-camera put in place by Karl Amman, a Swiss wildlife photographer, took a photograph of a large-sized chimpanzee on all fours. Its large size is estimated by the smallness of its head. Photos can be viewed on Internet.

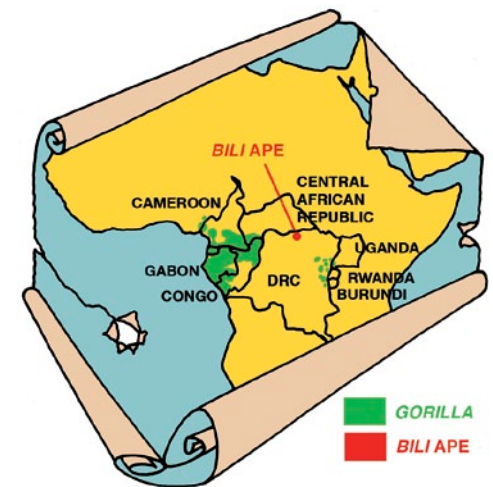
Footprints up to 34 cm : gorillas' are not larger than 29 cm. The height of the individual is estimated at 1.80 m.

Ground nests of branches have been found in the region, whereas clas-

panzees.

Their diet is close to that of the chimpanzee, with more fruit than the gorilla's.

Identity : it would be a species or sub-species of chimpanzee, with gorilla's behaviour due to its large size.



The *bili* ape lives in the north of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, about 200 km east of the river Ebola.

The *mulahu* or *kikomba*



Two in one : in the forests of the north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, two hairy bipeds are talked about, the *mulahu* and the *kikomba*. Their descriptions resemble each other so closely that it is probably the same primate. They are differentiated by the partly arboreal habits assigned to the *kikomba*, the *mulahu* being more than 2 meters tall, a height which makes it difficult to move around in the trees. From this, the *kikomba* would be smaller, but it might be a case of juveniles of the same species.

A footprint with an opposable thumb was discovered by Charles Cordier, a professional animal trapper, in 1961 in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Knowing

gorillas well as he possesses one, he affirms that this footprint, 30 cm long, is not a gorilla's.

Large belly : the *mulahu* has an enormous belly. The *kikomba* is supposed to be vegetarian. It is sufficient to think of the gorilla's imposing abdomen, itself a vegetarian, to realise that the longer intestines of vegetarians go along with a voluminous belly.

Aggressive : an irascible temper is attributed to the *mulahu* and aggressive behaviour to the *kikomba*. The latter apparently often walks about with a stick in its hand.

A bipedal ape : an opposable big toe, a prognathic face (with protruding jaws) attributed to the *kikomba*, make one think of an anthropoid ape. The pygmies refer to an ape when

talking about the *mulahu*.

A fringe in front of the eyes : the *mulahu* has a fringe which falls over its eyes. The *kikomba* shows « thick eyebrows ». This fringe would prevent the



The *mulahu* would adopt this position to see clearly.

mulahu from seeing well, which would force it, according to the natives, to go down on all fours and look between its legs to see properly.

Tough : finally, the *kikomba* is sturdy and the *mulahu* would have great strength.

It walks on its hands : we find here, if we give credit to the footprints attributed to it, a bipedal anthropoid ape, that is to say an ape walking upright on feet which are still hands. Such bipedal anthropoid apes are also described in Vietnam (the bipedal ape of Vietnam, page 32) as well as in Australia (the *jimbira*, page 34).



A watercolour, based on a sketch by Charles Cordier, made in 1961, representing the footprint of an unknown anthropoid ape 30 cm long.

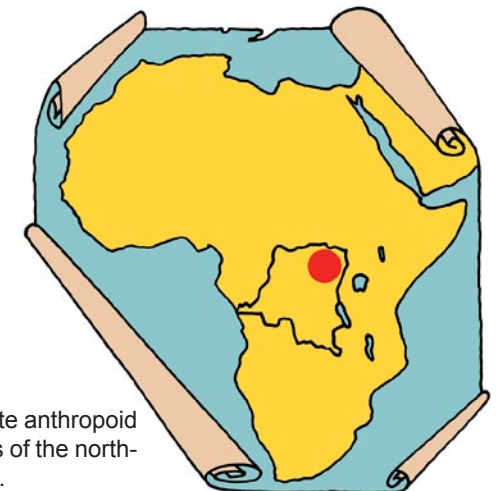
The *mulahu* or *kikomba* and the black and white anthropoid ape would be found, in particular, in the forests of the north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The black and white anthropoid ape



The only trace we have of this anthropoid ape is in Ivan Sanderson's book « *Abominable snowmen : legend come to life* », the information for which he himself drew from a traveller's book : *Hunting we will go*.

Mention is made in it of an anthropoid ape with long white body hair which is black on its back.



The pygmy gorilla



A tough dwarf : following on the giant chimpanzee, mysterious Africa now gives us a pygmy gorilla.

Clues from Gabon : rare remains and skeletons of individuals killed by hunters dating from the early 1900s indicate the existence of this small gorilla.

1.40 m. : this is the size of the male. It should be remembered that a classical gorilla reaches normally, for the male, a height of 1.80 m., even 2 m. for the mountain gorilla.

Gray and red : its coat would be dark gray on the body, and rusty-brown on the head and shoulders, a bit like the western gorilla or lowland gorilla, which lives in Gabon and has a dark gray coat and rusty-brown hairs on the top of the head.

No sighting : apart from the hunters in question, nobody has seen a li-

ving one. One may wonder whether this animal still exists today.



The pygmy gorilla was found in Gabon, at the mouth of the Ogooué, in the Rembo Nkomi delta, south of Fernand-vaz.

The small thumbless anthropoid ape



come from the indigenous people, who know it well. Any animal living in the treetops can easily remain unperceived.



Orangutan's hand

Collected fragments : the remains of a small anthropoid ape were brought from Gabon in 1955 by an American. They are exhibited in the museum of Zurich.

A mini orangutan : it resembles this Asiatic anthropoid ape, in miniature, with a very high dome-shaped forehead, and black body hairs.

Absence of thumb : this primate's hands have no thumb. Which can be explained by the fact that it is completely arboreal, has a small thumb, not used for hanging from branches. One can imagine a completely atrophied thumb in this primate.

Within a group of 40 individuals it moves around in the trees, never coming down to the ground. These details



The small thumbless anthropoid ape lives somewhere in Gabon.

Map of bipedal primates, of the dwarf gorilla and of the giant chimpanzee (*bili* ape) of Africa

This map aims to make a visual summary of the situation in Africa.

Firstly, we find 16 species of primates.

They can immediately be separated into two groups : supposed anthropoid apes and supposed hominids.

Five anthropoid apes : there are three quadrupedal and two bipedal anthropoid apes. The three quadrupeds are the **pygmy gorilla** of Gabon, the **small thumbless anthropoid ape** of Gabon and the **bili ape** (giant chimpanzee) of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The two bipeds are the **mulahu/kikomba** and the **black and white anthropoid ape**, both of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is not impossible for the black and white anthropoid ape to be just an aging *mulahu*, with body hair going gray like that of the gorilla.

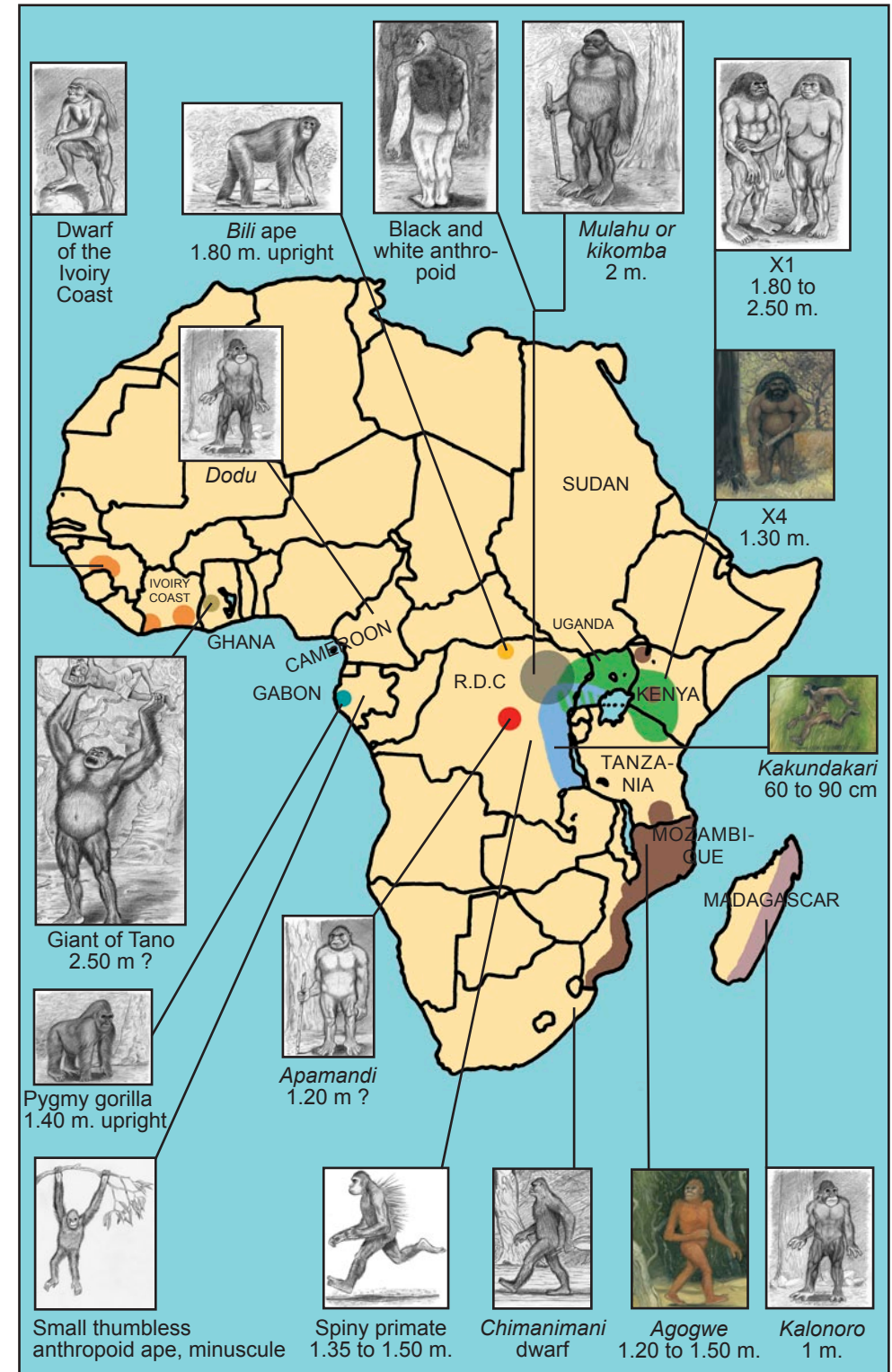
The hominids can be separated into two groups : the large ones and the dwarfs.

The large hominids are represented by the **X1** in the forests of Kenya, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the **giant of Tano** in Ghana (unless the latter is an anthropoid ape).

The dwarf hominids are situated partly in the east and partly in the west. There are fragile ones like the **agogwe** and tough ones like the **apamandi** and the **X4**. Others have long red hair, like the **dwarfs of the Ivory Coast**. There is the **dodu** of Cameroon with three digits on its hands and feet (the most unlikely detail), which would be the same as the **kalonoro** of Madagascar. Finally, there remains the **spiny primate**, which I prefer to consider as a « classical » dwarf with a dorsal mane, which has

been misinterpreted, until proven to the contrary, and which could be likened to the **kakundakari**, although the latter is much smaller. No doubt descending from the australopithecus, these hairy dwarfs could, in certain cases, such as the X4, be « proto-pygmyes », considered by some people to be our most direct ancestors.

As ever, the discovery and examination of footprints remain the surest way of determining precisely what these creatures are. Notice given to those who would like to investigate on the spot.



The *bigfoot* or *sasquatch*



A discreet giant : in Canada and the USA, an enormous hairy nocturnal biped plays hide-and-seek. All the same, thousands of sighting reports accumulate, as well as some photos and films. Its tracks have, on many occasions, been recorded, moulded and analysed (including fingerprints).

A flat-footed colossus : it is large : 2.30 m. for the female, 2.60 m. for the male. It is heavy : 250 kg for the lady, 350 kg for the gentleman, even up to 450 kg (according to the depth of the footprints). Its footprints can be up to 50 cm long or more, and are characterized by the absence of an arch, except for a very slight one in juveniles. The foot is proportionately larger than a man's, even more so in the heel. It resembles a huge man, completely covered with long body hair of variable color but the most often brown. Its face seems to be that of a prehistoric man : arched eyebrows, a rather flat nose, face flatter

than a man's, sloping chin and forehead. The whites of its eyes are not visible. The thumb seems less opposable than a man's (handprints are rare).

It eats like a bear : the animal seems mostly nomadic, its diet is similar to a bear's : it is mostly vegetarian, but regularly attacks and eats deer, wild pigs or rodents.

Tough mummies : a female has been seen to break a wild pig's back with a blow of the fist. Maybe because



man, *bigfoot*, grizzly and black bear

Note the *bigfoot*'s flat foot, its width and the thickness of the heel. For the bears, the presence of claws and the pointed heel.

it occupies the same ecological niche as the bear the *bigfoot* became nocturnal, thus avoiding conflicts, unless it wishes to escape from modern man. The red glimmer observed in its eyes indicates nocturnal vision.

A big American yeti ? The *bigfoot* looks like a brother of the big Asiatic yeti, to the extent that it is suspected of being the same primate, which

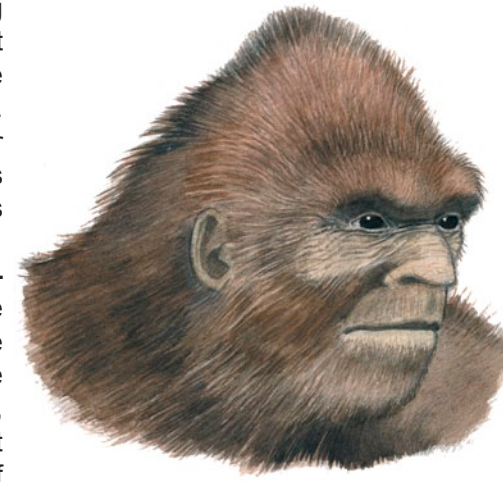
would have migrated to America across the Bering Straits during the glacial period of 25 000 years ago (survival of the Asian gigantopithecus or a *Homo erectus*).

Indian legends : the *bigfoot* is present in Indian and Inuit legends. Certain tribes talk of ancient relationships with them. Others consider them to be guardians of harmony between man and nature.

An image as proof : in 1967, Roger Patterson filmed a female *bigfoot* (2.30 m. tall and weighing 225 kg), recognizable by her generous breasts, in northern California. Surprisingly, she made off calmly with large strides and turned back towards the cameraman. No one has been able to demonstrate a hoax in this amazing two-minute sequence. The film and photos of the hairy giant can be found on Internet.

Tamed bigfoots : an American book which appeared in 2002, 50 years with *bigfoot*, by Mary A. Green, tells how the grandfather of a young woman, in Tennessee, fed the *bigfoots* around his

farm for fifty years. According to this incredible report, *bigfoots* bury their dead, hibernate partially and have a language containing some Indian words, showing a relationship between them in the past. In the forest, they make constructions by assembling trunks and branches resembling signs. They can run on all fours.

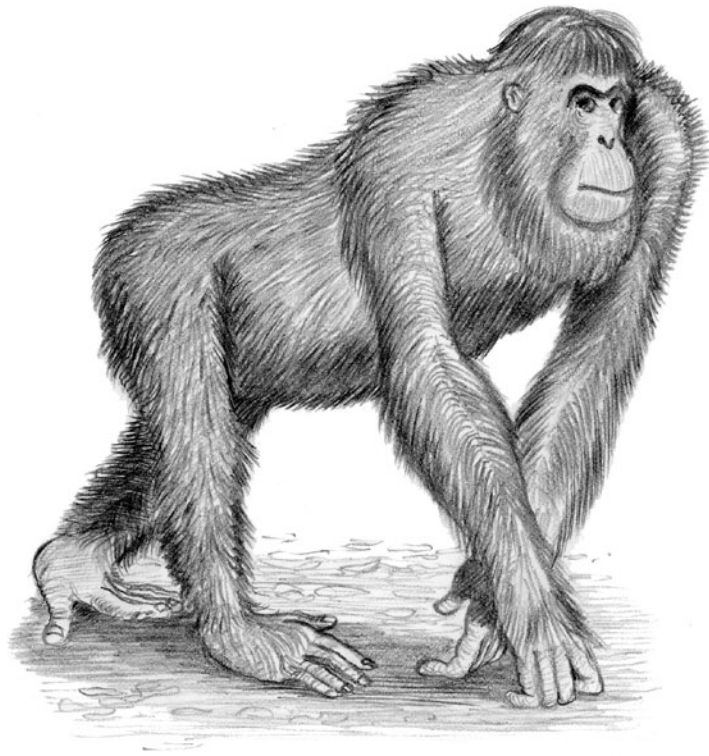


Head of a female *bigfoot* according to Patterson's film



The *bigfoot* is observed in all the states of Canada and the USA. However, sightings are more numerous in the states in red (Rocky Mountains). In Guatemala, the description of the *sisemite*, which can run on all fours, makes one think of the *bigfoot* : very large, short, thick brown coat, no neck, long arms, enormous hands and footprints twice as large as a man's. Piles of branches have been found, witness to vain attempts at making a fire. It lives in the mountains of south-west Coban.

The *skunk ape*



No ape in North America : the presence of this anthropoid ape in North America poses a problem. The most likely hypothesis is that of individuals having escaped from captivity, possibly having established themselves. Considering the rate of disappearance of orangutans in Borneo and Sumatra, would they have a

better chance of survival in Florida ?

An unknown ape : since 1965, an ape has been reported in Florida. Sightings also took place in 1971, 1998 and 2000.

Quadrumanous (four-handed) : footprints, found in 1971 in Broward County, show an opposable thumb as in great apes. It is at least certain that it is not a *bigfoot*.

Suspicious photos : in 2000, photos were taken with a flash, showing, behind a garden plant, an ape which looked very much like an orangutan, with, however, brownish-black body-hair rather than red.

It stinks : the term « skunk ape » means « stinking ape », because of the smell noticed by some witnesses.



The four counties where the *skunk ape* has been shown to be present. Florida is a state in the south-east of the United States.

The *dwendi* of Central America



when the heel bone is short, to compensate for the lack of leverage. In this way, the wild man of the Caucasus is described with flat calves, which leaves one to suppose a longer heel, a Neanderthal feature.

Sunshade : the *dwendis* often hold a palm-leaf over their heads no doubt to protect themselves from the sun. Chimpanzees have been seen to do the same thing.

Relationship ? Does a dorsal mane, appearing in hairy dwarfs from continents as distant from each other as Central America, Africa and Asia, prove a relationship between these species or is it a question of converging evolution ?

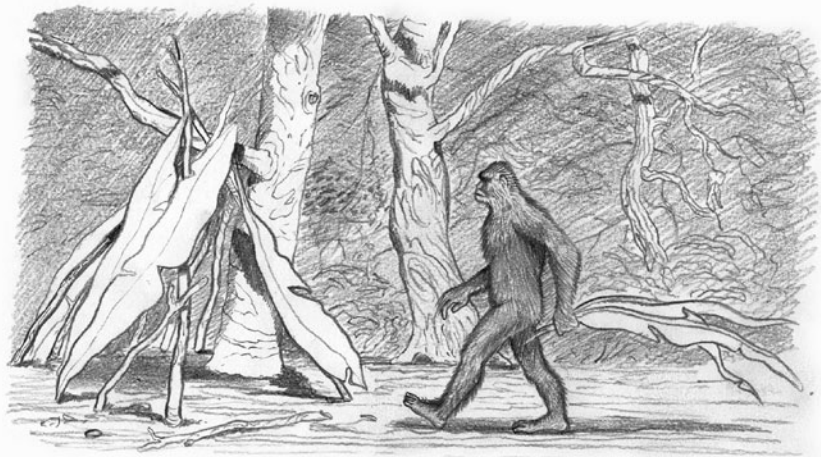
A dwarf with a dorsal mane : this small hairy man, whose name comes from *duende* (Spanish for elf), measures 1.05 to 1.35 m. It is well-proportioned, with massive shoulders and fairly long arms. Its face is flat and yellowish. Its body hair is brown, short, plentiful and thick. Its head hair is short, but long hairs are observed on the back of the neck and the middle of the back. This characteristic makes one think of the *batûtû* of Borneo and of the African *kakundakari*, which has a mane on the back of the neck.

Bulging calves : This is a detail attributed to it. It should be remembered that the calf muscle is that much larger



The *dwendi* hides in the southern part of Honduras, a mountainous region of Central America.

Hairy dwarfs of South America



Four hairy dwarfs are reported in South America, which seem to correspond to the same individual, separated geographically or bearing different names.

The shiru : is active on the slopes of the Colombian massif, most particularly in the east. It measures 1.20 to 1.50 m. Its body hair is short and dark brown. The individual is shy.

The guayazi : lives in the massif of Guyana, a region of small mountains, more precisely on the southern frontier of Venezuela. The height of 1.40 m is given for the male. The female is smaller.

The didi : wanders around between the frontiers of Venezuela and Guyana. It measures 1.50 m. and its coat is brown or black. It is powerful and lives on the ground. It builds rough cabins with palms. It is discreet, but when men appear in large numbers, it throws lumps of mud and pieces of wood at their canoes. Its call is a long melancholy whistle resembling a human voice, going from high notes to low ones.

The *shiru* has been seen in the massif of Colombia, particularly in the east, the *guayazi* near the sources of the rivers Negro and the Orinico, the *didid* near the sources of the Marazuni and the river Potard, the *dwendi* in the south of Honduras.

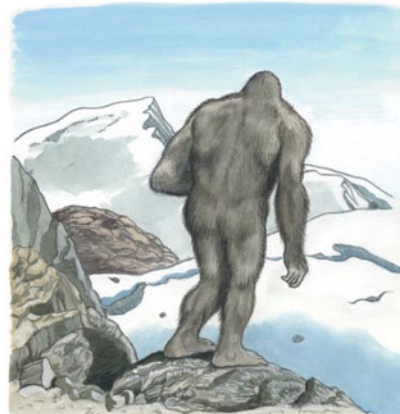
The bacloo : the size of a child, quite long arms, red eyes, hairy, lives in French Guiana, Surinam and Brazil (investigation of Jonathan Lesgourgues).

These dwarfs no doubt belong to a different species than the *dwendi* of Central America : they are larger and have no dorsal mane.

To be noted : the *yoshil*, 0.80 m., lived in Tierra del Fuego. It has probably been extinct since 1928. Its head hair looked like lichen.



The vasisitri



Of human size , it climbs around on the Colombian massif. There is a theory that the Neandertals crossed the Bering Straits before the *bigfoots*. The latter, larger and arriving later, would have pushed them down to South America. The *vasitri*, the same size as certain Asian hominids of Neandertal type, could be one of them.

Huts : it is reputed to build primitive huts, to be carnivorous, to eat men and abuse women.

The oocoomar



Its correct name is *ukumarzuupai*. It lives on the Argentinian slopes of the Andes, where it leaves, up to 4 800 m., footprints of 42 cm, which gives one

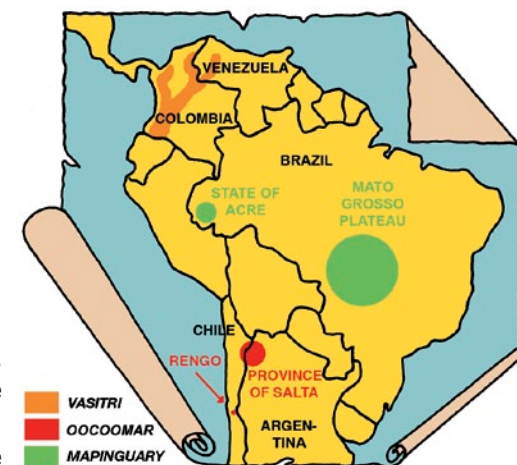
to presume a height of more than two meters. *Bigfoot* or large Neandertal like that of the Caucasus ?

The mapinguary



Also known as the *curupira*, its footprints can reach 50 cm, corresponding to a height of 2.80 m. There is also talk of a hominid of 1.60 m. with a flattened nose and a necklace of body hair reminiscent of the snub nose and goitre of the wild man of Central Asia.

Pulls out tongues : regular and numerous massacres of cattle, killed by pulling out their tongues, are attributed to it. A jaguar would not be capable of that, and does not kill in this way.



Map of American bipedal primates

This map aims at giving a visual summing-up of the situation in America.

First of all, we find seven species of primate. If we except the *skunk ape*, which is perhaps just an orangutan that has escaped from a zoo, it is possible to present the hypothesis that all of the dwarfs, including the *dwendi*, belong to the same species, with perhaps geographical variations. As to the large-sized individuals, either we are dealing with a single species, of the type of *bigfoot*, including local differences in size, or else we can imagine the presence, in addition to the *bigfoots*, which we take to be *Homo erectus*, of Neandertals, simply based on the idea that there is no reason why the latter should not also have crossed the Bering Straits, when it was passable. Following on from this, the Neandertals, who seem to resemble the wild man of central Asia, would have been pushed away, later on, by the *bigfoots*, being larger, and would have found refuge in South America, where we find them in the form of the *vasitri* and the *oocoomar*. This would confirm the hypothesis that the Neandertal would have a greater ability to be a mountaineer than the *bigfoot*. The *mapinguary*, much larger, could be a *bigfoot*. Only precise footprints could enlighten us on this question.

The *bigfoot* : it is difficult to be precise about the area of distribution of the *bigfoot*, because this nomadic biped is found in all the states of Canada and the United States. However, it is found more frequently in the rocky mountains, in the West. It is said that its territory is almost the same as that of the barred owl, whose area of distribution is shown in pink.

N.B. a pink point in Central America in Guatemala : the *sisemite*, apparently

similar to *bigfoot*, is to be found in the mountains south-west of Coban.

The hairy dwarfs : apart from the *dwendi* of Central America, the others are confined to the north of South America. The zones indicated correspond to the places where sightings have been made, but the real zone of occupation is no doubt wider, probably corresponding to the whole of the massif of Guyana concerning the east. Generally speaking, the preferred habitat of bipedal primates worldwide remains mountainous forests.

The *vasitri* : of human size, lives in the north of the Andes.

The *oocoomar* : there is no reason to think that it is not to be found in the entire Andes Cordillera.

The *mapinguary* : its distribution on the plateau of Mato Grosso remains rather vague.

The *skunk ape* : has been seen in Florida. Some maps also show it to the north of Florida.



Barred owl



Footprints

From photos, or sketches made on the spot or as described by a witness, one can compare footprints of the different hominids, shown here according to their respective scales, and separated into three categories : human feet, those of an anthropoid ape with an opposable big toe, and the square feet of the little yeti or *meh-teh*, the Japanese *hibagon* and, to a lesser degree, the *orang-pendek* of Sumatra. The *orang-pendek* shows two different footprints : those of the beginning of the 20th century without opposable big toe and that of the 2001 expedition with opposable big toe. A question to be resolved.

It is to be noted that, in the wild man of Central Asia, there are differences in the width of the foot (*almasty* and *gulyavan*), both, however, remaining narrower than those of the Neandertal of Toirano.

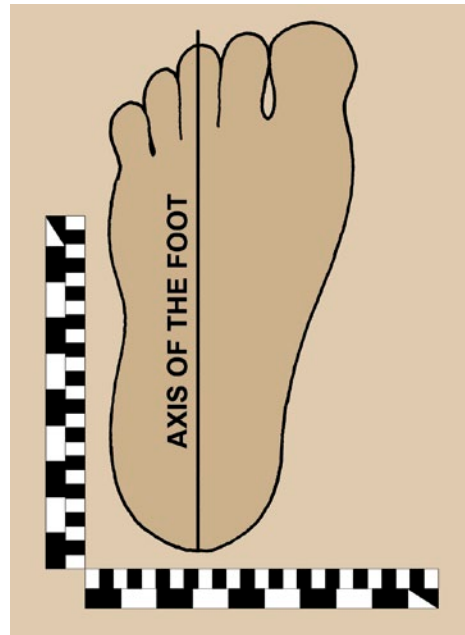
In modern man, differences in the width of the foot also exist, as shown in the footprint of the South American Indian, who, furthermore, walks bare-foot and possesses a callus which eliminates the arch of the foot.

The foot of the *teh-lma*, the Himalayan dwarf, is characterized by a pointed heel and seems to show an arch. The absence of arch in most of the hominids is perhaps due to their weight, which flattens the foot.

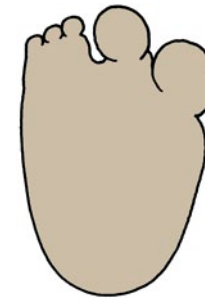
Many photos of footprints are badly taken and therefore useless. In order to correct the trapezoidal deformations due to perspective, it is necessary to photograph the footprint vertically (or perpendicularly to the ground if it is on a slope), and place around it two rulers graduated at right angles which will allow for correction on the computer of any deformation. In order to appreciate the depth of the footprint, a stereo photo

will be useful. It is enough to take two photos, moving the camera horizontally about 6 cm to obtain two views which are usable in stereoscopy. A known object can be placed beside the footprint so as to assess afterwards any possible errors of depth due to an inadequate distance between the two photos. The ideal way is to take several photos, moving every centimeter so as to choose the couple of photos that give the exact relief, judged by a known object (for example a ball which should appear spherical and not ovoid).

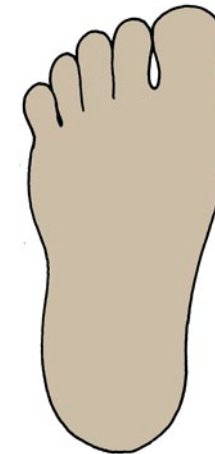
It must not be forgotten that footprints are, for the time being, the simplest pieces of evidence to discover, as well as being the most conclusive and the richest in information.



I prefer not to stick the little rulers (here in inches and centimeters) on top of the print so as to avoid hiding it. On the photos, the measurement will be easy. It is essential for the angle between the two little rulers to be 90°.



Little yeti
or *meh-teh*
based on Eric
Shipton's photo
Himalayas
1951
33 cm



Bigfoot
North America
45 cm



Almasty
wild man
of the Caucasus
based on a photo
by Marie-Jeanne
Koffmann
27 cm



Gulyavan
wild man
of the Kirghistan,
based on a sketch
of a footprint
measurements
unknown



Orang-pendek
Sumatra
based on a sketch
by Dr Jacobson
in 1915 and a cast
taken in 2001
for the second
12 et 18.5 cm



Apamandi
Democratic
Republic of
the Congo
based on a
sketch by
Charles Cordier
20 cm



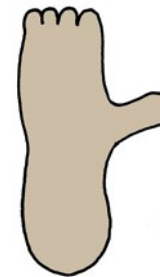
Hibagon
Japan
up to
30 cm



Teh-lma
Himalayas
based on a
sketch by
Yvan
Sanderson
20 cm



Kakundakari
Democratic
Republic of
the Congo
based on a
sketch by
Charles
Cordier
10 cm



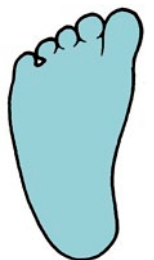
Mulahu
Democratic
Republic of the Congo
based on a sketch
by Charles Cordier
30 cm



Prehistoric Neandertal
man based on
a footprint in clay
Toirano, Italy



Western man
30 cm



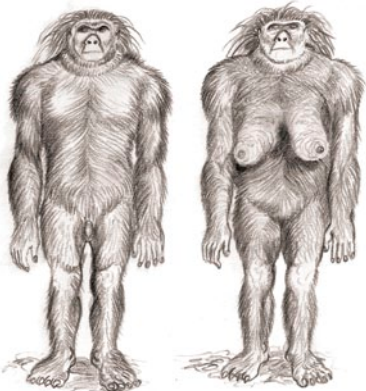
South American
Indian
source Yvan
Sanderson
measurements
unknown

Classification of bipedal hominids

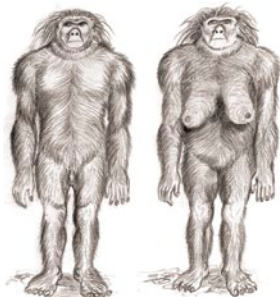
This classification aims at collecting together the different hominids according to anatomical criteria. The hairy dwarfs, less well known, are grouped by size. Their classification is difficult. The hominids are shown with their size in proportion to each other, symbolised by the representative of only one of the types : the size of the human being is represented by that of primitive Malaysian men.

Wild man of Central Asia type

Characteristics : males and females of identical size and corpulence, hairless and pendulous breasts, goitre, head hair, snub nose, never go on all fours.



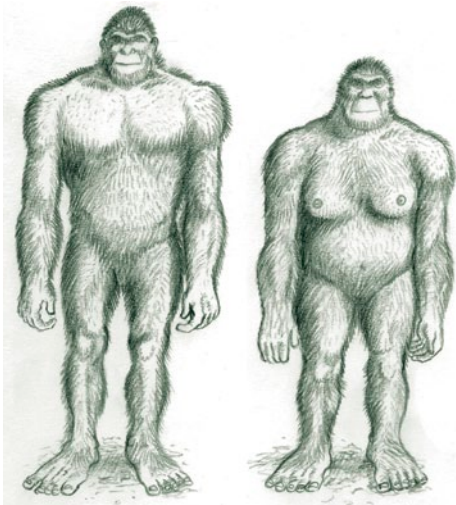
Almasty, barmanu, 1.80 to 2.20 m., Caucasus, Pakistan ...



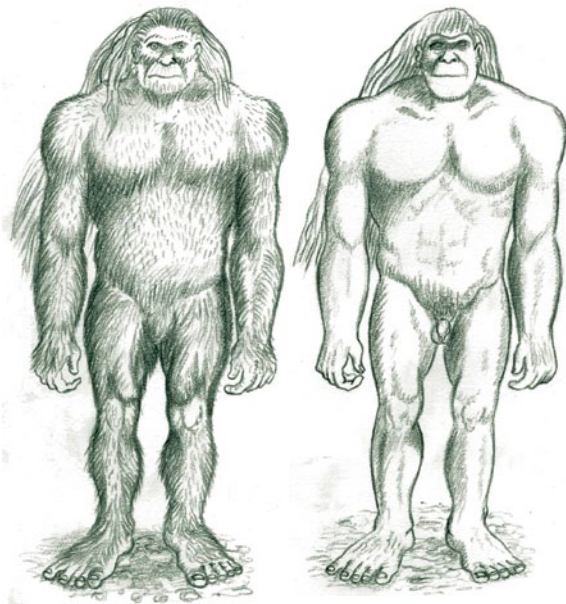
Almass, 1.50 m., southern Mongolia.

Bigfoot type

Characteristics : females smaller, rounder than males, breasts round, hairy and firm, males with V-shaped torso, bulkier muscles, no goitre, head hair sometimes, can go on all fours.



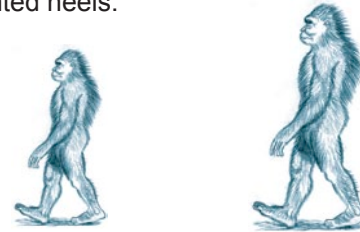
Bigfoot, male 2.60 m., female 2.30 m., North America, big yeti, 2.60 m., Himalayas, X1 of Kenya, 1.80 to 2.20 m., giant of Tano, size unknown, Ghana.



Orang-gigi, Malaysia, giants of Oceania, 3 m. *Orang-gadang*, 3 m., no body hair, Sumatra.

Hairy dwarf type

Characteristics : small size, often has head hair ending in a dorsal mane, pointed heels.



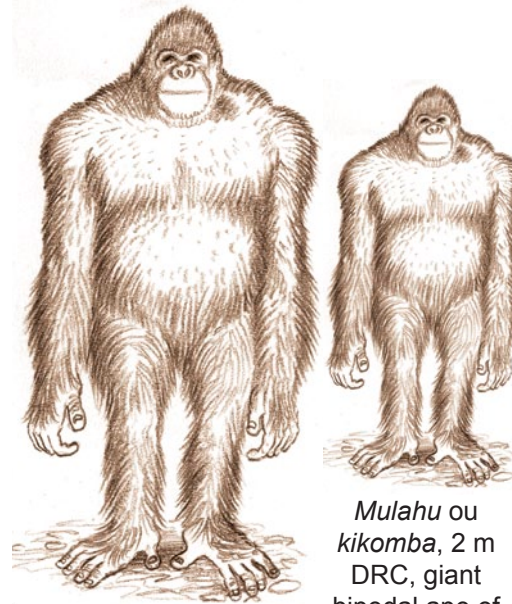
Menehune, Fijian islands, *kakundakari* of the DRC (Africa), 60 to 90 cm. *Teh-lma* of the Himalayas, *nittaewo* of Sri Lanka, 0.90 to 1.20 m.



Jundadee of Australia, 1 m. to 1.40 m., *agogwe* of Mozambique, 1.20 to 1.50 m., hairy dwarf of Ivory Coast (size not specified), *apamandi* of the DRC (Africa), 1.20 m., spiny primate, 1.20 to 1.50 m.

Bipedal anthropoid ape type

Characteristics : opposable big toe, quite large.

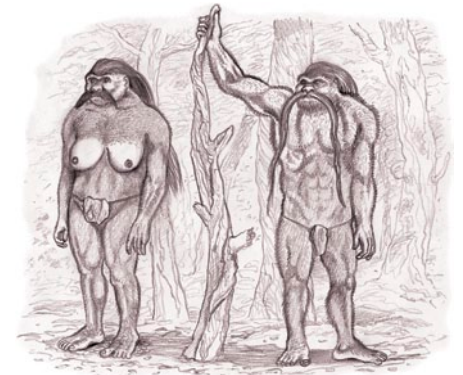


Jimbra, 3 m., Australie

Mulahu ou kikomba, 2 m DRC, giant bipedal ape of Vietnam size unknown.

Primitive man type

Characteristics : presence of a loincloth or a cape, builds huts, seems close to man.



Primitive men of Malaysia, size not specified.



Proto-pygmy of Malaysia, size not specified.



X4, 1.30 m., Kenya, Perhaps the *nittaewo*, 0.90 to 1.20 m., Sri Lanka

Atypical ones

Characteristics : square feet or three digits for the dođu (not shown).



Little yeti, square foot, the Himalayas, 1.50 to 1.80 m.



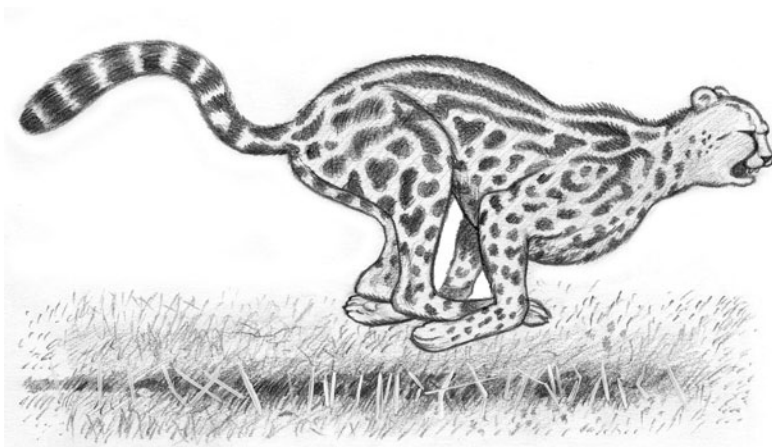
Orang-pendek, square foot, possible opposable thumb, Sumatra, 1.60 m.



Hibagon, square foot, Japan, 1.50 à 1.80 m.

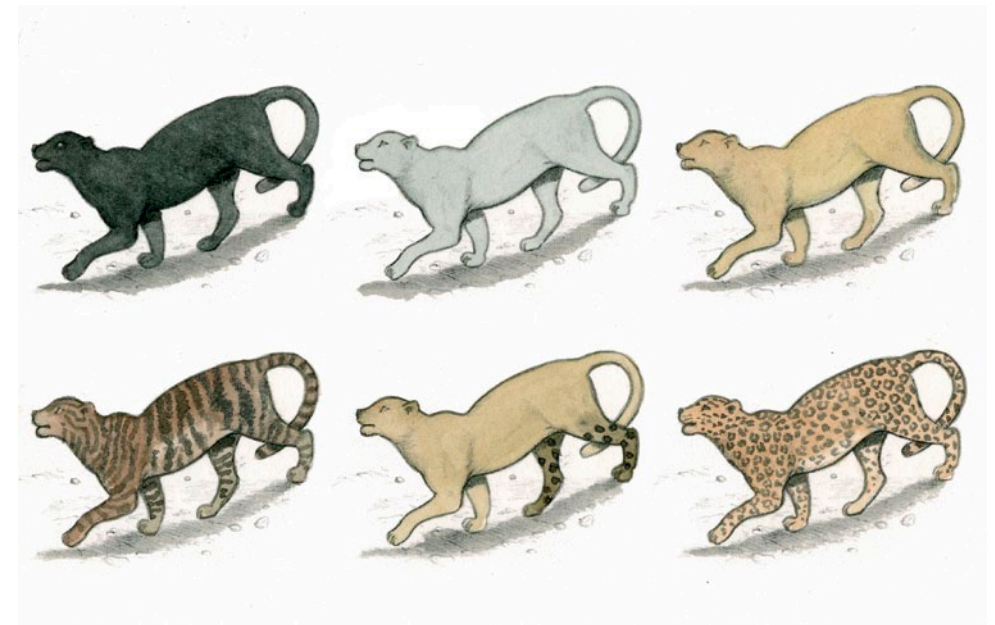
2- Felines

Numerous felines have been observed in Africa, South and Central America, Australia and even in Great Britain. Only Asia, although rich in mysterious hominids, escapes from enigmatic felines. These felines are, par excellence, specialists in dissimulation and certain species, such as the panther, show a large capacity for adaptation to varied environments. It must not be forgotten that, contrary to our domestic cat, many felines like water and do not hesitate to plunge into it to find prey or, like the jaguar, to transport them more easily by making them float. Felines seem to see perfectly well in the dead of night, which makes them even more difficult to catch. As for many cryptids, we shall discover, in the following pages, that certain mysterious felines are none other than prehistoric felines which have survived from the books of prehistory... As far as the cave lion is concerned, this giant feline, extinct for 10 000 years (do not worry, I am not going to assert that it is still alive), it is interesting to know that a feline of the same size as this prehistoric feline exists today, well and truly alive : the liger. The liger is the hybrid born of a lion and a tigress. The inverse product of a tiger and a lioness is named tigrion and its size is normal. From prehistoric drawings showing cave lions, the mane seems to be rare or absent, and stripes are sometimes shown. These details would confirm the hypothesis that cave lions would have been ligers which had become fertile (normally the product of two different species is sterile). The liger is, in fact, considerably larger than a lion. Its parents do not pass on to it a growth inhibitor gene and this feline continues to grow throughout its life. The record weight is 467 kg for an individual born in 1897. It so happens that not all the cave lions whose remains have been found were of the same size, which can correspond to a species which grows permanently. It can be noted, also, that in 2007 a new species of panther was discovered in Borneo, resembling the nebulous panther, but larger and with entirely different fur, showing that the discovery of new felines is still possible in our day and age. Let us mention also the royal cheetah which was a cryptid for a long time before falling into the domain of zoology the day when individuals were born spontaneously, in zoos, of normal cheetah parents. This magnificent striped cheetah with thick fur was just a mutation of the cheetah, appearing from time to time.



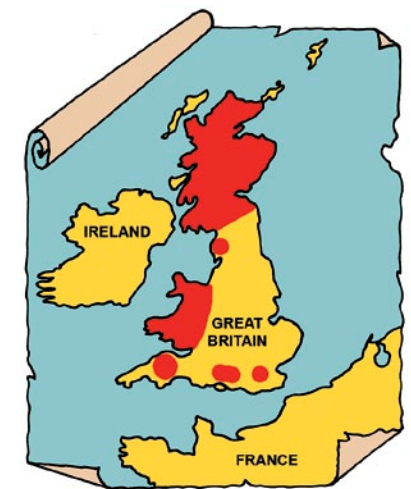
Royal cheetah. The classical cheetah is finely spotted.

The *big cats*



A cacophony of felines : since the 1930s, mysterious but very varied felines have been regularly described in Great Britain. Generally, they are of the size of a panther. Some are black, others a uniform gray, others beige, others brown with black stripes, yet others striped with gray tips to their paws and a white forehead, others are like the panther, others are beige with black spots and dark hind paws, etc. Some have been photographed. Sheep and deer have been found killed.

Hypotheses : pumas and panthers that had been domesticated during the 1960s were no doubt released in 1978 because of a law prohibiting their being kept. That could explain the black or beige animals. Are the others the result of hybridization ?



The big cats have been seen mainly in the south-west of Great Britain and in Scotland.

The *mngwa* or *nunda*



A very old legend : on the east side of Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania, a deep tropical forest exists, certain parts of which have not been penetrated by man for centuries. Here, the indigenous people have been speaking for more than 800 years of a ferocious feline named the *mngwa*, which means « the strange one ».

A legend that kills : in 1922, a first policeman was killed by a gigantic spotted cat, observed by witnesses, in the village of Lindi (in Tanzania, almost at the seaside), and another one two nights later. Both of them had in their hand a tuft of gray hairs pulled from the animal. Since then, the beast has struck many times in the region. In 1937, a huntsman who was only wounded stated that he had been attacked by a *mngwa*.

Larger than a lion : it is described as an enormous cat, as big as a donkey, with stripes or spots. Its pugmarks

are those of the leopard, but are as big as those of the largest lions. Its weight is estimated at 250 kg and its size at 2.50 m. without the tail.

It purrs like a cat : some witnesses have heard it. That would indicate that it would be a giant-sized cat.



From left to right : pugmarks of a leopard , of a lion and of what could be a *mngwa*.

It likes fish : in fact, it attacks fishermen in order to steal the contents of their nets.

Analysed hairs : the headquarters of the British Army analysed the hairs at the time and concluded that it was fur and not a mane, resembling a cat's coat.

Perhaps a giant golden cat : the golden African cat does not normally exceed 1 meter in length without the tail, and 18 kg. However, gray « golden cats » exist. A giant variety of this small feline can therefore be imagined. The indigenous people consider this cat as being very bloodthirsty and call it « the leopard's brother ». This twilight, or nocturnal, cat is rare and its habits not well known.

Perhaps leopard-men : there exists, in Africa, a sect whose members disguise themselves as leopards and wear steel claws to attack men and eat their fat. These luminaries could be responsible for certain murders.



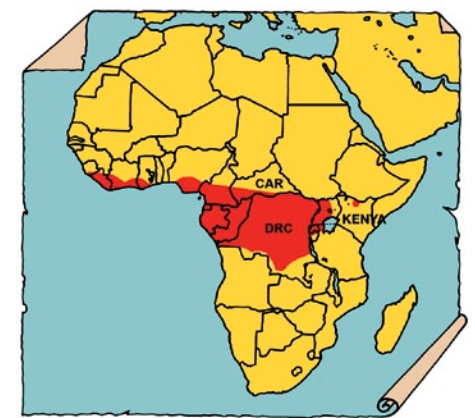
The golden African cat...



... sometimes has a gray spotted coat.



The *mngwa* roams in the tropical forests of the east coast of Tanzania and Kenya, as far as southern Somalia.



For comparison, map of the golden cat. Its distribution corresponds to zones of dense rainforest.

The aquatic saber-toothed feline



Hidden in the swamps : in central Africa and perhaps even in the west, the natives describe an aquatic feline whose upper canine teeth extend a considerable way out of its mouth. It would be larger than a leopard.

Striped like a serval : its coat is yellow-orange, like that of the leopard, and marked by horizontal lined patches : its tail is short and bushy. Black individuals exist (melanism).

Webbed paws : a witness talks of « water wings », no doubt webbed paws, or flippers, a standard adaptation among mammals, as witnessed by its large footprints, from which its size might have been exaggerated.

Killer of elephants and hippopotami : hippopotami have been found lacerated and torn to pieces, with very deep wounds, but not eaten. This feline

would even attack elephants. It would only attack these animals to defend its territory, because its fangs would make it difficult for it to eat them. It would content itself with lapping up their blood.

Prehistoric survival : This animal makes one think of saber-toothed felines of the past, particularly the *megantereon*, which had the size and corpulence of a jaguar.

Usefulness of saber teeth : these teeth could serve to keep hold against the movement of rivers, to clamber along slippery banks and to scrape the soil to find molluscs, turtles or other animals.

Ecological niche : this feline appears to have chosen an aquatic ecological niche to avoid competition with the lion and the leopard.

Map page 76

The mountainous saber-toothed feline



Second saber-toothed feline : in Chad and the Sudan, another species is described, larger than a lion (up to 1.50 m at the withers against 1.35 m for the lion), with a dark russet coat, with vertical whitish-yellow stripes. Its tail is short and bushy. Black individuals have also been reported.

The art of erasing its tracks : long hairs underneath its paws are often described and would allow the animal to wipe out its tracks.

Plantigrade : pawprints « as long as those of a boy but with claws » seem to confirm the hypothesis of a plantigrade feline, like the *homotherium*, prehistoric saber-toothed feline of which it could be a descendant. As for the preceding one, the short tail is an anatomic detail characteristic of prehistoric saber-toothed felines.



Black individuals have been reported.

Ecological niche : a plantigrade feline is less agile than the lion and could not compete with it for its territory. Furthermore, the two species, handicapped by giant fangs, which prevent them from eating rapidly, would see their prey stolen by carrion feeders if they lived in the plains like the lion. In the mountains, our latter feline is supposed to carry off

its prey (on its back !) into caves, away from carrion feeders. In the caves, it could leave its prey to rot in order to eat it more easily.



It would carry its prey on its back.

An animal of the night : it is strictly nocturnal, its eyes shine at night, indicating night vision. A species of moth is supposed to follow its tracks.

Usefulness of saber teeth : this mountainous feline's canines could help it to unearth rodents by digging in the soil. It has, however, been seen to capture large antelopes, but never buffaloes. A Youlou (a tribe of central Africa) and his father, who had just killed a horse-antelope (300 kg), saw one of these felines come out of the bush and take it away effortlessly. This was in 1940. It never attacks men, contrary to its aquatic counterpart.

A mane ? The mane, in the case of the two felines, is rarely mentioned. It is perhaps just an adjunct stemming from their names which mean in all languages « water lion » (sometimes « water panther ») or « mountain lion ».

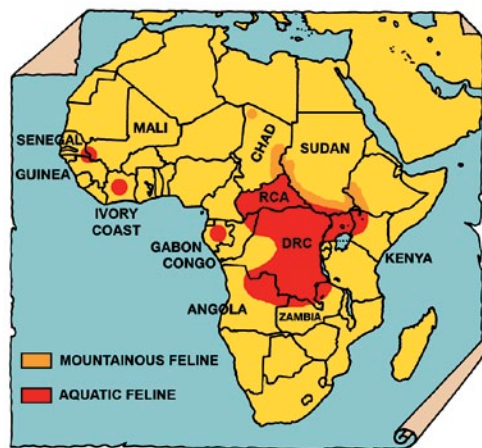
Distribution : as far as the aquatic form is concerned, it is found in the upper reaches of the rivers which are tributaries of the Congo, therefore in the upper Congo basin, and in Gabon,

englobing the rainforest. There are also reported sightings of a « water lion » at the frontier of Mali, Senegal and Guinea. Finally, a mysterious « giant panther » lives in the Ivory Coast, which could well be the aquatic form of our feline.

The mountainous form is present in Chad (north-west and south-east), in the south of the Sudan and in the south-east of Ethiopia, thus in mountains which can be relatively dry.

The tooth from Addis Ababa : discovered in 1904 in Ethiopia (see the unknown elephant, page 94) it is too long (70 cm along the curve) to belong to a feline whose canines are not longer than 20 cm.

Sources : the information concerning this feline come from the last book of Bernard Heuvelmans, *Les félins encore inconnus d'Afrique*, Editions de L'œil du sphinx, available now, and from the researches of Christian Le Noël, former hunter's guide in Africa and now cryptozoologist, in the field.



The territory of the saber-toothed felines according to the local traditions and reported sightings that have been collected.

The dingonek



A mystery with paws : the *dingonek* is one of the most difficult of the cryptids to place. Known to the Masais, the Lumbayas and the Kikuyus, at the frontier between Kenya and Tanzania, this animal has only been observed by two western witnesses. It is described as a saber-toothed feline, covered with scales ! Spotted like a leopard, it has a head as big as a lion, a body in the shape of a hippopotamus with a long rudder-like tail which gives slow whiplashes in the water ... According to the Masais, which call it *ol-umaina*, the head is that of a dog, with small ears like the horns of a striking viper, the paws are short and have strong claws, the neck is short. The Kikuyus talk of an animal related to the crocodile, named *ndamathia*, in the upper reaches of the

Tana river. A witness saw one without tusks. Its tracks are as large as those of a hippopotamus (20 cm diameter, those of a lion being 15 cm). Its length is about 4.50 m or more.

Hypotheses : one of the attempts at an explanation would be the confusion, with scales, of damp fur in tufts of an aquatic saber-toothed feline (in spite of the longer tail). Scaly mammals do exist (armadillos, pangolins). Another hypothesis would be confusion with a giant pangolin, a scaly mammal having, however, no teeth, a long head and being no larger than 1.80 m.



The *dingonek* has been seen in the rivers which flow into Lake Victoria, at the frontier of Kenya and Tanzania.

The *ndalawo*



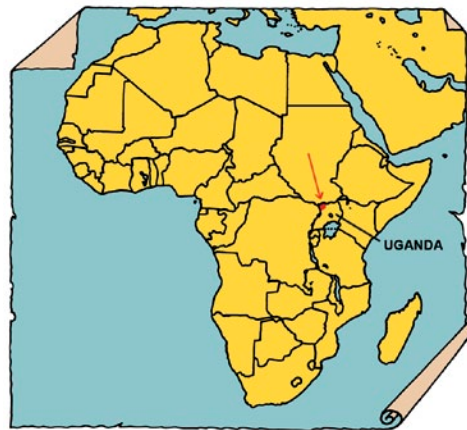
An examined skin : this mysterious feline has everything of a panther, as witnessed by the skin of an animal that had been killed. But the black back melted into a « hyena gray » on the flanks. Rare patches were visible at the extremities and around the lower jaw.

Group attacks : its behavior, on the other hand, is not that of a panther, as it hunts in groups of three or four individuals. It is also reputed to attack men.

Laughter : the *ndalawo* emits a sort of laugh when hunting, another detail differentiating it from the panther.

Black panther or new species ? The *ndalawo* differs from the black panther by its gray flanks, hunting in groups and its laugh. One can therefore conceive of a new species of panther. The panther being present almost everywhere in Africa, the *ndalawo*, to avoid competing with it, became adap-

ted, perhaps, by group hunting, to larger game, confirming its reputation of uncommon ruse and ferociousness.



The *ndalawo* is observed in the province of West Nile, in the north-west of Uganda, in a rather mountainous region.

The forest lion



In the **mountainous forests** around the Congo basin, a small forest lion is talked about, generally spotted like a leopard. It is in Kenya, where it is known as the *marozi*, that it is best described : darker than a leopard, with patches meeting in a dark zone in the middle of its back, the male has whiskers, pawprints like those of a small lion and a size midway between that of the leopard and the lion.

Material proof : it is also in Kenya that skins and the skull of an adult animal identical to that of a small-sized lion, have been examined.

A high-altitude living lion : in Kenya, it lives at 3000 to 3500 m in the range of *hagenias* (trees), above the forest of cedars and bamboos.

It lives in couples : behavior reminiscent of that of the Asian lion, more forest-living and smaller than the African one.

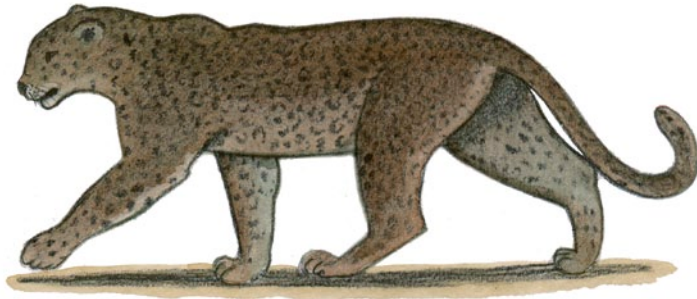
A fleeing lion : contrary to the plains lion which, certain of its strength, rarely flees, the *marozi* dashes away at the slightest noise to take cover.

A bearded lion ? In Rwanda and Cameroon, it has a long beard.

Other forest lions :

- the *foulempou* of the Congo ;
- the *bakanga* of the Central African Republic : a russet, patched, forest lion, low on its paws with a bark ;
- the *ikimizi* of the Rwandan volcanoes : a gray, spotted and bearded forest lion ;
- the *ruturargo* : half lion, half leopard (Ugandan province of Kigezi adjoining the mountains of Rwanda) ;
- the *uruturangwe*, from another sector of the Rwandan mountains : it is similar to the leopard without being one ;
- the *bung-bung* of Cameroon : an unspotted forest lion with a long black beard.

Hypotheses : this small forest lion, rare and discreet, is doubtless a sub-species of lion, better camouflaged in the forest by its small size and its rings. It could also be an entirely separate species, ancestor of the lion and the leopard, or a descendant of the lion. Another hypothesis would be a hybrid lion-leopard having become fertile. The resemblance between this hybrid, known to zoos, and the skin of the *marozi* is striking, but the latter seems darker, particularly on the back, and the marks seem larger. These lions are, moreover, often described as low on their paws (adaptation to the forest).



The *damasia*



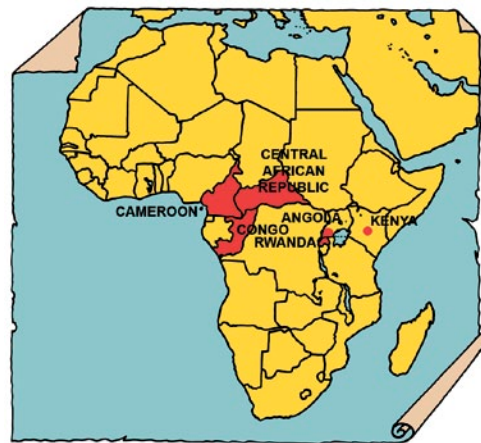
The *ikimizi* of the volcanoes of Rwanda : a gray version of the spotted lion.



The *bung-bung* of Cameroon : unspotted and bearded.

The *damasia*

During the 1940s, an Englishman killed a very dark leopard, in the Aberdare mountains, in Kenya. The native Kikuyus stated that it was a *damasia*, as different from the leopard as the lion is from the *marozi*. There again, is it a new species of leopard, a sub-species or a semi-melanic form ?



Forest lions are observed in Kenya, in Mount Kenya and the Aberdares, in Rwanda, in southern Angola, and also in the countries marked in red, for lack of precise geographical information : Cameroon, Congo and Central African Republic. In any case, it is clearly a mountainous lion, except in the Central African Republic. The *damasia* is observed in the Aberdare mountains, in the centre of Kenya.

The *n'goli*



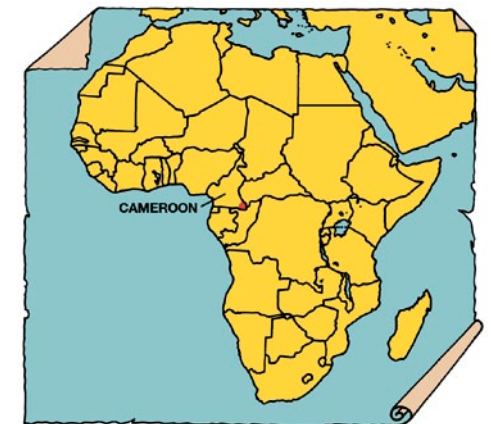
In the region of Lokomo, in south-east Cameroon, **Michel Ballot** and his team regularly carry out research into the *mokele m'bembe*, an aquatic reptile reminiscent – in a smaller version – of the diplodocus (see further on). In this same region he collected the reported sighting by a hunter, narrated in his revue *Ngoko*, of an unknown aquatic feline : the *n'goli*.

A water lion : it is of the size of a lion (the witness only saw the top part of the body coming out of the water, which he estimates at 1.50 m), entirely brown, without markings and without unduly large canines, with a mane and a panther's head.

A gorilla killer : the witness saw the animal come out of the water, kill a gorilla which had come to drink and take it away in the river.

Perhaps a bung-bung : the latter (see page 79) is described as an un-

marked, bearded, forest lion. Although it has a different name, the *n'goli* could correspond to this animal ; nevertheless, most forest lions are smaller than the lion, and are not aquatic.



The *n'goli* has been observed in the jungle of south-east Cameroon, near Lokomo.

The onza



Aztec allusions : the first conquistadores heard of the *onza* in Mexico. Its Aztec name was apparently *cuilamiztli*.

First carcass : in 1938, a big-game hunter killed one, but it was not known to scientists.

A cheetah version of the puma : it resembles the puma but is thinner and has longer paws. It would be more aggressive than the puma.

Skulls exist in museums and private collections. They do not resemble those of the giant prehistoric cheetah of the Pleistocene epoch, of the size of a lion : *Acyonix trumani*, or *Miracinonyx trumani*. It is therefore not a question of the survival of a prehistoric feline.

A second carcass : in 1986, a breeder killed an *onza* and kept it deep-frozen in a fishery. Its photo can be found on Internet. It is a female of 27 kg, 1.13 m long, 73 cm of which is the tail. It

is therefore of the size of a puma, slightly smaller than a cheetah, but very fine and light. Its mitochondrial DNA does not differ from that of the puma, of which it would be a sub-species. A sort of Mexican cheetah.



The *onza* lives in the state of Sinaloa, between the Pacific coast and the Sierra Madre chain of mountains, in Mexico.

The South American mountainous saber-toothed feline



Symmetry with Africa : in South America, there is talk of two saber-toothed felines, one mountainous and the other aquatic, as in Africa. The mountain version is striped, as in Africa (the same colors ?), but its size would be inferior to that of the jaguar.

Ancient felines : there are two hypotheses to explain its origin : the survival of a **saber-toothed smilodon**, of which three species existed in America, one of them larger than a lion. And that of **thylacosmilus**, a marsupial version of the saber-toothed feline. It should be remembered that the marsupials, mammals with pockets (kangaroos ...), are an ancestral form of mammals which appeared in South America, having invaded North America, Eurasia then Australia via the Antarctic. It was sup-

planted everywhere by placental mammals, except in Australia (insular isolation). There remain nevertheless a few in South America. The marsupial saber-toothed « feline » has no relationship to the others and is a fine example of convergent evolution.



This feline hides in the mountainous forests of Colombia and Ecuador.

The South American aquatic saber-toothed feline



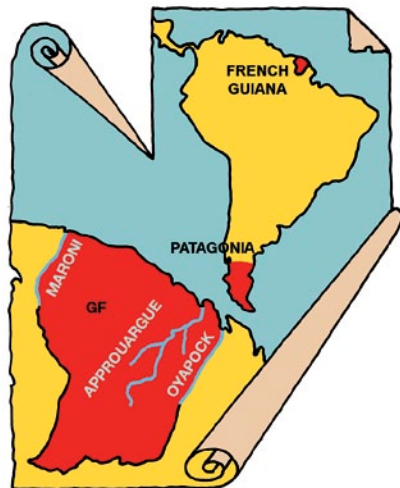
A large feline : 3 meters long and 1 meter wide, our saber-toothed feline is more like a walrus than a cat. Its width may be due to a layer of fat destined to protect it from the cold.

Drooping ears : a rare detail among wildlife. It is described as tan, with a whitish chest, and a whitish stripe in the middle of the back, 10 to 15 cm wide.

Clawed paws : similar to the hind paws of the anteater, its paws would have non-retractile claws. Perhaps an adaptation to the slippery soil of rivers.

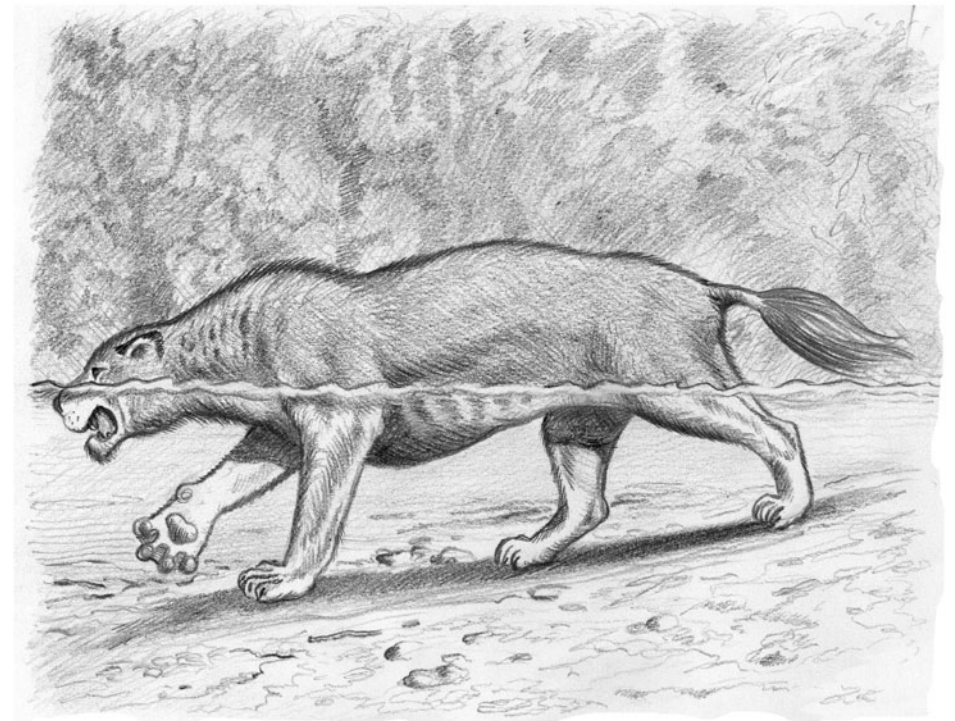
Attack on a child : in 1962, a seven-year-old child was taken away and eaten in the river Maroni, in French Guiana (Guyane), according to the natives, by an animal of this type.

Vernacular names : *maïpolona*, *popoke* and *mamadillo* for French Guiana, *iemisch* for Patagonia.



This feline has been observed in the Maroni, Approuague and Oyapock rivers in French Guiana and in Patagonia.

The water tiger or *entaieva-yawa*



An explorer in Ecuador : most of the information concerning the mysterious felines of Ecuador come to us from Angel Morant Forés, who investigated this region in 1999.

No saber teeth mentioned for this aquatic feline, which, with its bushy tail or « cow-tail », is reminiscent of the African saber-toothed felines.

Unknown color : sometimes described as white, black, brown or russet, the color of this animal remains vague.

Webbed paws : it has paws « like those of a duck » and leaves tracks « like those of the otter, but without claws ». They are short, and the palm is flat « like that of the bear ». Would it be plantigrade like certain saber-toothed felines ?

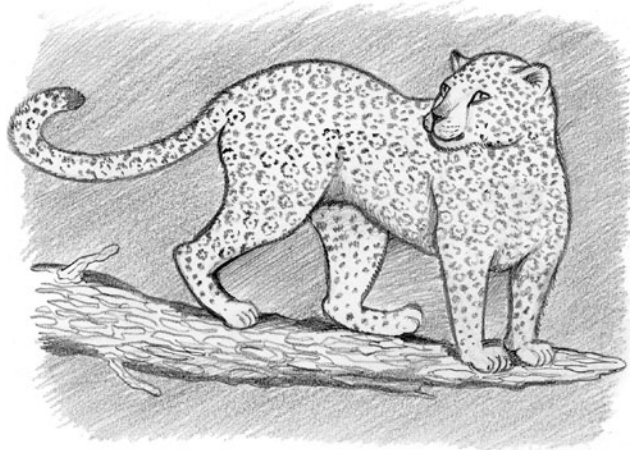
Might this feline be the same as the aquatic saber-toothed feline, seen from

a distance, as the lack of precision regarding its color indicates ?



The water tiger lives in Ecuador.

The *shiashia-yawa*



A small white jaguar : of a size midway between the ocelot and the jaguar, this feline of about 1.30 m (without the tail) is white and covered with spots that are closer together than those of the jaguar. Observed by the Indians in Ecuador.

The tiger-tapir or *pama-yawa*



The tiger-tapir is a uniform dark gray feline measuring about 2 m (without the tail) and 1.30 at the shoulder, with enormous paws. This animal has been seen coming out of a river, in Ecuador.

The rainbow tiger or *tshenkutshen*



Indeterminate coat : it is of the size of the jaguar, its coat is described sometimes as black, sometimes as white, with black, white, red and yellow stripes on its chest.

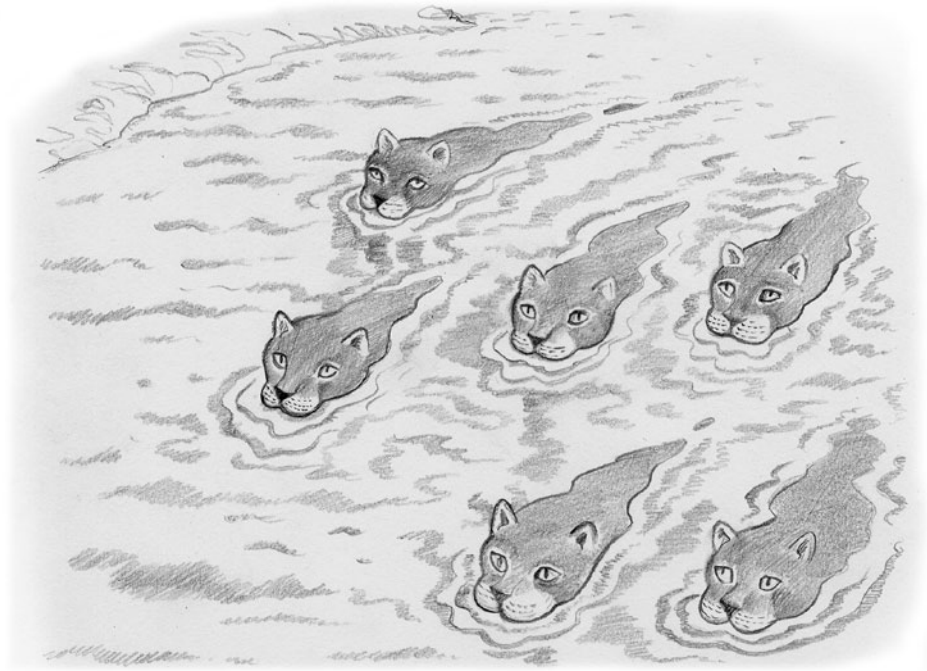
Arboreal acrobat : its principal characteristic would be its incredible cleverness and rapidity in the trees.

Monkey's paws : its paws would resemble those of a monkey, apart from the nails, in the sense that the palms would be flat and not rounded. In a certain way, an adaptation to arboreal life.



The *shiashia*, the tiger-tapir and the rainbow tiger live in Ecuador.

Other mysterious South American felines



Ecuador : the *tsere-yawa* or social jungle cat, is a meter-long aquatic feline which would hunt in groups of eight to ten individuals. The *jiukam-yawa*, of which we have no portrait, would hunt in a group. There would also be a **maned lion**.

Brazil : the *jaguarate* would be a dark-coated jaguar. Perhaps a case of partial melanism. A **hybrid jaguar-puma** is also reported.

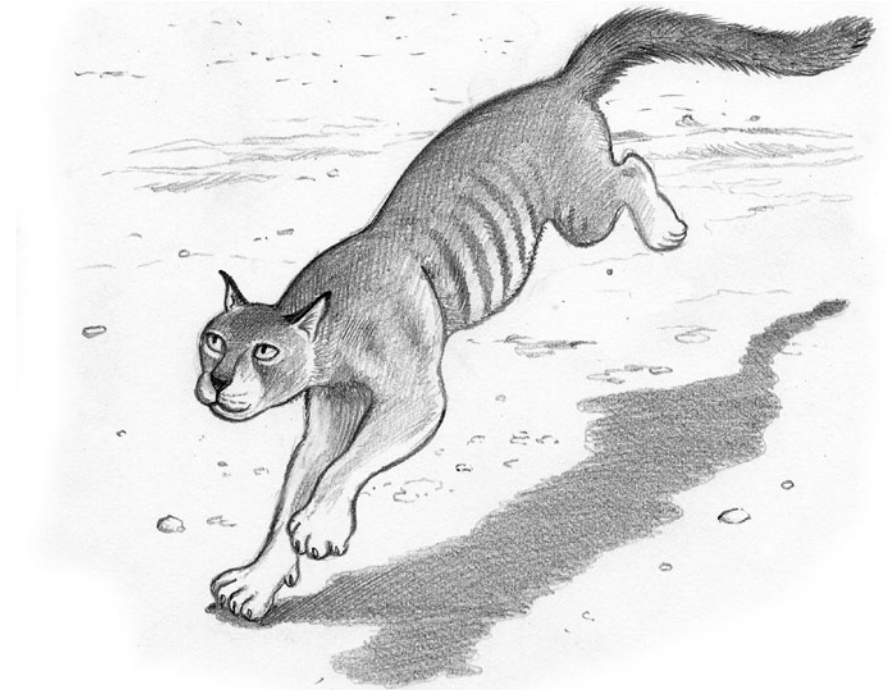
Peru : in this country there is talk of a **large black panther** (black jaguar ?), a **spotted tiger**, a **striped tiger** (the same as in Asia ?) and a **wild jungle cat**, knowing that there exist already in Brazil several species of wild cats.

Above, the *tsere-yawa* or social jungle cat.



The countries where the Indians describe unknown felines.

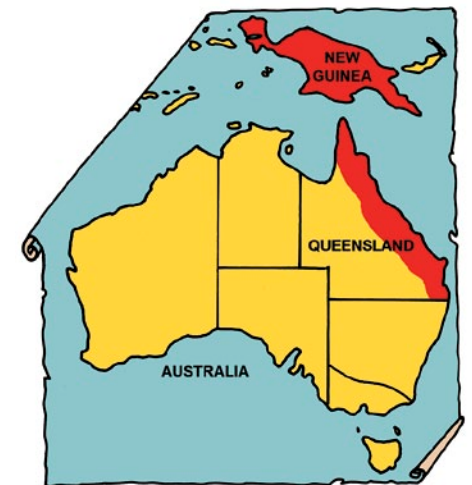
The marsupial tiger



Convergent evolution : marsupials, primitive mammals with ventral pouches, appeared in South America, and emigrated to Australia where, due to insular isolation, they evolved separately. This parallel evolution shows amazing cases of almost identical forms to classical mammals (placental). In this way, the marsupial tiger, which is only known by witnesses who saw or killed them, is exactly like a feline, in spite of having no relationship with one.

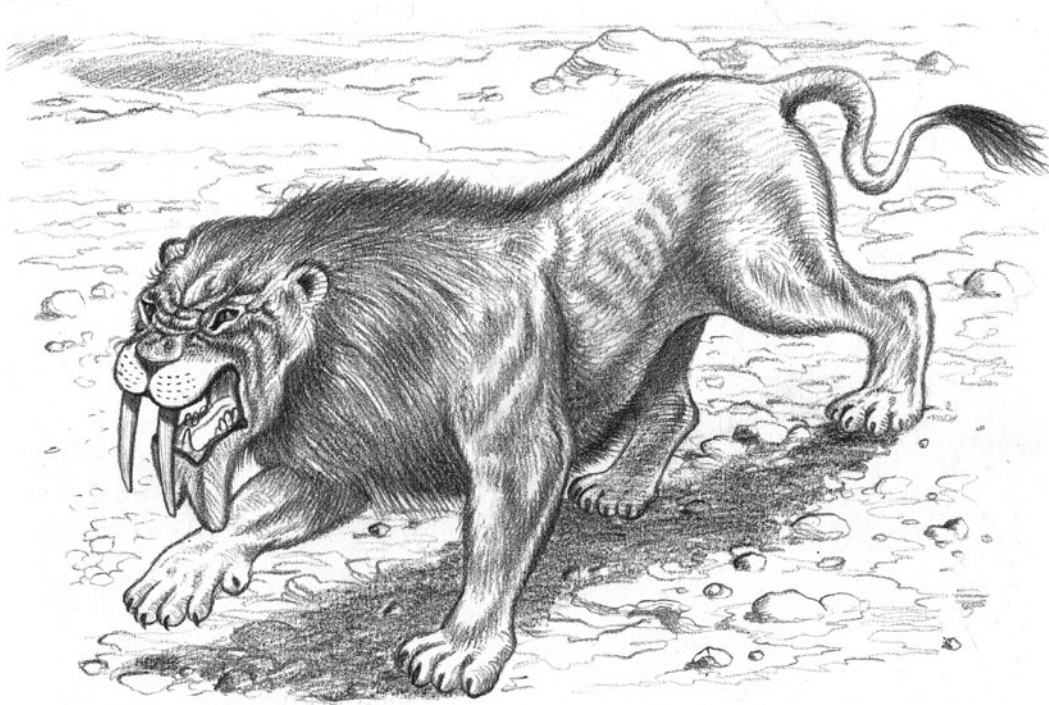
Description : it is of the size of a small panther, is mainly gray with black stripes (or black and white or yellow) on its flanks, the belly lighter, pointed ears, a long, bushy tail, wide clawed feet. Not to be confused with the thylacine (see page 102), often called « marsupial tiger », another marsupial resembling a dog.

Anti dingo : unable to compete with the dingo, it hides in regions inaccessible to the latter.



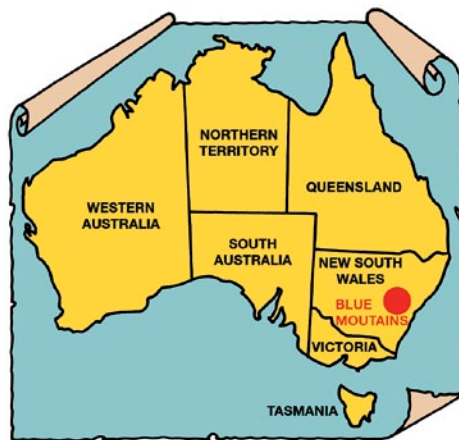
The marsupial tiger is to be found in the north of Queensland, in the mountains of the east coast of Australia, but also in New Guinea.

The warrigal



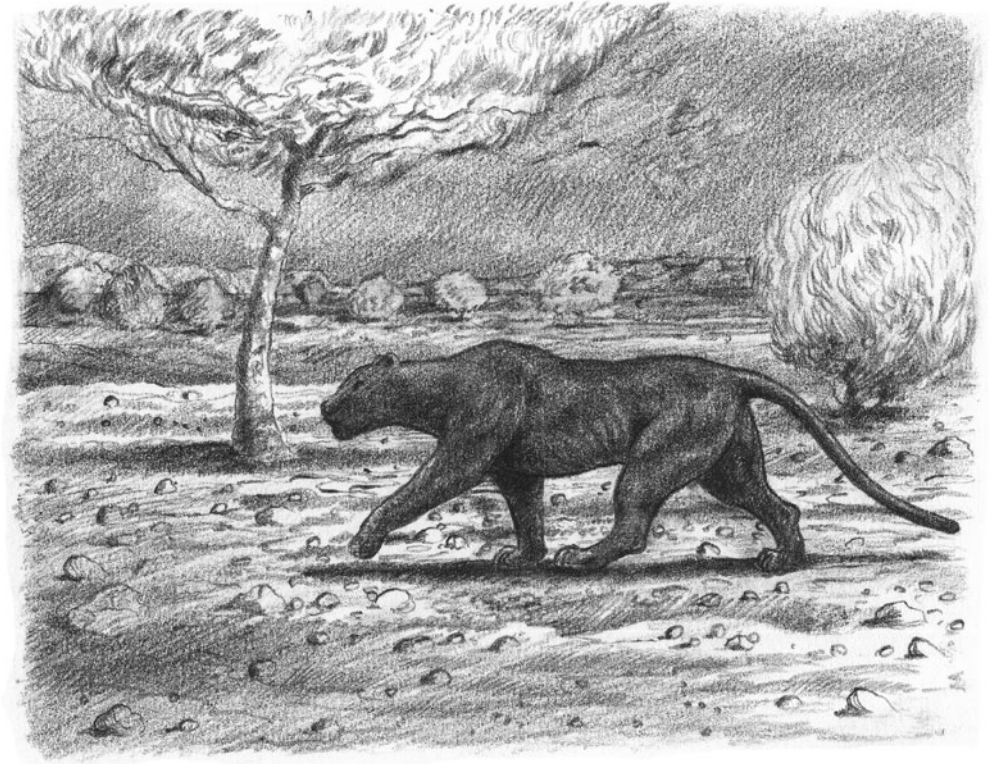
Strange lions : in 1945, some walkers saw four felines resembling lions near Mount Solitary, in the Blue Mountains in Australia. The pawprints measured 15 cm long by 17 cm wide. The aborigines know these felines, which they call warrigals, and which feed on calves and sheep. They are described as being dark or light brown, with a thick ruff and two fangs in the shape of a saber extending from the upper jaw.

Origin : the prints resemble those of a prehistoric marsupial fossil, the *thylacoleo*, considered to be extinct for 15 000 years. However, the *thylacoleo* had highly developed incisors, above and below, and not saber-like fangs. A saber-toothed marsupial « feline » did exist in South America, the *thylacosmilus*, which might survive still in Ecuador or in Colombia (see page 83).

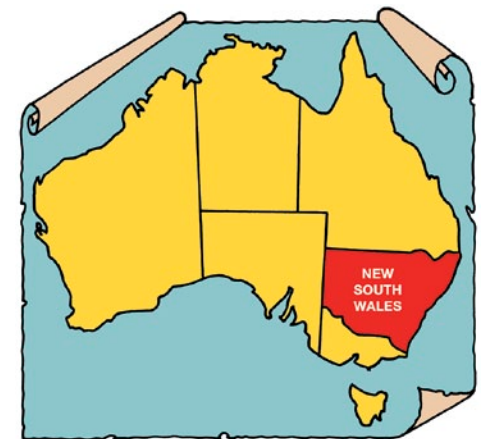


The warrigal is observed in the Blue Mountains and nearby areas.

Australian black panthers and pumas



Released felines : reports come out of New South Wales of sorts of pumas and black panthers. Apparently American soldiers in the Second World war possessed pumas. One day they were told to kill them. The soldiers no doubt preferred to release them. Melanism in the puma is, in principle, very rare, but the few felines released could have engendered inbreeding favouring melanism.



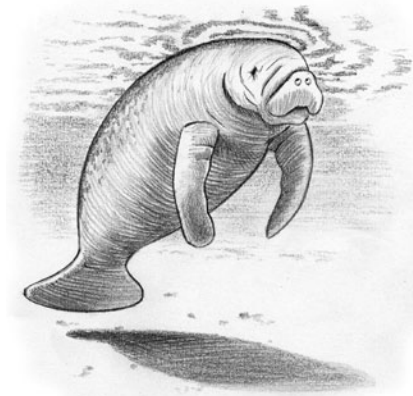
Pumas and « black panthers » are observed in New South Wales, no doubt in the mountainous regions of the east.

3- Other non-marine mammals

I have separated the marine environment from the terrestrial environment but many unknown non-marine mammals live in fresh water, at any rate in swamps. Only the Loch Ness monster is placed among marine mammals because this long-necked seal appears to frequent salt water more often. After the forests, particularly mountainous ones, swamps represent an ideal environment to camouflage all kinds of unknown beasts. Some of them are really impenetrable and covered with tall grasses making it impossible even for aeroplanes to surprise their inhabitants from the sky.



Unknown Sirenians



Very little information : in the Lake Tana, in Ethiopia, explorers of the last two centuries talk of an animal « of the manatee type » to be found in the tributaries of the Mareb (to the north of the lake) and, in particular, the Sibda. There is no description of the animal. The natives call it *la-baher-tedcha*, *ouli* or *ouila*, the first name meaning « aquatic calf ». It is also reported in the Central African Republic where a known manatee lives in the west of the country.

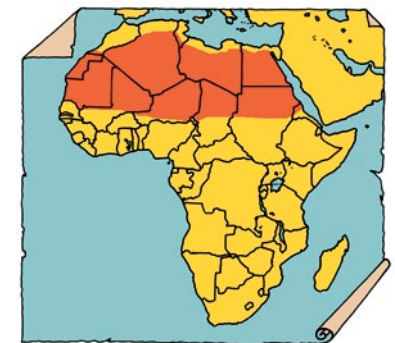
Sirenians are vegetarian aquatic mammals (fresh water for manatees and salt water for dugongs), whose shape roughly resembles that of dolphins.



The *adjule*



An unknown wolf : in the Sahara, only four canines are known : the jackal, two foxes and the fennec. The Tuaregs, however, talk of a canine which would be more like a wolf than a jackal. Théodore Monod also spoke of it in 1928 and certain urban myths are still witness to its presence. Although there has been confusion, particularly with the wild dog, previously present in this region, an unconfirmed observation of 1992 describes sorts of dogs hunting in packs near the Mauritanian coast. It is also named *kelb el khela*, or *khela el kelb* (bush dog) for the males and *tarshit* for their companions.



This map represents the Sahara, but the *adjule* probably does not cover the whole area.

The unknown elephant



Discovered at the market : it is not always necessary to stride through impenetrable forest or travel over icy solitudes in the Himalayas to discover an unknown species. It can be sufficient to go to the marketplace ! This is what happened in 1904 to Baron Maurice de Rothschild, in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia. He bought a tusk there the origin of which remains unknown.

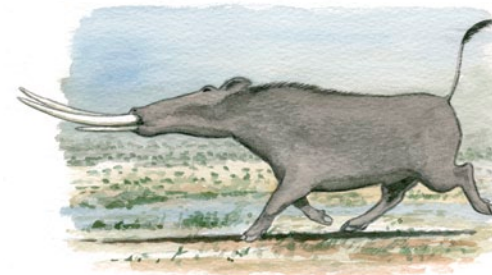


One of the rare physical pieces in cryptozoology : this tusk, which measures 72 cm long curved, and 56 cm in a straight line, is not fossilized, the animal was therefore alive not long ago. It is ivory : it is a tooth and not a

horn. According to the structure of its ivory, zoologists believe that it must be an animal of the family of proboscideans (elephants).

Indigenous traditions : in all of East Africa, the natives describe, unfortunately in an imprecise way, an animal that lives in water, which would look like the hippopotamus with tusks perhaps curved downwards. Some witnesses have seen the animal in the lake region of Ethiopia, others in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, another south of Lake Tanganyika (at the frontier of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Tanzania), but none of them give a precise description of it. The lack of precision in the traditions and the reported sightings contrast with the indisputable proof represented by the tusk. The unknown animal does exist, but we do not know what it looks like !

Other hypotheses : if one forgets about the structure of its tooth which makes one think of a small elephant, it is possible to envisage the hypothesis of the survival of a giant **prehistoric warthog**, which would be more than 2 m long and whose tusks would correspond with the size of our piece from the marketplace.

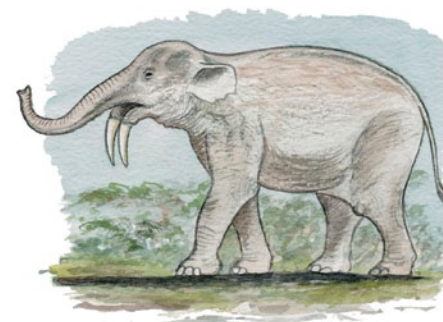


Phacochoerus nicoli



Saber-toothed feline

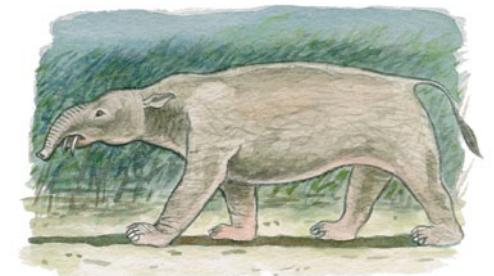
The **saber-toothed feline** does not have such long tusks, but certain sightings could be confused with those



Dinothereum

of the feline, perhaps still present in the same regions.

The **dinothereum**, a prehistoric elephant the size of the African elephant, had tusks that were curved downwards, but it is too large.



Astrapotherium

The **astrapotherium** corresponds quite well with the suspect, but it lived in South America. Let us not forget that the gigantopithecus, a giant prehistoric ape and possible candidate for the big yeti, was discovered by the purchase of a (fossilized) tooth in a pharmacy in Hong Kong in 1934. Also, neglect no trail and be vigilant when you go to the marketplace !

Presumed size of the unknown elephant : that of the hippopotamus : 4 m long and weighing 3 tonnes.



The regions of the unknown elephant

The small hairy elephant



A single witness : we know of only one direct witness of this animal, but the natives know it and call it « water elephant ». Our witness observed a herd of them in 1907 and described them as small elephants with a shortened trunk and short ears, apparently without tusks. They are covered with russet hairs.

Aquatic elephants : they spend the day in the water where only the trunk and the top of the head are above water. They come to land only at night.

A piece of skin : a settler was able to exhibit a piece of skin resembling that of an ordinary elephant but covered with russet hairs, belonging, according to the natives, to a « river elephant » with the same habits as the hippopotamus.

Game of hide-and-seek : our little elephant adds to the list of animals which have the habit of hiding in the

water during the day and only coming out at night, having the effect, like the *mokélé m'bembé* (see page 126) of irritating cryptozoologists.



Our little elephant lives in Lake Mai-Ndombe, formerly Lake Leopold II (renamed in 1972), in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (ex Belgian Congo, ex Zaïre).

The monster of Lake Tanganyika

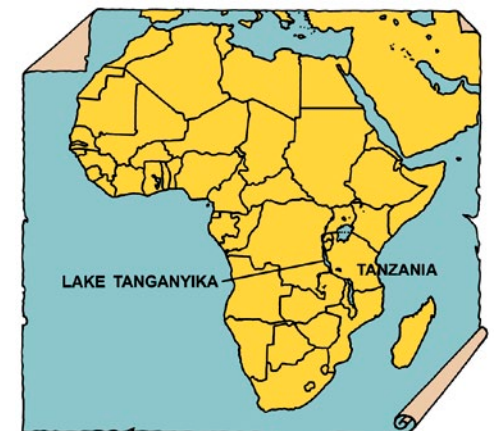


Only one western witness : in 1914 a German doctor observed in Lake Tanganyika an enormous snake, moving swiftly making vertical curves.

It is a mammal : in fact, a snake swimming vertically can only be a mammal. Reptiles always twist their spine horizontally. A stiff bright brown fleece covering the animal confirms this hypothesis. Its head, with a pointed muzzle, showed two small fins close to the head. It did not have paws nor real fins.

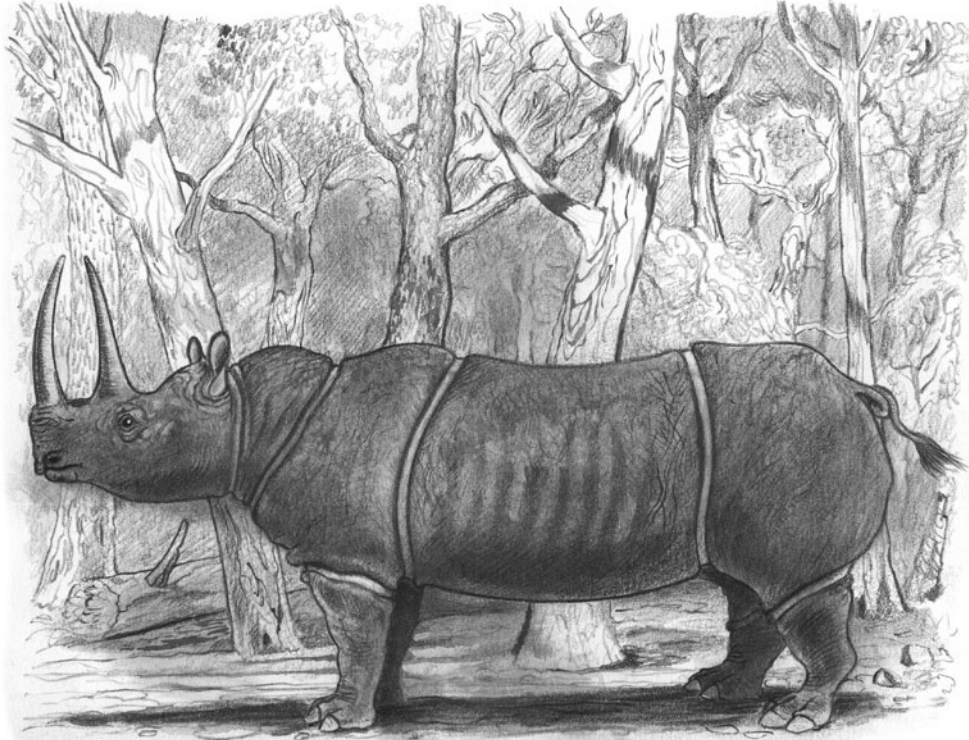
An enormous animal : six rings of 3 m diameter would suppose, including the spaces between them, an animal measuring about 35 meters.

Known to the natives : they say that they have never seen it but they know of it. It would appear every five years.



The monster was seen in Lake Tanganyika, on the western frontier of Tanzania.

The unknown rhinoceros of Gabon



Apparent absence of the rhinoceros in western regions of Africa : there would, however, be no reason for the rhinoceros to be absent from these regions.

Native sightings : in Liberia, the Mandingoes declare that a rhinoceros exists in their lands, which they call *kowuru*. In the same country, the Krus talk of a dwarf rhinoceros living in a part of the mountain. Between Lake Chad and the Upper Niger, a rhinoceros is also reported by the Arabs, the Mandingoes and the Hausas.

Visual sighting : in the forests of Gabon, a French hunter observed, in 1931 or 1932, a rhinoceros which he described as an extraordinary animal, very long, possessing two very high nasal horns, of the same length and curved towards each other. It was co-

vered by gray plates separated by light grooves, placed like joints or gussets. He speaks of a huge head, small ears and a pig's tail.

Like the Asiatic rhinoceroses : these separated plates on the body exist in the two Asiatic rhinoceroses of Java and Sumatra, which are forest rhinoceroses.

Two unknown rhinoceroses ? The hunter's description is not of a dwarf rhinoceros. It is therefore possible to conceive of two unknown species in West Africa : a dwarf one in Liberia and a forest one in the region of Gabon. The latter would also be reported at the southern limit of Cameroon and to the north of the Congo.

Heuvelmans' hypothesis : a dwarf rhinoceros in Liberia, in a region where

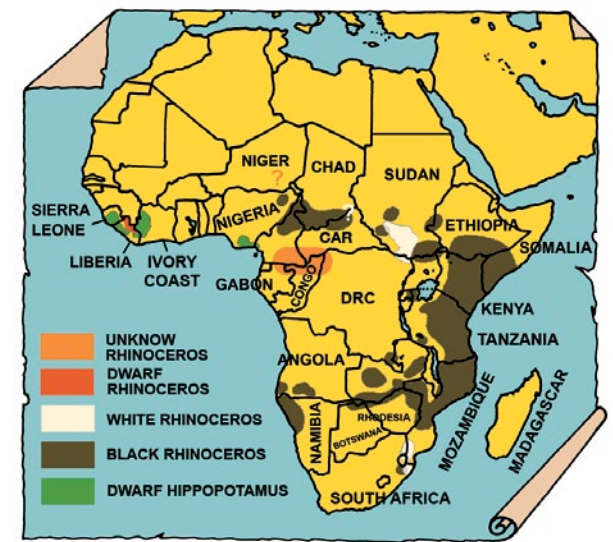
The dwarf rhinoceros of Liberia



the dwarf hippopotamus is found, could have its origins in a possible isolation of this region during the Eocene epoch (56 to 34 mya), a period when the sea level was higher. Marooned on an island, the rhinoceroses would have decreased in size due to the classic phenomenon of insular dwarfing. Because of its dwarfism and its forest life, it would have escaped our notice.

Confusion with the *mokélé m'bembé* : in the Congo, the forest rhinoceros is sometimes described with a heavy tail dragging along on the ground, which makes one think of the mysterious dinosaur with which it is perhaps confused. For natives to confuse two animals, the latter must be particularly rare. However this may be, it is a case of a large-sized species,

present in the region of the Congo and Gabon, which eliminates the hypothesis of a dwarf rhinoceros in this sector.



Map of existing and unknown rhinoceroses. The dwarf hippopotamus is mentioned to compare its distribution with that of the dwarf rhinoceros.

The nandi bear



Hypothesis of a giant baboon.

No bears in Africa : although there have never been bears in Africa, except formerly in Morocco, all the ancient accounts in Africa talk of the bear. The first sighting of the nandi bear, the name given to this animal by the people in whose land it appears in particular, dates from 1905, in Uganda. The dark beast measured, seated, 1.50 m. Its movements were awkward. Its fur was thick in front and smoother at the back. The head was long and thin, the ears very small, the tail short or non-existent.

A lion with a black mane : another sighting talks of the look of a hyena, the size of a lion, tan-colored with a black mane, a wide snout, a short neck, absence of a tail for an animal sometimes standing up on its hind paws...

Bipedal baboon ? Another witness, in Kenya, speaks of an enormous baboon sometimes walking upright.

Long claws : others describe long claws, very thick front paws, and considerable ferociousness. It would attack a man as soon as it saw him.

But still ... A back sloping straight down, thick dark brown fur, a long black tail ...

Two different animals : as can be seen, the descriptions are often contradictory and appear to correspond to two different animals. They do, however, share plantigrade characteristics with the bear, walking with the heel on the ground, a characteristic visible on the tracks of the hind foot, rarely found among mammals.



Hypothesis of the old blackened ratel (honey badger).

Heuvelmans' two hypotheses : this is why Bernard Heuvelmans suggests two hypotheses to explain the nandi bear : the first is that of a giant baboon. A prehistoric giant baboon existed, the *simopithecus*. Furthermore, in 1980, an expedition to Kenya observed a troop of about fifty giant baboons (1.50 m) on the crater of an extinct volcano, Mount Susua. The other hypothesis is that of an **old ratel**. In effect, this kind of African badger, black with a gray back, becomes darker with age and tends to become carnivorous and aggressive. Some reach 1.10 m (short tail included).



The countries concerned with the nandi bear. Mount Susua, where giant baboons were seen, a region where known species of baboon are absent. The ratel is present in nearly all Africa, except the Sahara, North and South Africa.

The thylacine



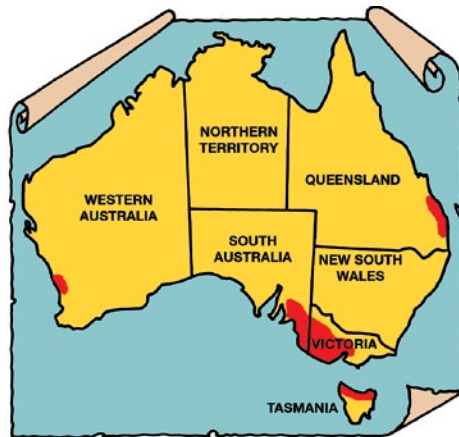
A marsupial wolf : this pleasant carnivore is the equivalent of a small wolf among the marsupial mammals which, let us not forget, evolved separately.

Officially disappeared : it is supposed not to exist any more in Australia since the arrival of the dingoes, but would have survived in Tasmania until 1824. The last individual died in a zoo in 1936. Its extinction was officially announced.

It is still seen ... in Tasmania (in the north of the island), but also in Australia where the aborigines are in the awkward habit of seeing it regularly ... In fact, this animal, which is perfectly identified (photos and films dating from before its official disappearance exist) has left zoology to enter the domain of cryptozoology.

Variations : in the west of Australia, unstriped and entirely black thylacines have been observed.

Tracks : this nocturnal animal can be recognized by its tracks of which the claws are visible (four toes at the back, sometimes five visible in front). It walks in a straight line.



The main places of sightings of the thylacine up till 2008.

The *bunyip*



A marsupial seal : living in freshwater inland in Australia, it has a good chance of being a marsupial. However, it is described as a seal, which would be a further example of convergent evolution. A large round head, minute ears, a long neck, shiny black coat, thick mane and two small fins make up a swimmer whose speed is reckoned at 50 km/h. It would measure between 1.20 m and 1.35 m.

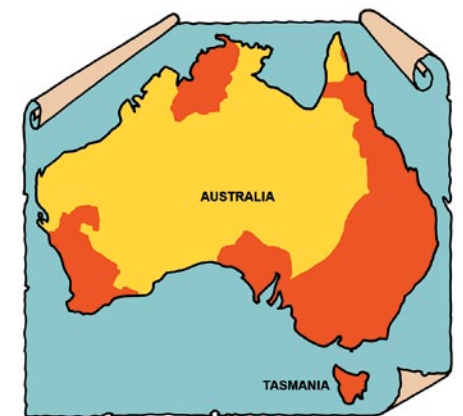
A calf-like skull : the skull of an individual captured by the aborigines in 1846 and examined by zoologists before being lost, was reminiscent of a calf or an ill-formed foal.

Another hypothesis : in spite of being reported in zones inaccessible from the sea, the *bunyip* could be just a seal or a sea-lion coming from the sea and arriving inland by way of rivers.

Finally, an aquatic animal swimming with the help of two long fur-covered ears

was observed in a reservoir in South-east Australia. It was no doubt a *bunyip* whose fins were confused with ears...

See the *waitoreke* of New Zealand, page 104, which reminds one of the *bunyip*.



Map of the river basins of Australia and Tasmania, possible zones of sighting of the *bunyip*.

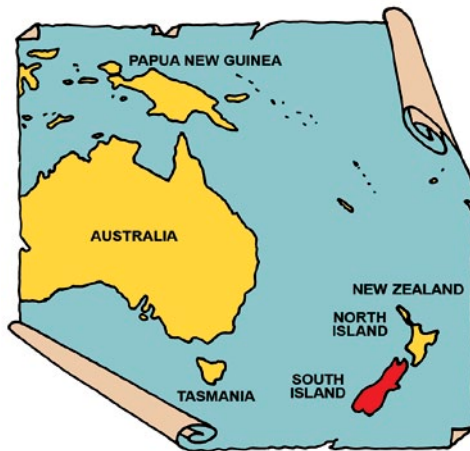
The wāitoreke



A marsupial otter : it would resemble a seal or an otter, and be the size of a small badger. Its pawprints are like those of the European otter, but are smaller. Its fur is brown and shiny. It lives in mountainous rivers and lakes in the South Island of New Zealand.

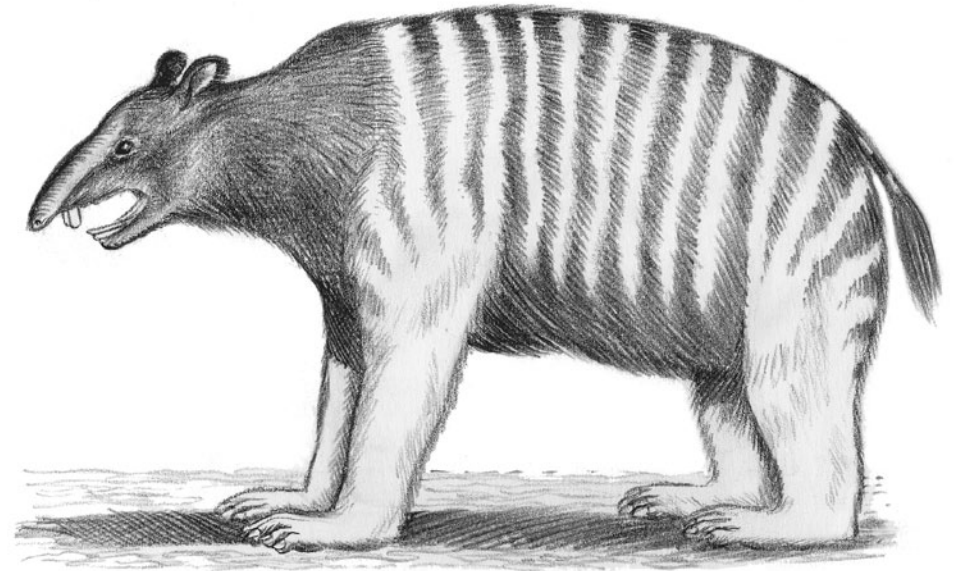
A zoological enigma : separated from Australia during the Jurassic period, therefore before the arrival of marsupial mammals, New Zealand cannot logically contain mammals.

Hypotheses : an otter having arrived by the sea, a mammal of the monotreme group which would be older than previously thought, or a mammal introduced by the Maoris on arrival on the island (towards the XIIth century).



The wāitoreke lives in fresh water in New Zealand's South Island.

The gazeka



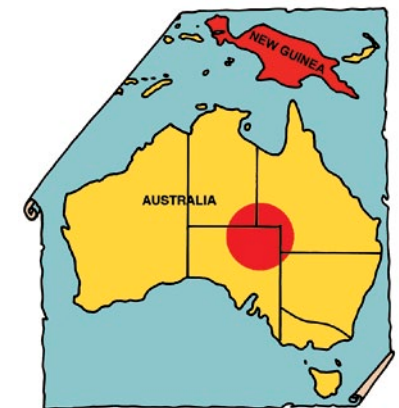
A giant tapir : in New Guinea, a British expedition observed, in 1910, an animal resembling a very large tapir at grips with a group of Papuan pygmies. It was black and white with stripes. The Papuans call it **gazeka**. There exist other, older, sighting reports, one of them mentioning a horse's tail and cloven feet.

Perhaps in Australia : gold-diggers have reported the existence of giant rabbits in the deserts of the central depression. Indigenous traditions of this region mention an animal known in the past, the **kadimara**, whose description makes one think of the diprotodon.

Survival of the diprotodon ? This enormous plantigrade marsupial, 3 meters long and 2 meters high at the withers is supposed to have disappeared 50 000 years ago. It possessed one pair of incisors below and one to three pairs

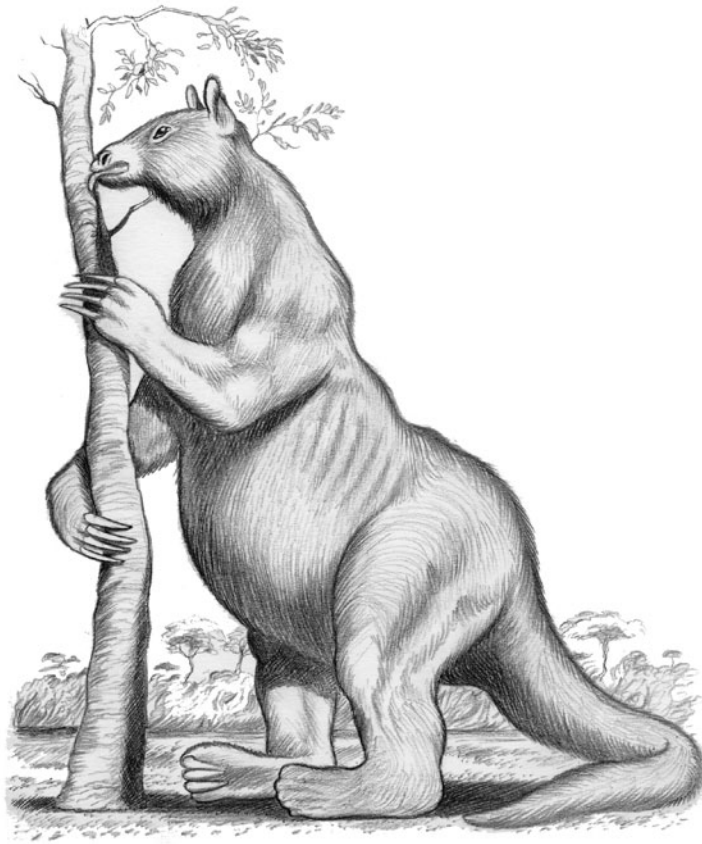
above, which could explain the allusion to a giant rabbit.

Or a Palorchestes azael, which is another giant marsupial (2.50 m long) and plantigrade, dating from the same epoch and possessing a small trunk.



Locations of the gazeka (New Guinea) and the kadimara (Australia).

The giant sloth



ved a small mammal with reddish-gray fur which was bullet-proof, perhaps also due to a skin encrusted with small bones. It resembled a pangolin (scaly mammal absent from South America).

Indigenous sighting reports : the Tehuelche Indians describe a solid nocturnal animal, as big as an ox, with short paws and enormous claws curved in the shape of grappling irons, with thick fur. It digs large burrows to sleep in during the day. According to some, it would have amphibian habits. And, above all, it is insensitive to arrows and bullets.

A strange skin : in 1895, in the Eberhardt cave (from the name of its discoverer), in Chile, near the Straits of Magellan, a leather skin covered with reddish hairs and encrusted with small bones was found. It seemed to be fresh and still bore muscles and tendons. This skin had obviously been rolled up by human hands. Also found were enormous feces containing chewed hay. The Indians would have kept this giant sloth captive in this cave and would have killed it for its meat.

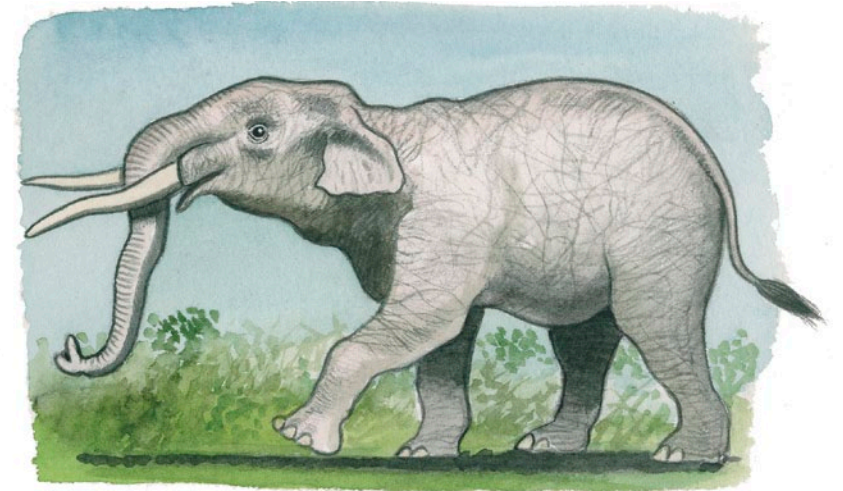
It is bullet-proof : at the same period, in the province of Santa Cruz, in southern Patagonia, travellers obser-

Other indigenous reports : the Shuar Indians, who live in the Amazonian regions of Ecuador, talk of the *ujea*, the description of which calls to mind that of a giant terrestrial sloth or a bear.

Hypotheses : a certain number of giant terrestrial sloths lived during the Pleistocene epoch (3 million to 10 000 years ago) in America, in particular the *megatherium*, which was 6 m long and weighed 3 tonnes, the remains of which are found in Patagonia, Bolivia and Peru. These terrestrial sloths walked on their joints, the feet turned inwards, to protect their claws from wear, as is the

case at present for the front legs of the anteater (of the same family). These prehistoric giant terrestrial sloths were able, in spite of their weight, to stand up on their hind legs, counterbalanced by their thick tail, like bipedal dinosaurs.

Geographical distribution : the considerable geographical distance between the two sighting reports allows for the possibility that the animal exists in numerous other sectors, perhaps throughout the whole of the tropical forest.



An elephant with twisted tusks lived in South America until about 400 A.D.

There also existed *mylodontes*, resembling the giant sloth, but as large as an ox and with a long tail.

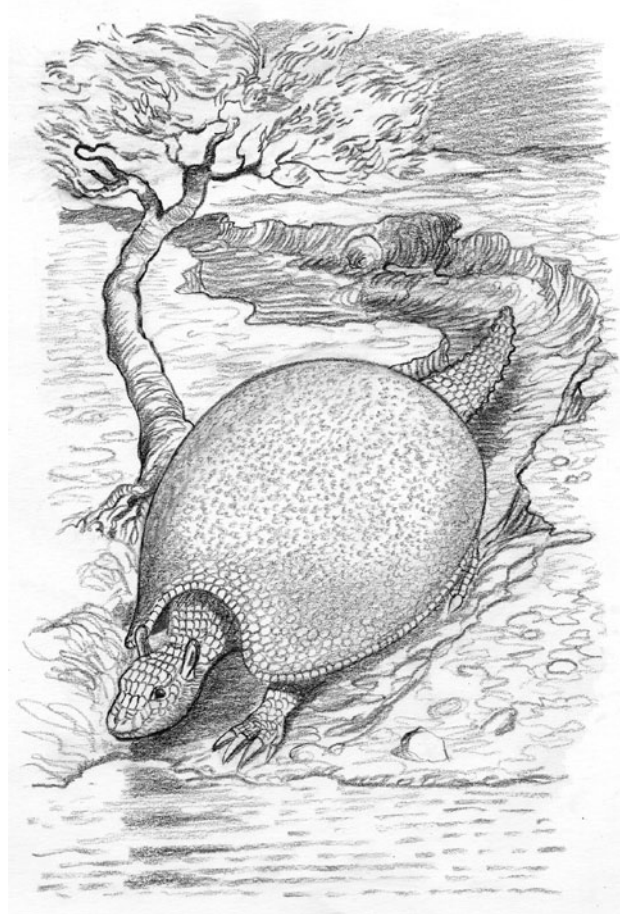
No large mammals in South America : South American mammals are quite small, the largest known being the jaguar. However, an elephant with twisted tusks existed in South America until 400 A.D., exterminated by man. Our giant sloth would be the largest mammal living on this continent in our day. The sighting report from the province of Santa Cruz speaks however of a small mammal. It could be a case of a young one.

Vegetarians : these enormous animals, placid and doubtless slow, were vegetarians. They stood up on their hind legs to reach inaccessible branches, their long claws serving as combs to pick the fruit from the trees, like bears « combing » blueberries.



Sighting reports of the giant terrestrial sloth. Nothing indicates that it would be absent from the immense Amazonian forest.

The giant armadillo



the confusion with a snake made by the scaly appearance of the head coming out of the water, it could then be a question of the glyptodontus, a giant prehistoric armadillo of 3.5 to 4 meters length, weighing up to 2 tonnes. The current armadillos are burrowing animals. The *glyptodontus*, or *glyptodon*, is supposed to have disappeared 10 000 years ago with the arrival of man. It lived in Brazil, Argentina and Bolivia.

The *minhocao*, a mythical animal of upper Paraguay, is often likened to a giant snake. However, the descriptions concerning it talk rather about a large semi-aquatic animal which would dig burrows. It would have a pig's snout, horns and be armoured. Its body would be snakelike. It would move around by crawling. Sometimes a horny shell is described.

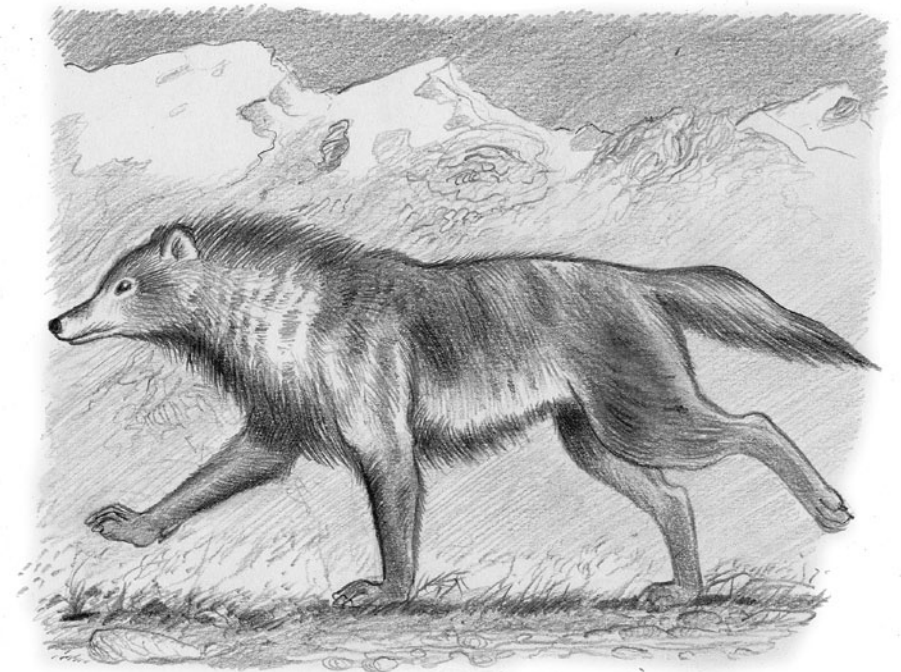
Traces of a burrowing animal : deep cavities are found which always finish up by being lost in rivers or swamps.

A prehistoric armadillo : if its horns were badly-identified ears and



Approximative region concerned by the giant armadillo.

The Andean wolf



A close relative of the maned wolf : this canine, which is still unknown and lives in the massif of the Andes, would resemble the latter. It should be remembered that the maned wolf resembles a giant fox more than a wolf, standing high on its fine black paws. Its reddish color, its ears and its pointed muzzle are really fox-like.

Thick fur : well adapted to the cold mountain air, our furtive canine would have very thick fur, into which a hand sinks.

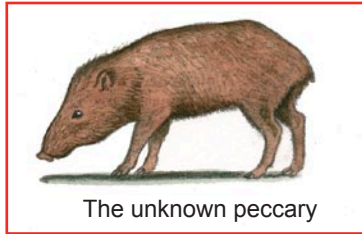
A skull and a skin : there exist a skull and a skin which come from two different individuals. The skin was acquired in 1926 by an animal trader from Buenos Aires, who saw three other identical skins, which excludes the hypothesis of a hybrid dog/maned wolf. The skull and the skin were examined in a museum in Munich. The skull is larger than that of a maned wolf. Bap-

tised *Dasycyon hagenbecki*, the latter is darker than its colleague, has shorter and stronger paws, and more powerful claws. Its ears are smaller and rounder.

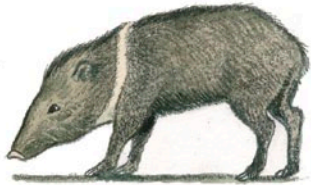


The cordillera of the Andes, where, some place, the Andean wolf is to be found.

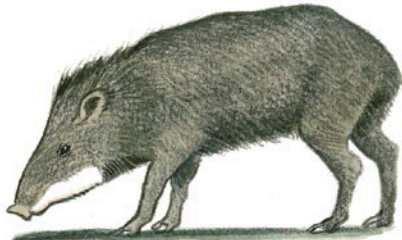
Esakar-paki or the unknown peccary



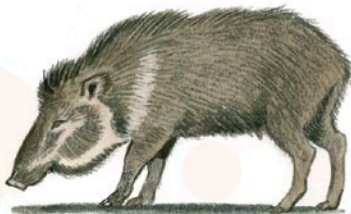
The unknown peccary



The collared peccary



The white-lipped peccary



Catagonus wagneri (Paraguay)

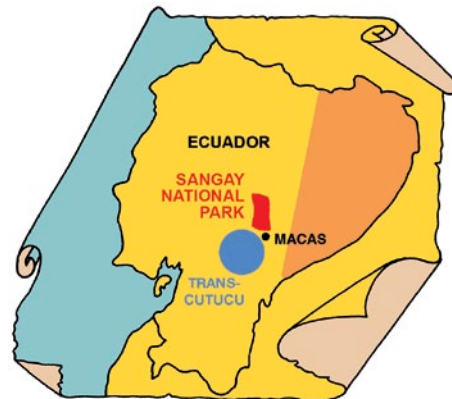
Indigenous sighting reports : Angel Morant Forés, who made enquiries among the **Shuar** Indians in 1999, near Macas, has already reported numerous unknown felines, as well as a giant sloth in Ecuador. We are indebted to him once again for the report about the unknown peccary.

Three known species : two species of peccary are known in Ecuador : the collared peccary and the white-lipped

peccary. A third species lives in Paraguay. All three are of a dark color.

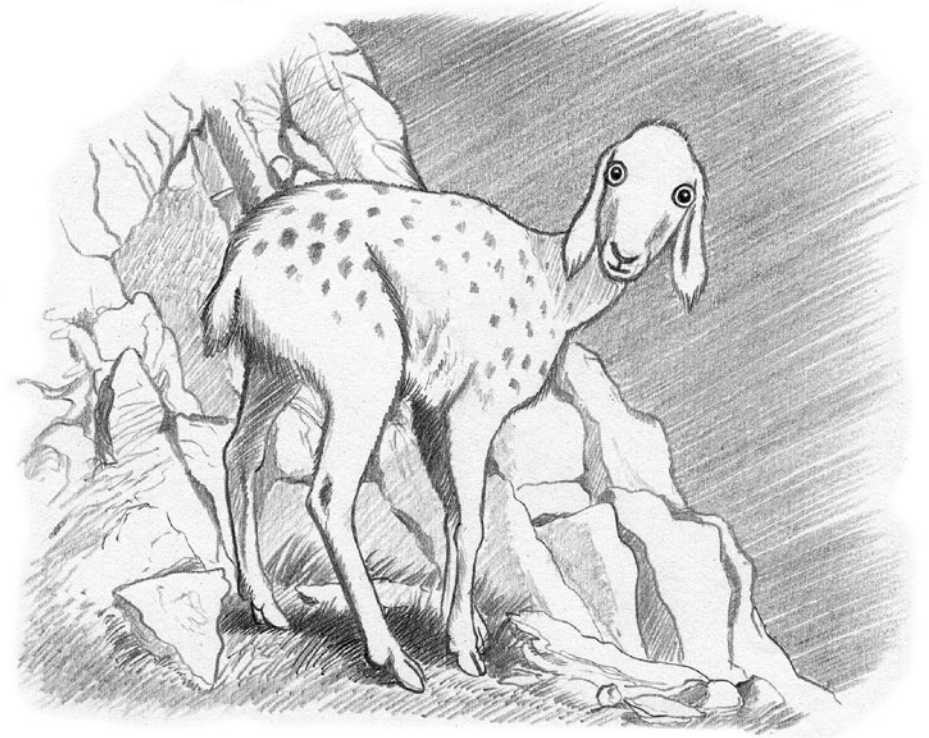
A small aggressive russet one : our unidentified peccary is small and russet-colored. It resembles the white-lipped peccary, is aggressive and does not fear humans. It lives in a herd of 50 to 60 individuals, led by a small, old one. A Shuar caver was attacked by a herd of these animals and had to hide in a tree.

Possible confusion : the young collared peccary also has russet-colored fur. But young ones do not form herds and the Indians know the wildlife of their country well.



The unknown peccary lives in the Amazonian region of Ecuador (in orange), particularly in the Sangay National Park (in red) and the region of Trans-Cutucu (in blue), where the animal would abound.

The habéby



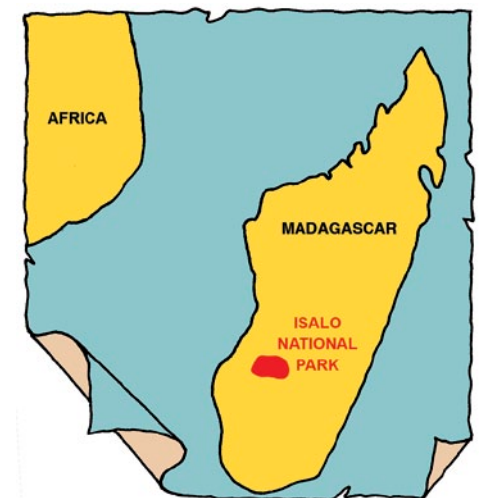
In the Isalo massif, in south-west Madagascar, an enigmatic white sheep roams the mountains at night.

Visible in moonlight : this wild sheep is exclusively nocturnal. Like a chamois, it runs very quickly and climbs up the steepest slopes.

It stands up to large dogs and can even, apparently, block the passage of travellers.

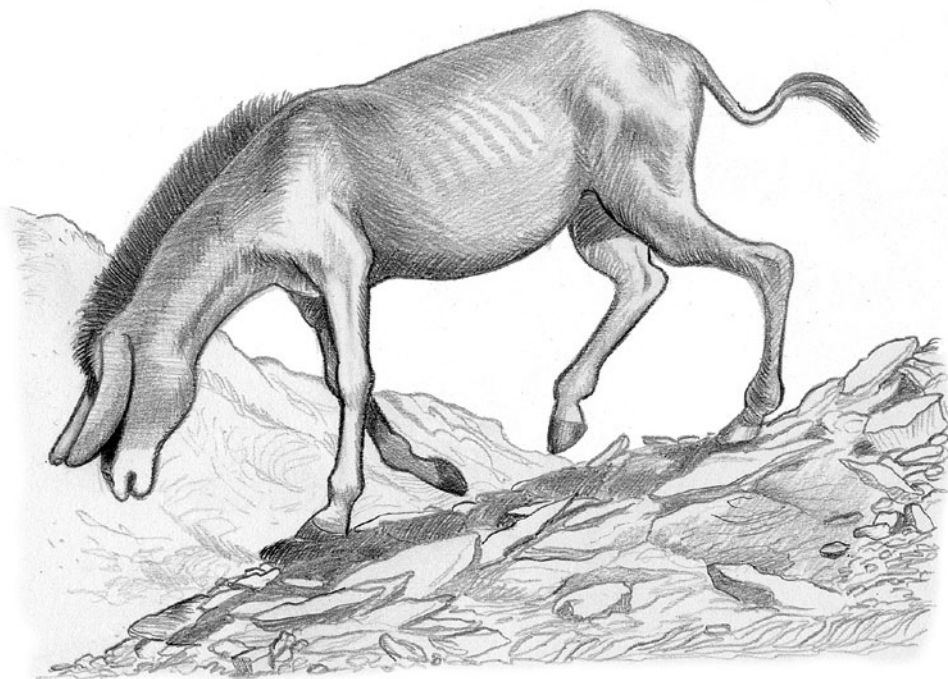
A precise portrait : it has a thick, short white coat with some black or brown spots, a cloven hoof and large fur-covered ears close to the side of its head. It possesses large, wide open eyes reminiscent of nocturnal lemurs. Like all sheep, it is vegetarian.

It has other names : **fotsiaondré** and **white sheep**.



The habéby is visible in moonlight in the national park of the Isalo massif.

The mangarsahoc



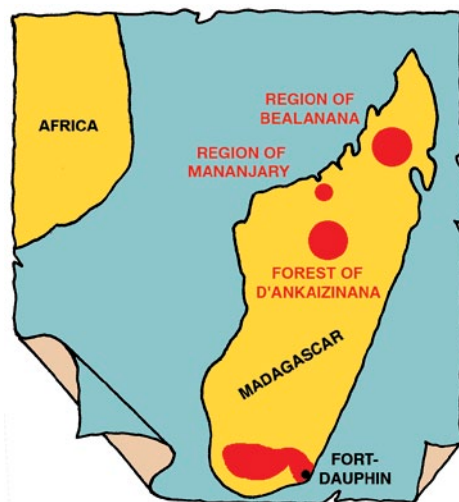
From 1658 : Admiral de Flacourt talks of it in his *Histoire de la grande Isle de Madagascar*. In 1770, the Count de Modave describes it as a wild ass living in the region of Fort-Dauphin and frightening the indigenous people.

An unknown ass : the animal is large, has the horse's round foot, long ears that apparently hide its eyes when it comes down the mountainside, and brays like a donkey.

One or two asses : our wild ass is also called *mangarisaoka*, « whose ears hide the chin », but another, living in the empty places of the south of the island, called *tokatongotra* or *toka-tomboka*, would resemble both the ass and the horse. It is doubtless the same animal.

More asses : others are notified in the forest of Ankaizinana, in the regions of Bealanana and Mananjary.

Hoofprints have been recorded.



The *mangarsahoc* is reported in all these mountainous regions.

The tsomgoby



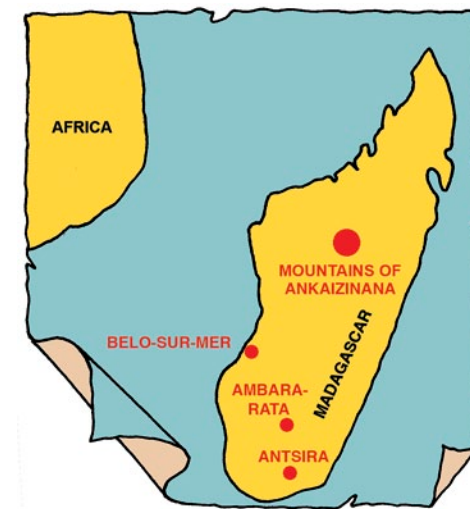
Hypotheses : these three cryptids could well be the same animal. It could be a question of the survival of hippopotami having lived on the island. The dwarf hippopotamus of Madagascar, *Hippopotamus lemerlei*, supposed to have disappeared from the island in the Xth century,

A rather imprecise portrait : sometimes it is spoken of as resembling the horse and the mule, sometimes an aquatic ox without a hump. In other regions, it is stated to have huge drooping ears, which would make it the third cryptid (unknown animal) of Madagascar with ears that droop. That is a lot for wild animals. It must be remembered that this characteristic is generally the consequence of domestication.

The kavy : in the mountains of Ankaizinana, this is the name of an aquatic animal which would emerge from the water to tear travellers' eyes out.

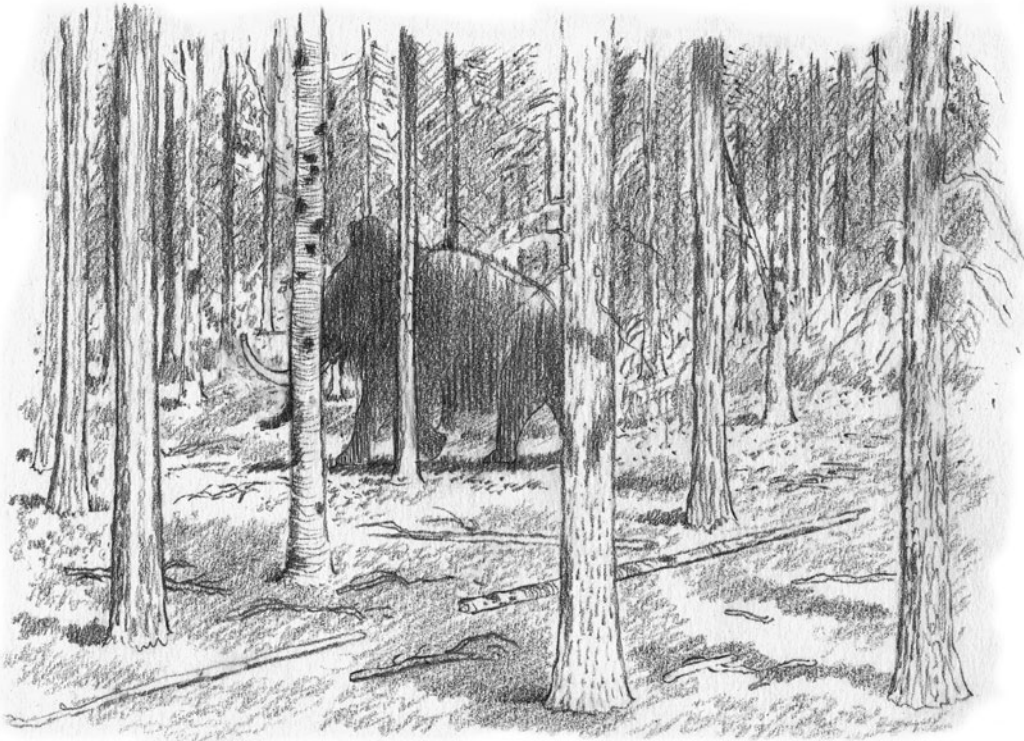
A witness saw several times (one of which was in 1976) an animal known by the name of *kilopilopitsofy*, the size of a cow without horns, a dark skin colored pink around the eyes and the mouth. Its ears are large and flexible (not drooping), its mouth larger than that of an elephant. Its cry is very similar to that of the hippopotamus.

and *Hexaprotodon madagascariensis*, supposed to have disappeared only 500 years ago, both the size of the African dwarf hippopotamus, reaching nevertheless 1 m at the withers, 1.70 m long and 200 kilos.



Location of the mysterious aquatic animals.

The mammoth



Sighting reports : In **1580**, Cos-sacks saw, beyond the Ural Mountains, a large hairy elephant. In **1899**, an American article showed that the Alaskan Eskimos, who have only been living in North America for 1 000 years, know the mammoth well. Before the Russian revolution (**1917**), the inhabitants of a village apparently fled from a herd of mammoths which destroyed everything in its way. In **1918**, a Russian hunter saw enormous oval footprints, 60 to 70 cm long by 50 cm wide. He followed the footprints, entered the forest where he saw that the branches were broken up to a height of 3 meters. After

several days, he saw two mammoths in a clearing. They were dark brown, had white curved tusks and long hair that floated about behind them. This happened between the rivers Lena and Amur. In **1922**, the Eskimos of Siberia (the Evenks) saw a mammoth at the edge of the Arctic Ocean. In **1944**, several pilots flying from Alaska to Moscow saw a herd of mammoths walking in single file in the snow. In **1952**, the Soviets reported that living mammoths had been seen. In **1956**, a schoolmistress in a small village near Taz was picking mushrooms. She was approached to within 10 meters by a mammoth. In **1962**, a Yakut hunter

discovered large tracks in northern Yakutia. Same report ten years later. In **1989**, a hunter states having seen two groups of three mammoths. Finally, in May **1998**, a group of gold-diggers observed a herd of mammoths in Yakutia, near a tributary of the Indigirka.

Legends : in all of Siberia, there are legends referring to the mammoth, always presented, however, as a subterranean animal, digging out galleries with its enormous teeth. These legends no doubt stem from the discovery of frozen mammoths which seem to come out of the earth.

An animal of the forest : skins of frozen mammoths show the absence of sebaceous glands and sweat glands which could make their wool waterproof. Bernard Heuvelmans had the idea that, unable to protect themselves from rain and snow, they could not live in icy plains. They were therefore forest animals. Plants found in the stomachs of frozen mammoths confirm this : they are typical of the taïga (northern forest).

Not so large : the Siberian mammoth is smaller than the Asian elephant, which is 3 meters high at the withers (4 meters for the African elephant).

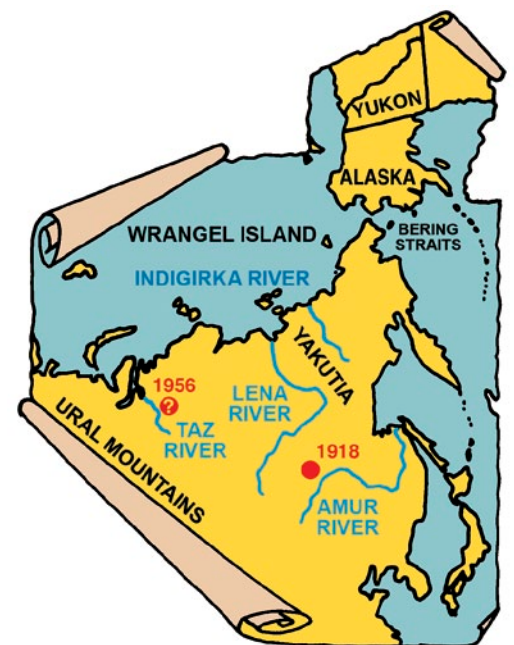
Close to the Asian elephant : serological reactions (from the blood of frozen mammoths) show that the Siberian mammoth, or woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*), is closely related to the Asian elephant.

Dwarf mammoths : on Wrangel Island, near the Bering Straits, small mammoths lived until an epoch more recent than the estimated disappearance of the mammoth, which goes

back 10 000 years. In fact, carbon-14 datings estimate the age of the fossils at 3 700 to 4 000 years old. These small mammoths only measured 1.80 m at the withers.

The taïga, the presumed environment of the mammoths, is a coniferous forest adapted to the cold, mixed with leafy trees (birches, poplars, willows), and sprinkled with marshes.

Survival ? The Siberian taïga is as large as three-quarters of the United States. How could a hairy elephant which is smaller than an Asian elephant not be hidden there ? There are also reports from Alaska and the Canadian state of Yukon.



The mammoth hides in the northern forests which cover nearly all this map and exist here and there by the Bering Straits.

The dwarf bear of Nepal



A dwarf collared bear : American biologists were able to observe in Nepal, in 1983, a smaller version of the collared bear.

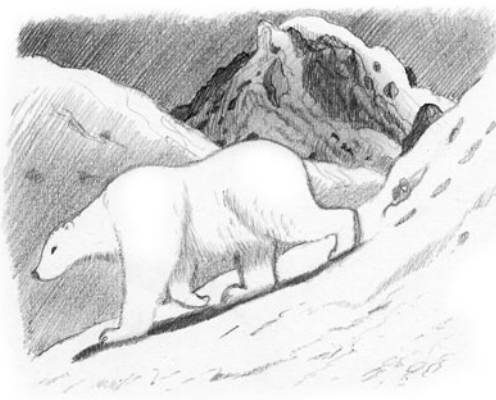
Skulls and a specimen in a zoo : several skulls of a small bear have been found. In the zoo of Kathmandu, a small collared bear, which is considered to be still young, would perhaps be an example of this new species.

Arboreal : this little bear, which would not weigh more than 70 kg as opposed to 110 to 150 kg for a male collared bear, is light enough to be arboreal, explaining why it was unseen up till now.



The dwarf bear was observed in Nepal in 1983. White bears have been seen in Tibet.

The white bear of Tibet



Polar bears in the mountains : in Tibet, several sightings of white bears have been reported by the Chinese press agency, coming from the most remote corners of the Himalayas.

Hypotheses : it seems improbable that real polar bears could have come down as far as the Himalayas. It could be a question of albino brown bears or of a white mutation other than albinism. In fact, on Swindle Island, not far from Vancouver, in British Columbia, in Canada, black bears regularly produce entirely white bears which are not albinos. More exactly, females produce a white bear every ten generations, called the **kermode bear**. One can imagine in the mountains a similar phenomenon, favoured by the advantage given by white fur to animals hunting in the snow. The kermode bears have the reputation of being gentle and friendly with men. It is to be hoped that the same is true of the white bear of Tibet.

The giant bear of Kamchatka or *irkuiem*



A giant skin : in 1920, a Swedish zoologist discovered, in Kamchatka, a bearskin which was far bigger than those of the largest bears in the region. The hairs, which were black, were exceptionally short.

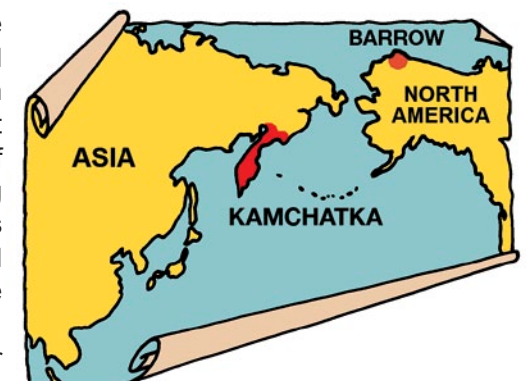
37 cm long bear tracks were also found.

Bears with trousers : in the 1980s, a hunter living close to the Bering Straits obtained from the indigenous people the description of a strange bear : the forepaws are much longer than the hind paws. A pocket of fat which hangs down between the hind paws can stretch out down to the ground, looking like a pair of trousers which have fallen down, giving rise to its name of *irkuiem*, which means «fallen trousers ». These bears would have decreased in numbers since the invention of the gun.

Prehistoric bear ? a giant bear did exist in Russia and North America : *Arctodus simus*. It measured 1.80 m

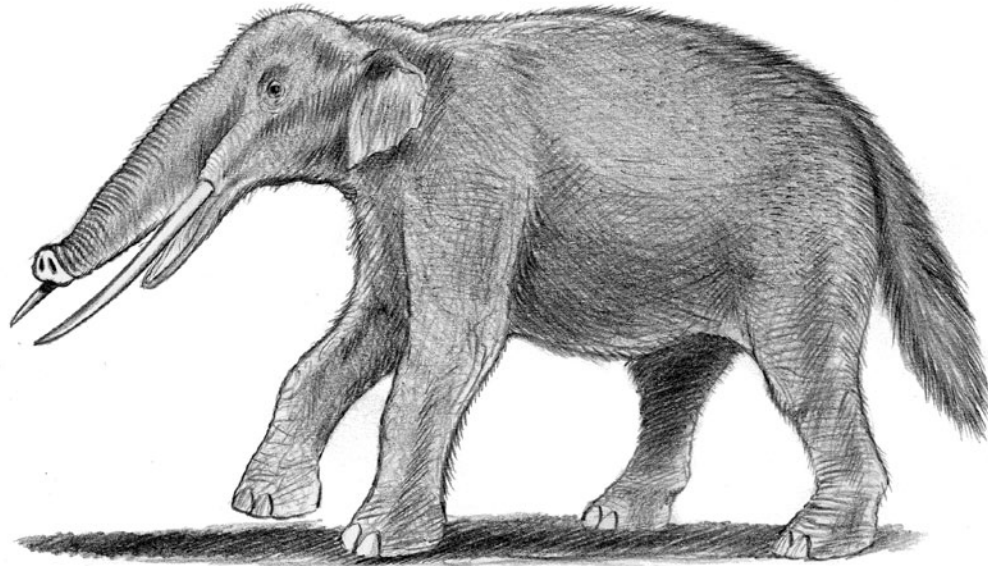
at the shoulder. However, it does not correspond with the description given by the indigenous people (difference in size between the paws). It is not known today whether or not any of these mysterious beasts remain.

N.B. a giant white bear has been mentioned at Barrow, at the northernmost point of Alaska : the **qoqogak**.



Kamchatka is north-east of Siberia.

The *sukotyro*



A description of 1703 : Johannes Nieuhoff reports in his travel book the description of an animal on the island of Java which could resemble an elephant. The natives talk of the size of a large ox, of a pig-like snout, large, or long and rough, ears like those of an elephant, and a thick, bushy tail. The eyes are placed perpendicularly in the head, and from near them two horns or tusks, slimmer than those of an elephant, protrude. It is vegetarian.

Tusks found in a London shop : it is a question of a pair of tusks attributed to this animal, although it is not known from what country they come. They are represented in the Memoirs of the Academy of Science of 1727. They are described as straight, very long, curving eventually and ending up in a point.

Trunk or no trunk ? Those who describe this animal know the elephant because they compare its tusks with

those of the latter. They talk of a pig's snout but not of a trunk. If the animal did not have a trunk, its long tusks would prevent it from reaching its food. One can therefore imagine a fairly short trunk.

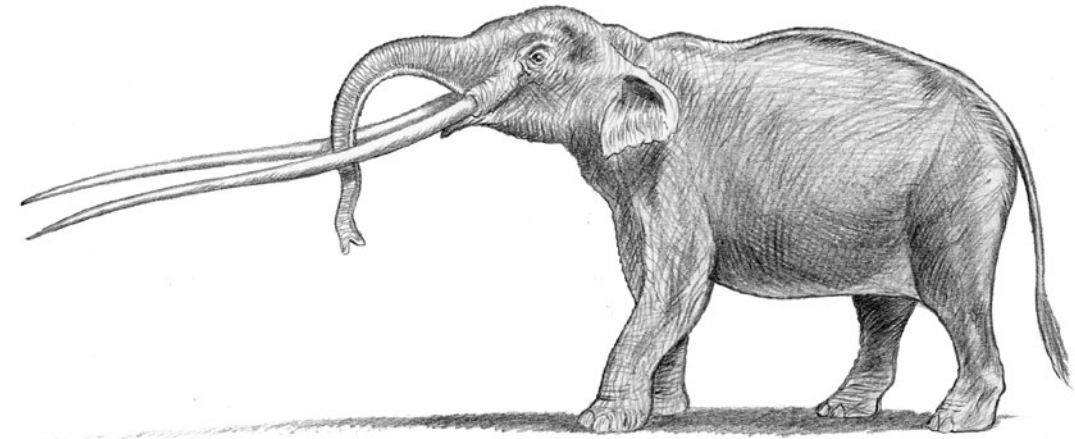
A stegodon ? This prehistoric Asian elephant became extinct in the Pleistocene epoch (3 mya to 10 000 years ago). It possessed very long, quite straight, tusks. A small population of stegodons survived on the little island of Flores (situated not far from Java and made famous by the discovery of fossils of small-sized prehistoric men who lived fairly recently) up till 12 000 years ago. Inbreeding among Asian elephants in Nepal produced elephants very close to the stegodon.

Elephants in Java in the past : there used to be, in this island, pygmy elephants, which disappeared not long after the arrival of the Europeans. Now,

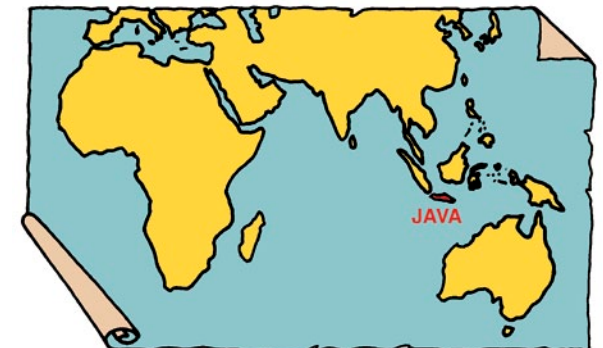
such elephants are found in the north of Borneo, no taller than 2.50 m at the withers, which are the smallest elephants in the world. There is a belief that they were imported from Java by a certain sultan of Sulu, who obtained land in the north of Borneo around 1700. It is a sub-species of Asian elephant, in the same way as the Sumatran elephant, also very small. But this animal is too small to correspond with the *sukotyro*. There is, furthermore, a long tail which is not thick and bushy.

A mystery : the identity and the survival of the *sukotyro* remain very pro-

blematic. It could be a stegodon or another unknown prehistoric species. The numerous islands of this region could have produced just as many endemic species. To our knowledge, it has not been heard of since 1703 ... But Java's forests are deep ...

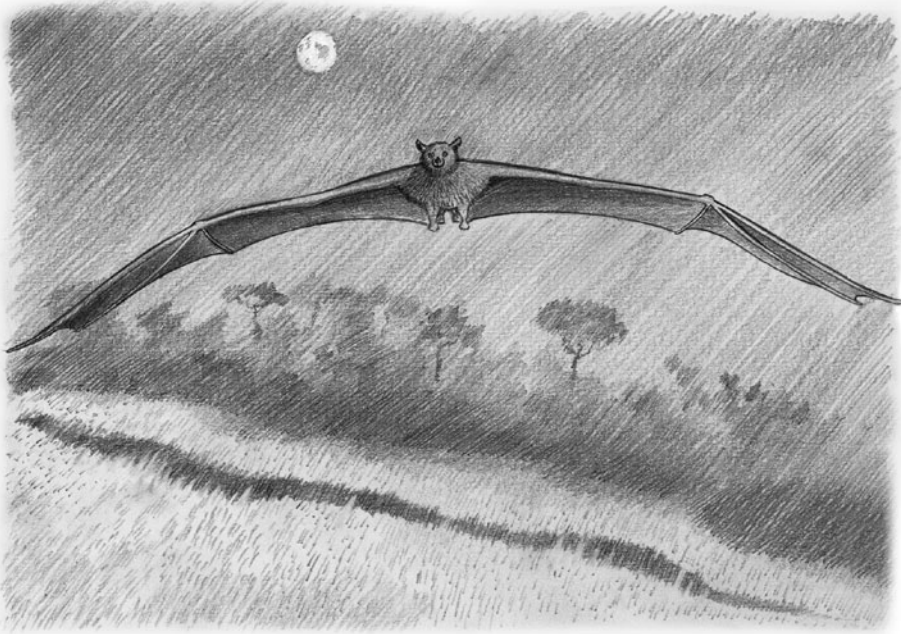


The stegodon, prehistoric Asian elephant.



The *sukotyro* was reported in Java in 1703.

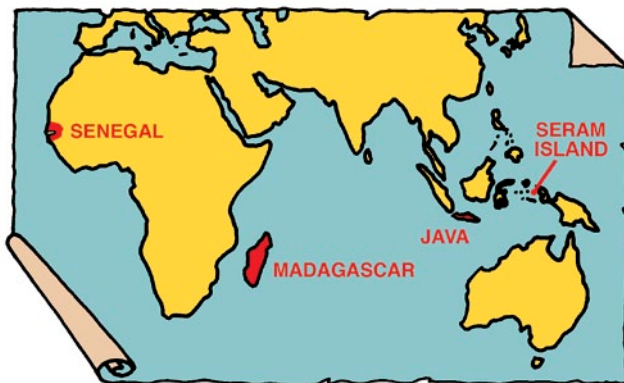
Giant bats



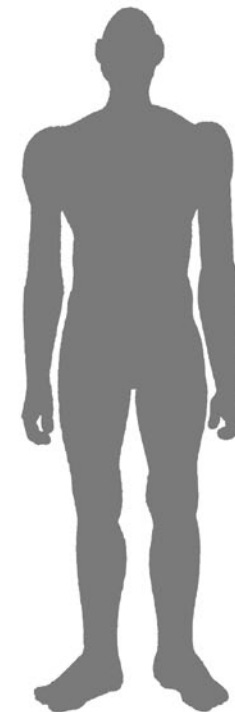
The official ones : the largest bat in the world is the Malaysian or large flying fox (*Pteropus vampyrus*). Its wingspan reaches 1.70 m. It glides about in south-east Asia. In Africa, the monstrous hammer-headed bat (*Hypsignathus monstrosus*) lives in swampy tropical rainforest and comes up as far as the south of Senegal. Its wingspan reaches 1 meter. In Madagascar, the Malagasy flying fox (*Eidolon dupreanum*) also has a wingspan of up to one meter.

The unofficial ones : in Madagascar, they talk about the **fangalabolo**, a word meaning a caterpillar and a giant bat dropping onto walkers to pull out their hair and lacerate their faces. No size indicated. In Senegal, the **guiafairo**, which means

« fear of what flies at night » would also be a giant bat (size not specified). The **orang-bati** of Indonesia, hidden in the heart of a volcano in Seram Island, would carry off children. Finally, in Java, the **ahool**, a bat with a wingspan of **3.60 m** is reported, i.e. more than twice the size of the largest official bat.



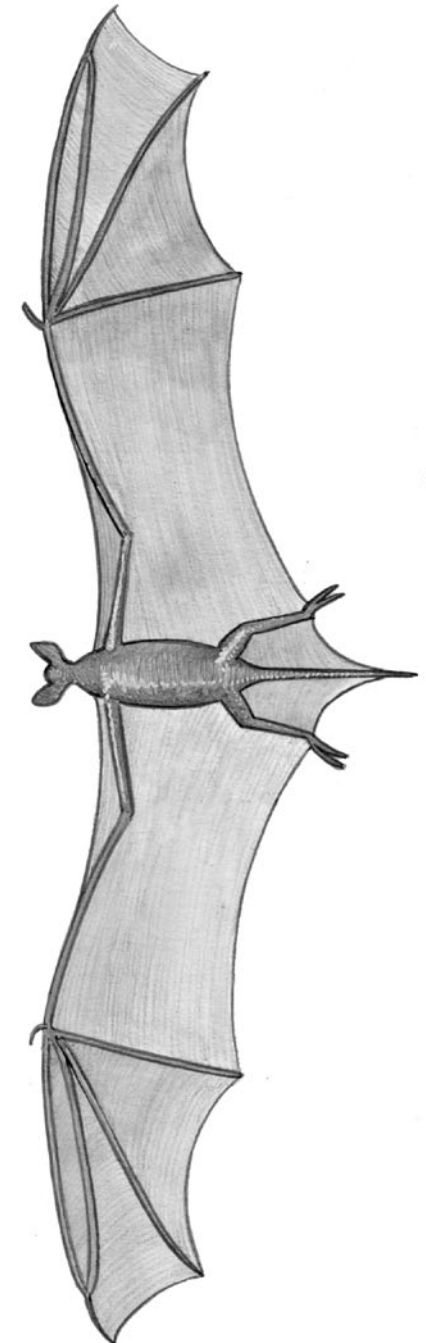
The four places accommodating giant bats.



Man
1.80 m



Malaysian flying fox
(known species)
1.70 m



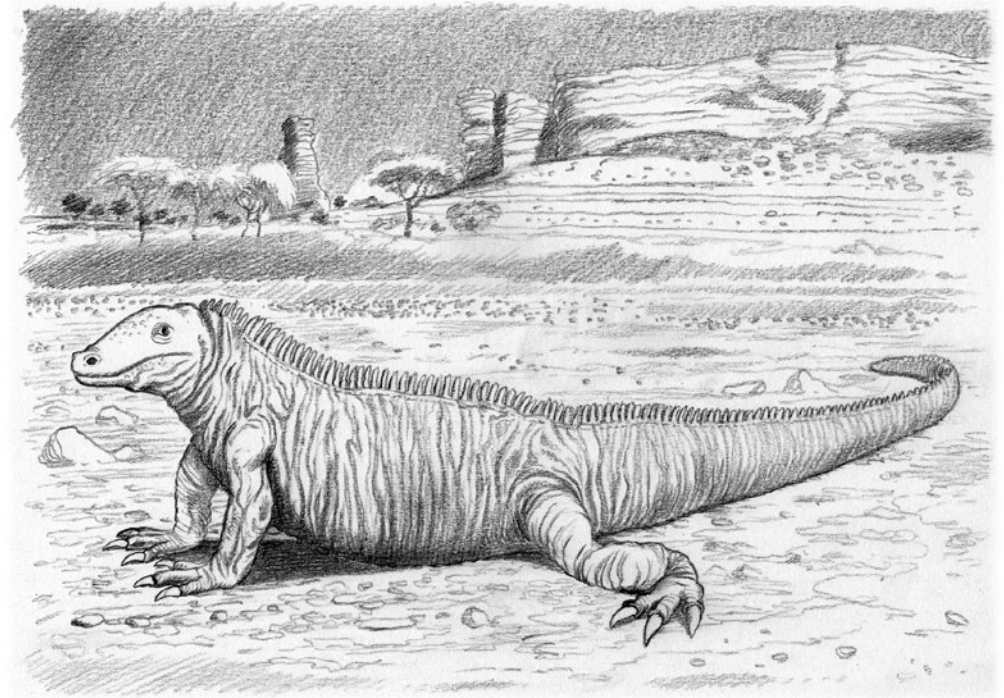
Ahool of Java
(unknown species)
3.60 m

4- Reptiles except snakes

Everyone has heard about the disappearance of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago, probably due to the impact of a meteorite. Now, crocodiles are not very different from dinosaurs and are still with us. From there it is only a step to wonder whether a few discreet species of dinosaur (they were not all giants) could have survived in impenetrable regions, a step taken by cryptozoology on the basis of African or Australian observations... The heaviest known reptiles are the leather-back turtle which weighs 680 kilos and the marine crocodile which could reach a tonne. In this chapter, we shall not discuss marine reptiles, which will come in the chapter dedicated to marine cryptids.



The three-toed lizard

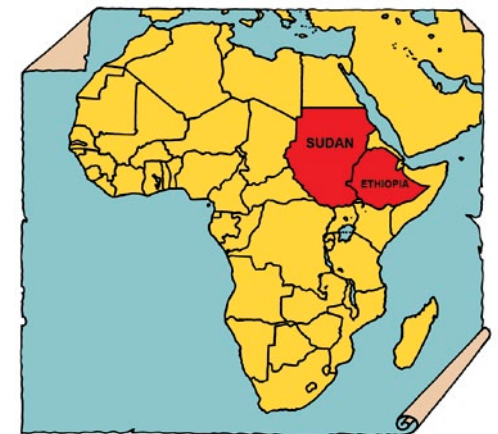


Unique witness : the only observation is that of a big-game hunter in Africa, reported in a book which appeared in 1952.

Crest : the animal, from 3 m to 3.60 m long, is a dirty gray, has a saurian head and a very loose skin. A crest of small barbs runs along its back and tail. It waddles. American iguanas have such a crest, as do terrestrial and arboreal lizards, in Indonesia and in Australia.

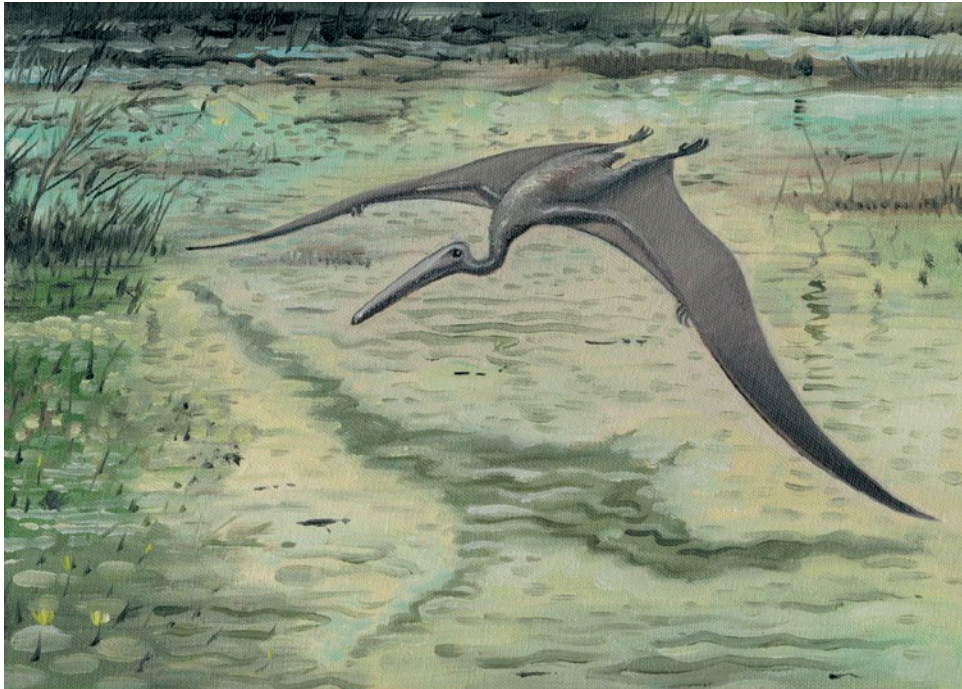
Three-toed tracks : the feet have large claws and its prints show three toes. However, the animal slides along on its belly and the witness admits that the tracks of its feet were blurred as a result. It so happens that no lizard possesses three toes on its paws, except running bipedal dinosaurs.

To be reviewed ... The creature, observed at the frontier between Sudan and Ethiopia, deserves to be found again.



The three-toed lizard was observed at the frontier between Sudan and Ethiopia.

Flying reptiles



An incredible survival : in the swamps of Africa, North America and in Oceania, the indigenous population describe a lizard adorned with wings of skin, without feathers, and with a beak armed with teeth (named the **kongamato** in Africa).

row heads like dogs with a long muzzle, numerous teeth like needles and a long narrow tail. Their wingspan was about 1 m and their length 1.35 m. Their flight was slow and silent ». This description reminds one of certain tailed pterosaurs.



In Namibia, the *kongamato* would reach 9 meters



In Zambia and in Oceania, long-tailed reptile is talked about.



The *kongamato* would nest in cliffs.

A variable wingspan : from 1.20 m to 2.15 m, up to 9 m in Namibia.

With or without tail : a tail is mentioned in New Guinea and in Zambia, where an engineer saw, in 1956, « two birds looking incredibly prehistoric, with nar-

Bright red ? In Zambia, it would be blood-red. This unlikely color is perhaps just an expression of the fear that the animal inspires.

An aggressive animal : it nose-dives on men, who, in a panic, overturn

their pirogue. These observations have been collected since the beginning of the 20th century by several explorers.



Kongamato means « he who makes pirogues overturn ».

A cryptozoologist attacked : in 1932, in Cameroon, Ivan Sanderson was attacked by a nose-dive from a « bat » the size of an eagle (2 m wingspan), which was black and armed with numerous spaced teeth. The natives told him about the **oliatiaou**, of which they are very afraid. The largest African bats have a wingspan of 1.20 m and none is black.

A lover of fish : its presence in swamps and mountains would indicate that it feeds on fish and nests in cliffs. An old Zambian native saw one coming out of the water and flying away.

Rare traces : in his 1928 book, a game-keeper talks of tracks on the ground of a bipedal animal with a heavy tail, and of observations of a flying, nocturnal animal coming down from Mount Kenya.

American observations : in Texas and California, rare witnesses talk of pterosaurs with a wingspan reaching 2 m, 4.50 m or 6 m, observed between the 1960s and the 1980s. In 1961, a businessman, piloting his aeroplane above the state of New York, claims to have had a close brush with a large pterosaur.

The *ropen* of New Guinea : on the island of Umboi, numerous witnesses describe a large long-tailed pterosaur, a nocturnal fisher, which stands upright on tree-trunks (not hanging upside down like bats). It would also inhabit the island of Manus.



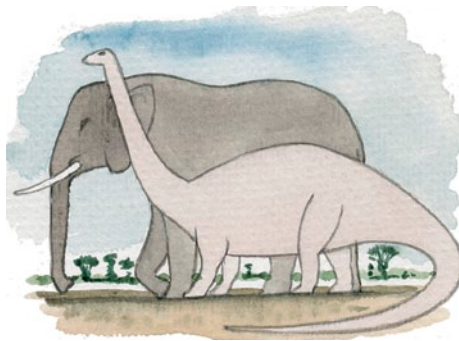
Distribution of flying reptiles. New Guinea is situated to the north of Australia.

The *mokélé-m'bembé*



The natives tell : in the west of central Africa, the rivers are bordered by thousands of square kilometers of impenetrable swamp. The tribes living at the edge of these flooded forests almost all speak of a strange animal called, in the north of Gabon, *mokele-mbembe*, « the one that stops the flow of the rivers ». Interrogated from the 18th century by explorers, they describe an enormous animal, as large as an elephant, or at least a hippopotamus, with a long flexible neck and a snake's head, the whole completed by a long and powerful tail. Its skin is a grayish-brown color. Some talk of a small horn at the end of the nose, of a small jagged dorsal crest and protuberances on the skin.

A living dinosaur ? This description is astonishingly reminiscent of a small brontosaurus (8 to 10 meters). The indigenous people recognize the *mokele-mbembe* when they are shown a drawing of a brontosaurus.



Presumed size of the *mokele-m'bembe* compared with an elephant.

A vegetarian and aquatic animal : hidden by day in the rivers, particularly in submerged caves, it would only go out in the evening and at night to go and eat the fruit, like an apple, of a creeper.

An airport built for it : roughly ten expeditions were sent out into the country to find the living fossil. The Americans even built an airport in the Congo to seek it out. The expeditions



The *mokele-mbembe* is vegetarian.

brought back local observations, some blurred photos and a footprint of 25 cm diameter, which could also belong to an unknown aquatic rhinoceros. Nowadays, Michel Ballot continues the search.

It has a bad temper : although vegetarian, the animal cannot stand hippopotami, which it kills without eating them. It is the absence of hippopotami in certain regions which makes it possible to suppose the presence of a mysterious animal like the *mokele-mbembe*, or a saber-toothed feline. Not liking men, it passes by to upturn pirogues and kill their occupants.

Traces in the vegetation : after the passage of the animal, witnesses have seen a track of flattened reeds as wide as a wagon. The animal would slip into the river on its belly.

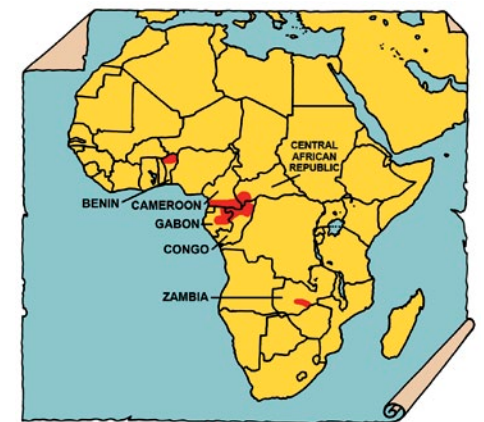
A territory unchanged for millions of years : glaciations did not reach this territory of Africa, and small dinosaurs could have survived till our times.

There is also talk in the same regions of the *emela n'touka*, a similar animal, with a crocodile's tail.

Alternative hypotheses : if the *mokele-m'bembe* is not a dinosaur, it could be a long-necked monitor lizard, a mammal like a dinosaur, or a badly-observed turtle.

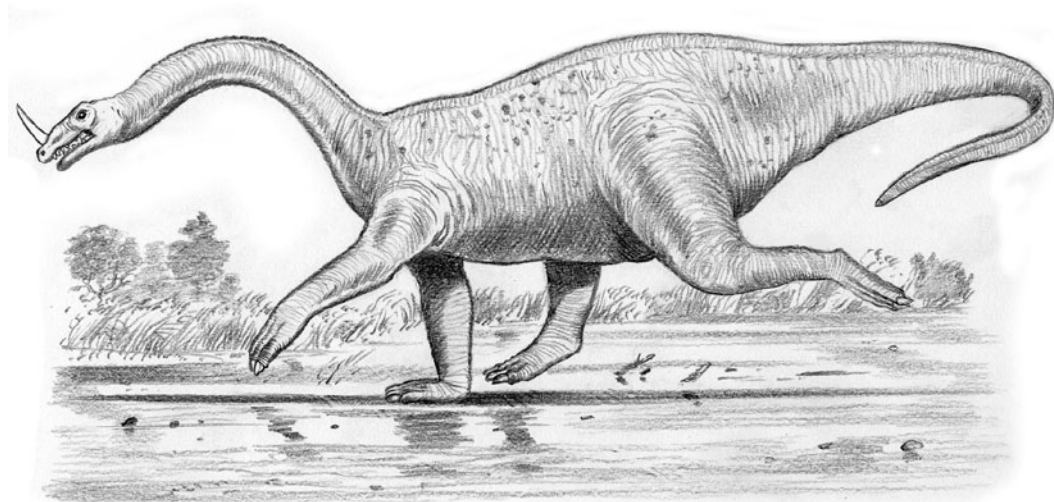


Weight sculpted in gold by the Ashanti people (XVIIth-XIXth century) of West Africa apparently representing a dinosaur.



Animals of the *mokele-m'bembe* type have been seen in at least three regions of Africa.

The *chipekwé*



White horn : we are now back in the north of Zambia where the indigenous people talk of the *chipekwe*, the imprecise description of which makes one think of the *mokele-m'bembe* with a rhinoceros horn in very smooth « ivory ».

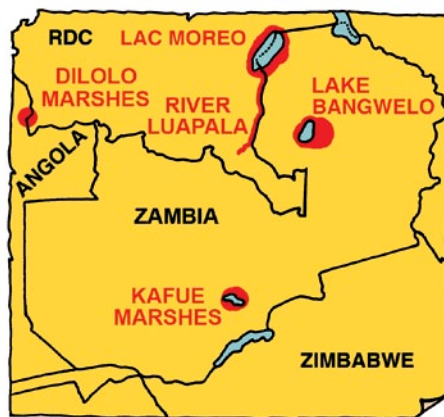
A saber-toothed feline ? Horn not possibly being made of ivory, Bernard Heuvelmans thinks that the allusion to ivory could come from a confused image of a saber-toothed feline.

Footprints : a retired magistrate found footprints reminiscent of those of a hippopotamus but considerably larger : 90 x 73 cm ! That is the size of the footprints of a brontosaurus.

A rapid one : its hind paws would be longer than the front ones, and it would be as rapid on land as in the water. This speed could differentiate it from the *mokele-m'bembe*.

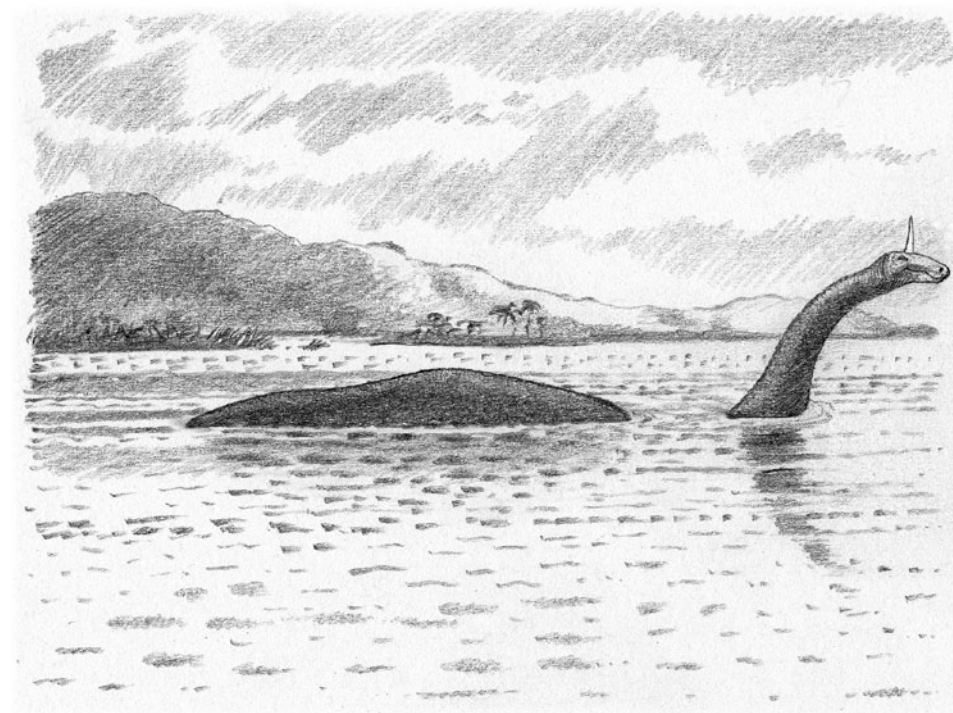
Killer of hippopotami : it hunts them in the water, pursues them on land and kills them. It is not said that it eats them.

These events were reported at the beginning of the 20th century. Dinosaurs with a nasal horn existed. A similar animal is described in Madagascar (see the *railalomena*, following page).



The *chipekwe* is found in the north of Zambia, in Lake Bangwelo, Lake Moreo, the river Luapula, the marshes of Kafue and Dilolo.

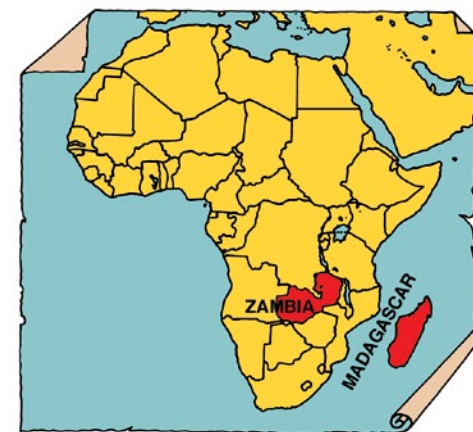
The *railalomena*



Indigenous rumours: they talk of an animal whose name means « ancestor of the hippopotamus ». It would live in marshes and have a horn in the middle of its forehead.

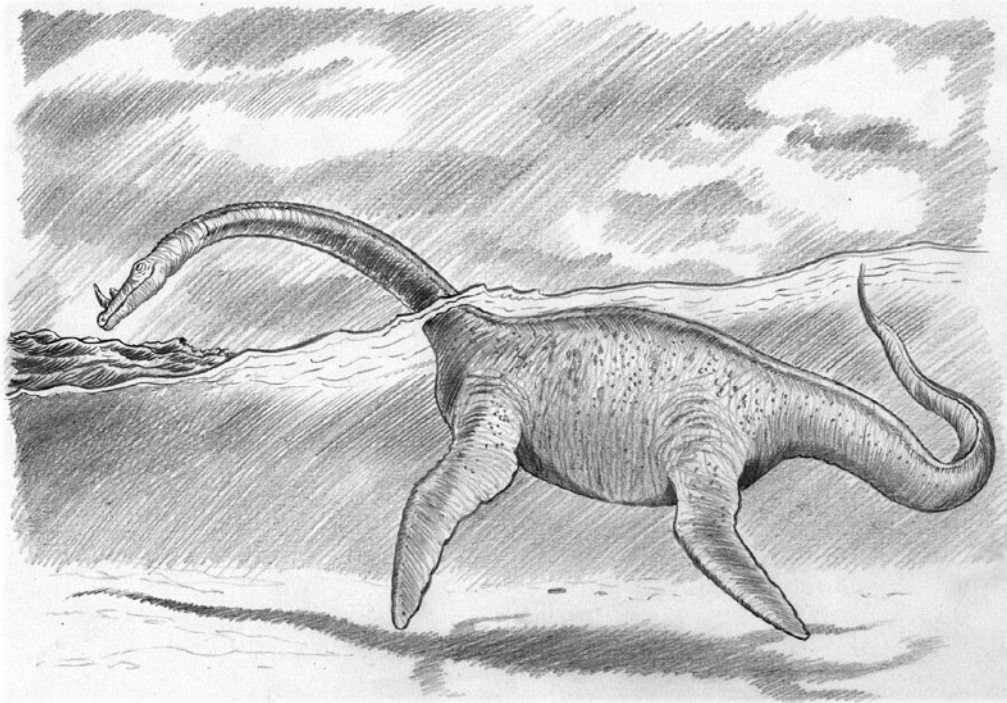
African legend ? This rumour came perhaps from Africa. In fact, the *railalomena* reminds one of the *chipekwe* of Zambia.

Dried marshes : if the rumour is really local, the animal could have disappeared along with the drying-out of the marshes, which started in the XVIth century. However, rivers remain in Madagascar, and, knowing that the African *mokele-m'bembe* hides in them, we can still hope to see our *railalomena* one day.



The *railalomena* of Madagascar is reminiscent of the Zambian *chipekwe*.

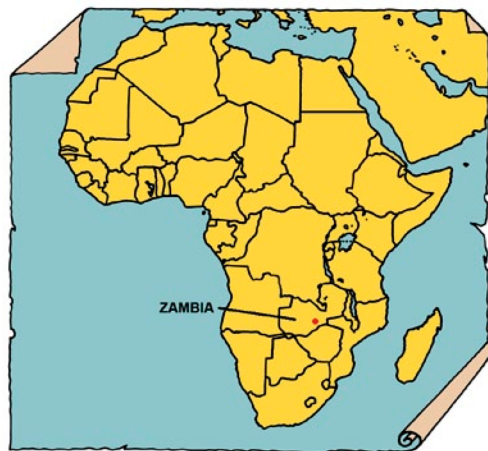
The monster of Kafue



About 1900, the indigenous population in the Kafue valley talked of a large-sized animal with a crocodile's head, a rhinoceros's horns, a python's neck, the body of a hippopotamus and flippers.

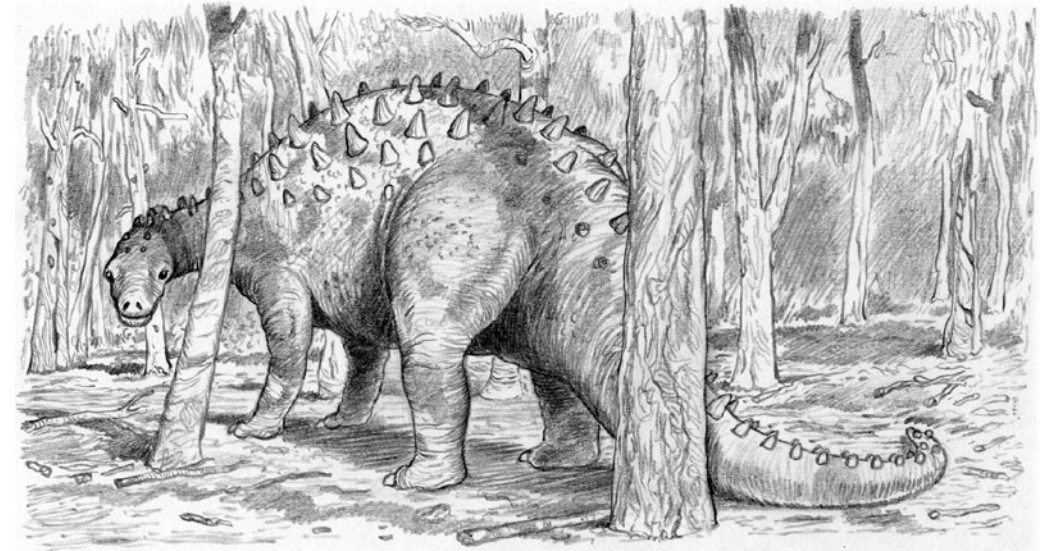
With a few variations, we find the description of the *mokele-m'bembe* again. The latter is, in fact, often described with a horn on its head, like the chipekwe. These three animals would perhaps be one and the same.

The main difference would be the putative flippers.



The monster of Kafue is to be found in the valley of that name, upstream from the junction of the Kafue and Lunga rivers.

The spiny-backed reptile



In the impenetrable forests of Queensland in Australia and in the lake area of Embi in New Guinea, observations report a reptile with a back covered in tough spines, measuring no less than 12 meters long.

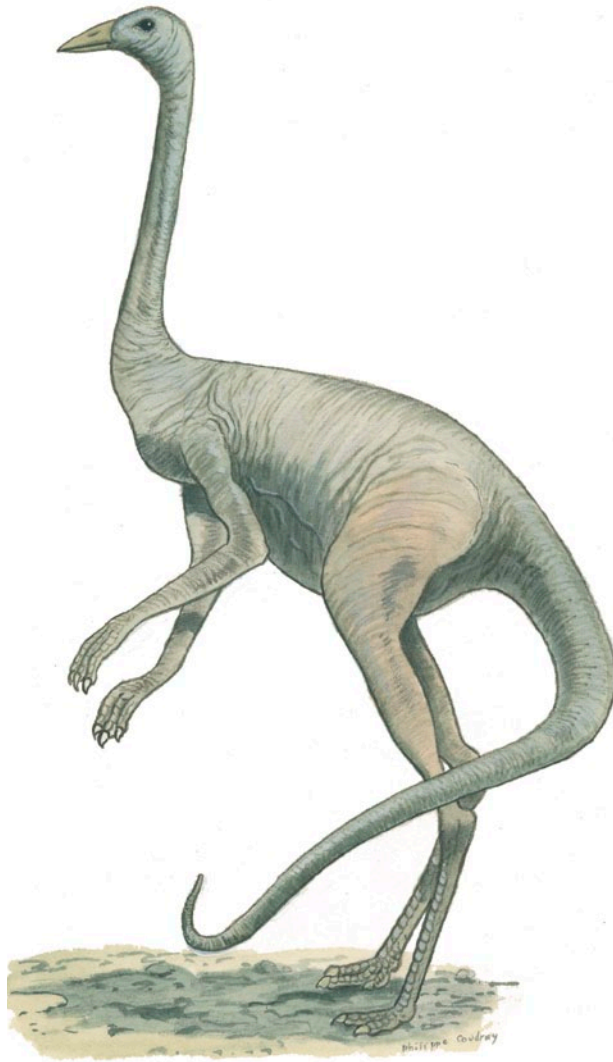
Dinosaurs like that existed : they are called « armed dinosaurs ». they walked on all fours, could not run very fast and defended themselves against predators thanks to their armour, but also by giving powerful strokes with their tails, often covered by long spikes. An animal best not approached from behind !

The presence of this animal around lakes would suggest an aquatic or semi-aquatic life.



The spiny-backed reptile has been reported in Lamington plateau in Australia and around the lakes of Embi (not localized) in New Guinea.

The *gauarge*



The Australian aborigenes describe a sort of lizard-ostrich, resembling a featherless, semi-aquatic emu. Is this a recent memory of an animal still alive, reminiscent of small carnivorous dinosaurs ? The *struthiomimus* was one of these small dinosaurs resembling featherless ostriches. It measured up to 3 m height and could weigh up to 300 kg. Dinosaurs of all sizes existed.

Some were no larger than a chicken. If such an animal could have existed in Australia, perhaps it still exists in neighbouring islands that remain wild. In any case, the places of observation or memory of the *gauarge* are not specified.

Footprints : it is no doubt difficult to distinguish between the footprints of an emu and those of this small lizard-ostrich, unless it does not have the same number of fingers (the emu has three, the ostrich two, the *struthiomimus* three ...). It must be realised that the emu does not detest water : it is even capable of swimming. It can thus be imagined that the *gauarge* could hide in water.

Giant monitor lizards



Official record 3 meters : the largest monitor lizard at present recognized is the Komodo dragon, which lives in small Indonesian islands, and is 3 meters long.

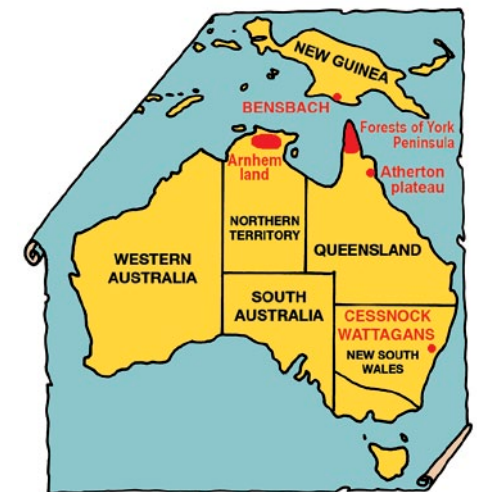
However, in New Guinea, witnesses are adamant. The Gould monitor lizard (*Varanus gouldii*) has sizes up to **3.50 m.** and *Varanus salvadorii*, or *papusaurus*, a size of **6 meters**, due to its long thin tail...

But this is not all, the cryptozoologist Rex Gilroy collected in Australia observations dating from 1975 concerning monitor lizards measuring between **7 and 9 meters** !

A survivor : in that case, we are dealing with a survivor of the Pleistocene epoch : the *megalania prisca*, which measured about 8 meters and was known to the first colonialists.

N.B. in newspapers of the end of the XIXth century, there are descriptions of

monitor lizards in the French **Pyrenees**, in the region between Lourdes and Argelès, near Mount Pibeste, measuring 2 meters or more, having no doubt since disappeared.



Localization of giant monitor lizards.

Aboriginal memories

Even if it concerns animals which have probably disappeared, we are going to evoke some Australian aboriginal memories that are particularly disturbing.

Tyrannosaurus ? near Lake Alexandrina, in the south of Australia, the aborigines speak of a large reptile which used to exist, moving about on its hind legs with strong claws. Its front legs were short, its pointed teeth formidable. A hunter named Wyungare would have killed one with a lance.

The kulta was a herbivorous animal similar to a sauropod dinosaur, living previously in the marshes of the north of the continent. It would have disappeared along with the drying-out of the marshes.

The wanambi resembled the *kulta*, with an extendable crest on its back.

The myndie ate leaves from trees the tops of which were cleared by its head, so long was its neck.

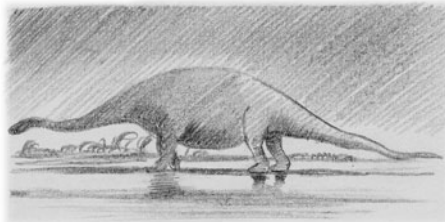
Australia, isolated from the rest of the world about fifty million years ago, developed an endemic fauna. The arrival of the first men 50 000 years ago, followed by the colonialists, occasioned a massacre of the local fauna on a scale difficult to imagine. It should not be forgotten



that numerous skulls close to those of *Homo erectus* have been found in Australia, dating from only 6 000 to 25 000 years ago.



The tyrannosaurus



The kulta

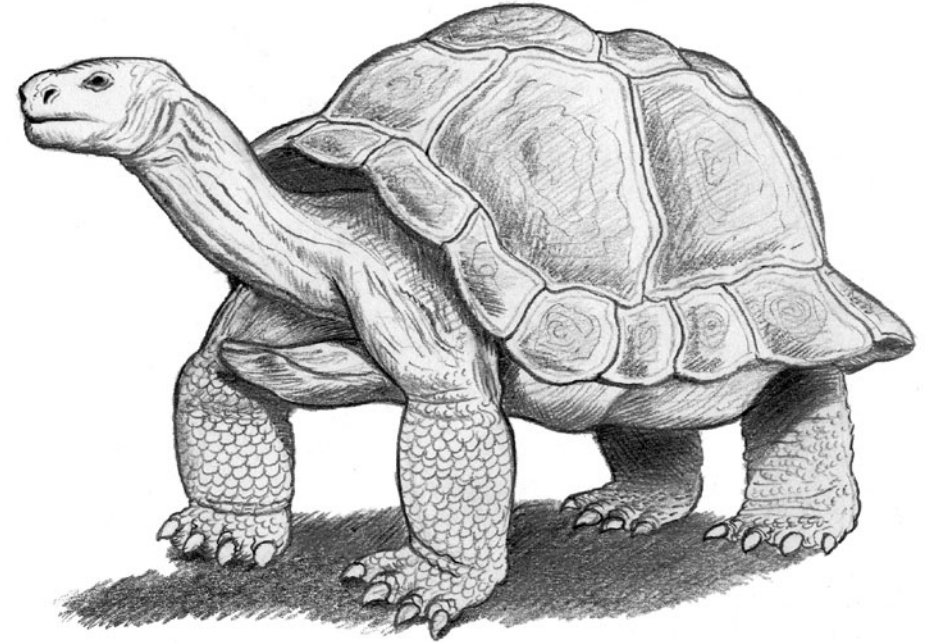


The wanambi



The myndie

The giant tortoise of Madagascar



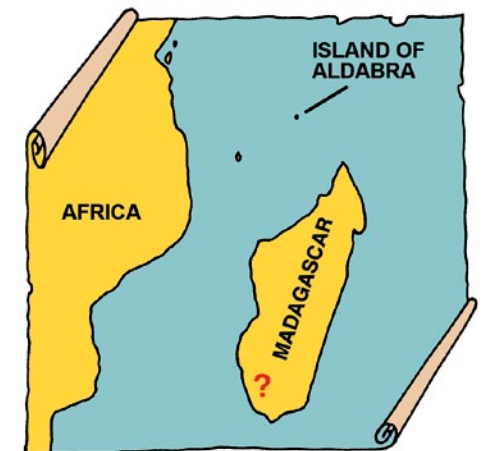
Tortoise of the past : Madagascar possessed a prehistoric giant tortoise which is supposed to be extinct, victim of the drought. This species exceeded a meter in length, weighed a tonne, and is called « Granddier's tortoise » (*Testudo granddieri*).

Present but hidden : all the same, there are rumours about its possible survival in the caves of the south-west of the island.

Other giant tortoises : the tortoise of the Seychelles (*Geochelone gigantea*), is also a giant but not so heavy (1.25 m long and 300 kg), used to live in the north of Madagascar, and was to be found in all the islands from the Seychelles to Madagascar. Nowadays it is only found on the island of Aldabra. A second giant tortoise exists in the world : the Galapagos tortoise (*Geochelone nigra*), measuring 1.40 m for 200 kg.

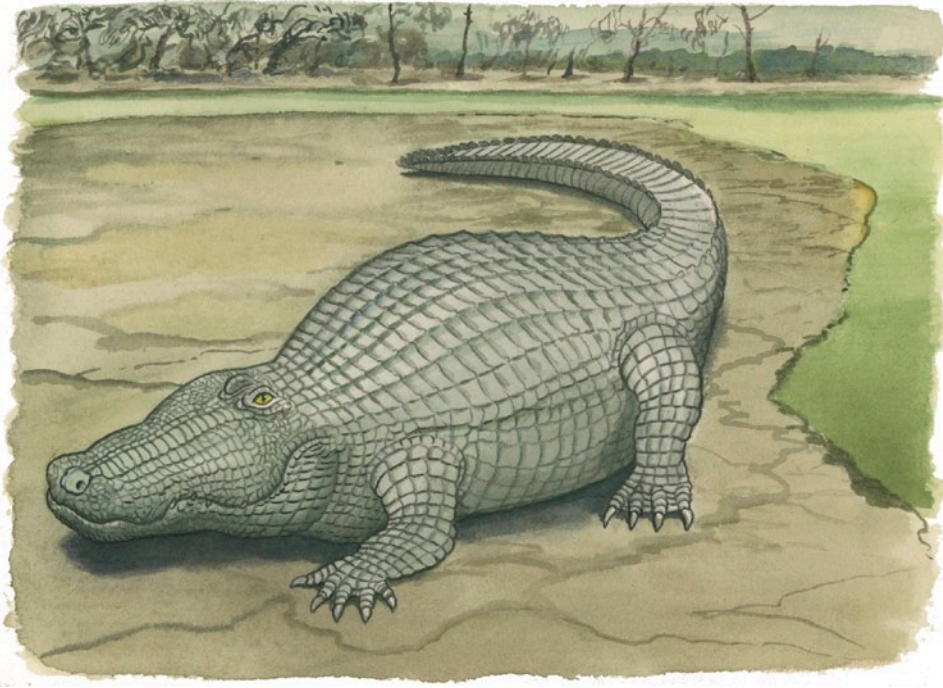
N.B. In Madagascar, specialists hesitate about the presence of one or two species of crocodile, one being the Nile

crocodile. Bernard Heuvelmans declared that he would not be surprised if the giant prehistoric crocodile *Crocodylus robustus* (80 cm skull) were to be found on the island.



The giant tortoise of Madagascar should be looked for in the caves of the south-west of the island. It is on the island of Aldabra that the last giant tortoises of the Seychelles remain today.

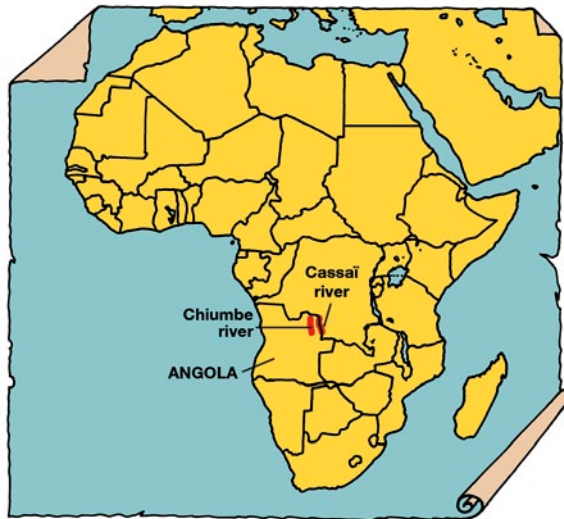
The *lipata*



A super-crocodile : this would be a large-sized crocodile, 4 to 6 meters long, whose mouth and neck would be larger than those of a normal crocodile. The eyes are close together and placed on the top of the head. It has, as is the case with all crocodiles, saw-toothed scales on the tail. Some claim that it is larger than a hippopotamus, which suggests considerable thickness.

Discreet and of the twilight : hidden in the water, it would only come out in the morning and the evening. Carnivorous and very voracious, it would swallow goats, pigs, oxen, but also men and crocodiles ...

Observations stem from the indigenous people of Typukungu, in north-east Angola.



The *lipata* is rife in the Chiumbe and Cassai rivers of north-east Angola.

The *kipumbubu*

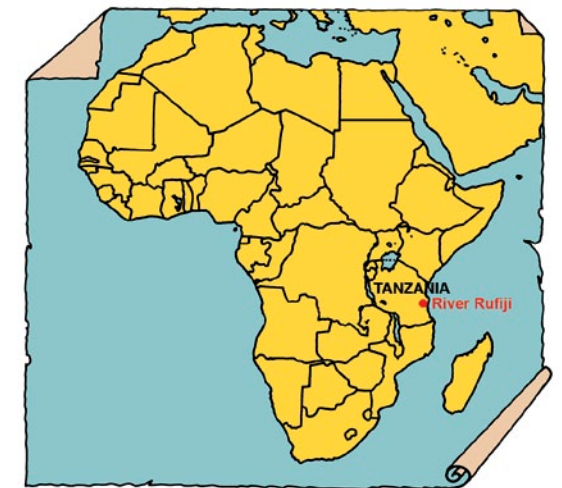


« Normal » **crocodiles** cannot catch a man in a pirogue. Furthermore, they never eat prey captured alive, which they prefer to leave to rot before swallowing them.

The ***kipumbubu***, although resembling a crocodile, seizes men in pirogues up to a meter in height and swallows them alive. It puts its paws on the pirogue, and tips overboard the helmsman, whom it swallows head first, crushing him between its teeth.

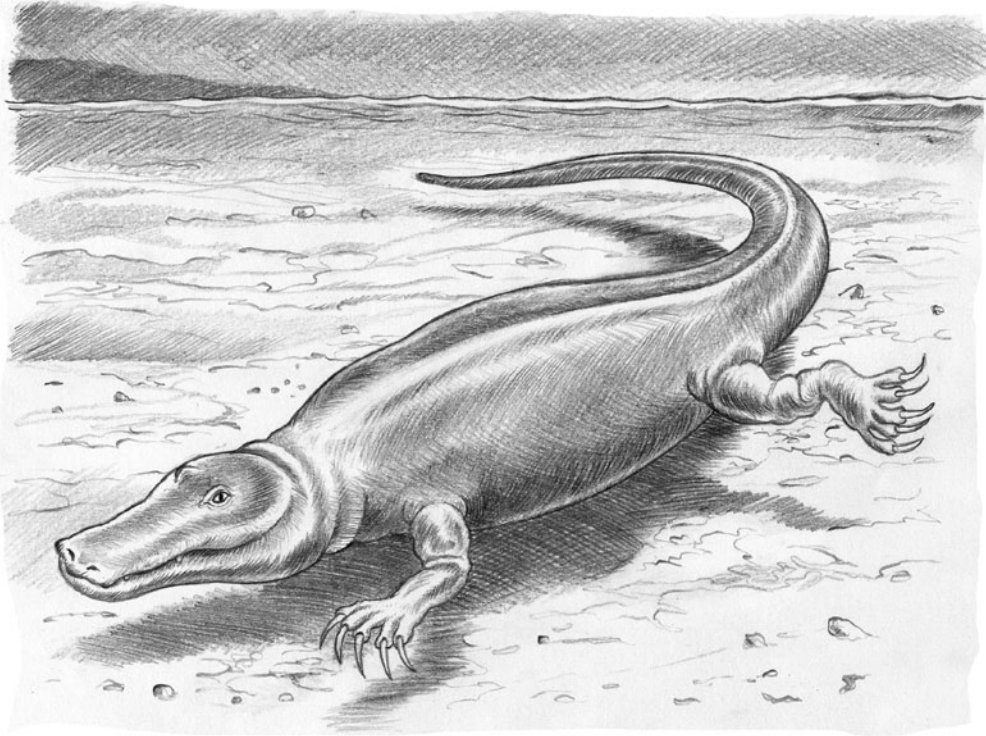
The observations come from indigenous people and date from before 1943, and concern the river Rufiji in Tanzania. The animal would hide at the bottom of the rivers and lakes and would only act at night.

Its body would be as large as « a trunk of a mango tree ».



The *kipumbubu* hides at the bottom of the river Rufiji in Tanzania.

The *nsanga*

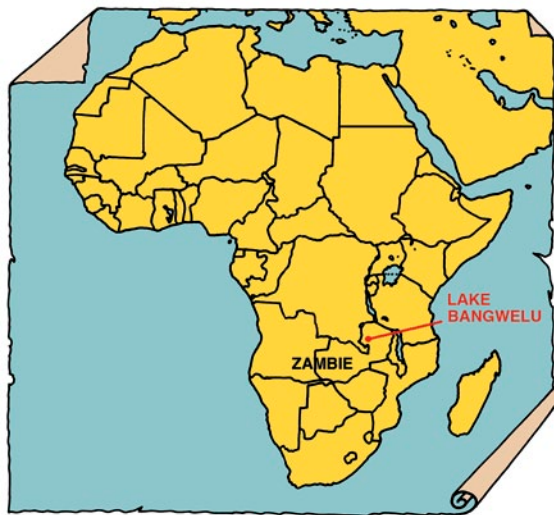


A scaleless crocodile : the *nsanga* resembles the crocodile but its skin is smooth. Its feet have curved claws.

Aquatic and carnivorous : although smaller than the hippopotamus, it feeds on its flesh. It is exclusively aquatic, never comes onto land and therefore leaves no trace on the ground.

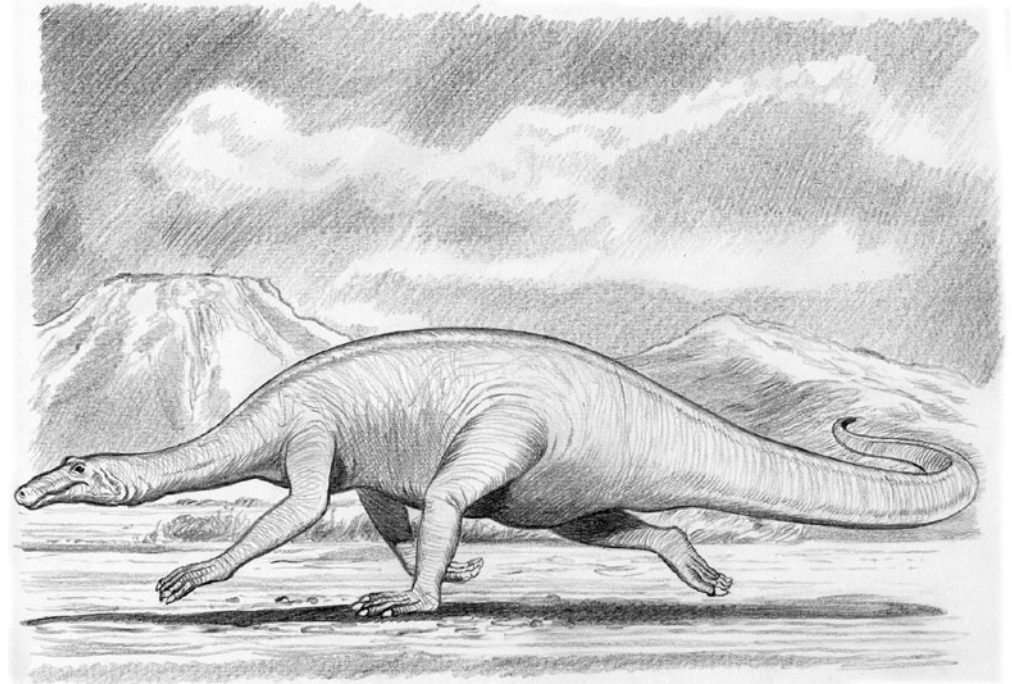
1907-1909 : these are the dates on which sightings have been reported.

It swims in the waters of Lake Bangwelu, in northern Zambia.



Does the *nsanga* still swim in Lake Bangwelu, in Zambia, where it was observed at the beginning of the XXth century ?

The beast of Karoo



A desert region : the Karoo, in South Africa, is a desert. Except during periods of violent storms, the region lacks water.

Sightings from a car : on the Loxton road, various motorists saw an unknown reptile, around the 1940s.

A thick tail : this reptile was distinguished by its size : about 3.65 m long, far exceeding the length of the Nile monitor lizard, present in the sector, which just reaches 2 meters. But, above all, it possesses a thick powerful tail reminiscent of that of prehistoric reptiles.

Hypotheses : if the animal is a survivor from the Jurassic period, we cannot exclude a giant monitor lizard, whose tail, without being as thick as that of the prehistoric reptiles, remains fairly voluminous and would have impressed the witnesses.



The beast of Karoo was observed near Loxton, in the Karoo desert, in South Africa, about 1946.

The worm with legs or *tatzelwurm*



A mysterious animal in Europe : if you wander around in certain forests, rocky slopes or caves of the Swiss and Austrian alps, you might meet a sausage with legs which will look at you amazed with its large liquid eyes. The worm with legs, or *tatzelwurm*, is 60 to 90 cm long, 8 cm thick, has no neck, possesses a short stubby tail, terminating suddenly in a point. The flattened head resembles that of a cat. It was mainly observed at the beginning of the XXth century.

Only two legs? Two-thirds of the witnesses having seen legs speak of only two front ones, the others speak of four legs, always ridiculously small, compared to those of a basset hound.

An agile and perhaps venomous sausage : in spite of its minute front legs, the animal has the reputation of leaping and of escaping as rapidly as a lizard. It also hisses like a snake. It is reputed to be venomous.



The worm with paws is capable of leaping.

Worm, reptile or batrachian ? Some witnesses observed a forked tongue. Others speak of fine scales, yet others of a smooth skin. The color is mainly whitish when the animal lives in a cave, brownish when it is observed in a forest, or gray like the color of rocks. The forked tongue and scales make one think irresistibly of a reptile.



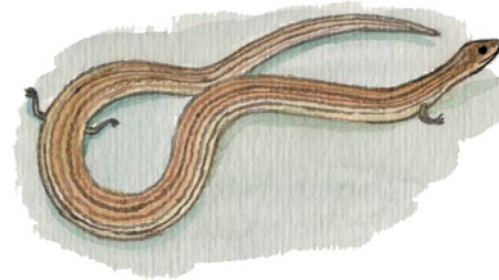
The bipes

An official worm with paws in America : although not well known, the bipes, or Mexican two-legged worm-lizard, a reptile looking like a pink worm, possessing only two minute burrowing legs, does exist. Three species live in Mexico and Baja California, no longer than 24 cm.



The heloderm

Other hypotheses : the heloderm, or Gila monster, also American, is a quite short, venomous lizard, whose size corresponds to that of the Austrian legged worm. However, it has four normal legs.



The seps

The seps, a species of which exists in France, resembles a snake with four minute legs.



The skink

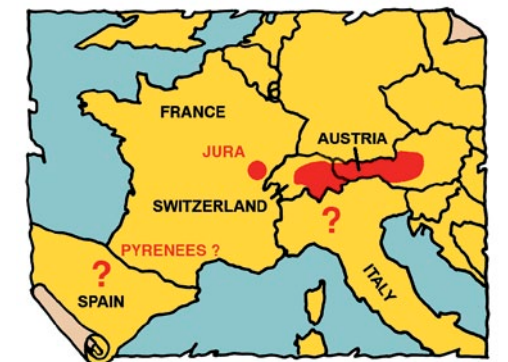
The skinks are thick and have a short, rounded, tail. However, they are not venomous.



The giant salamander

Finally, if one forgets about the forked tongue and the scales, one could think of a **salamander**, but the latter are fairly slow.

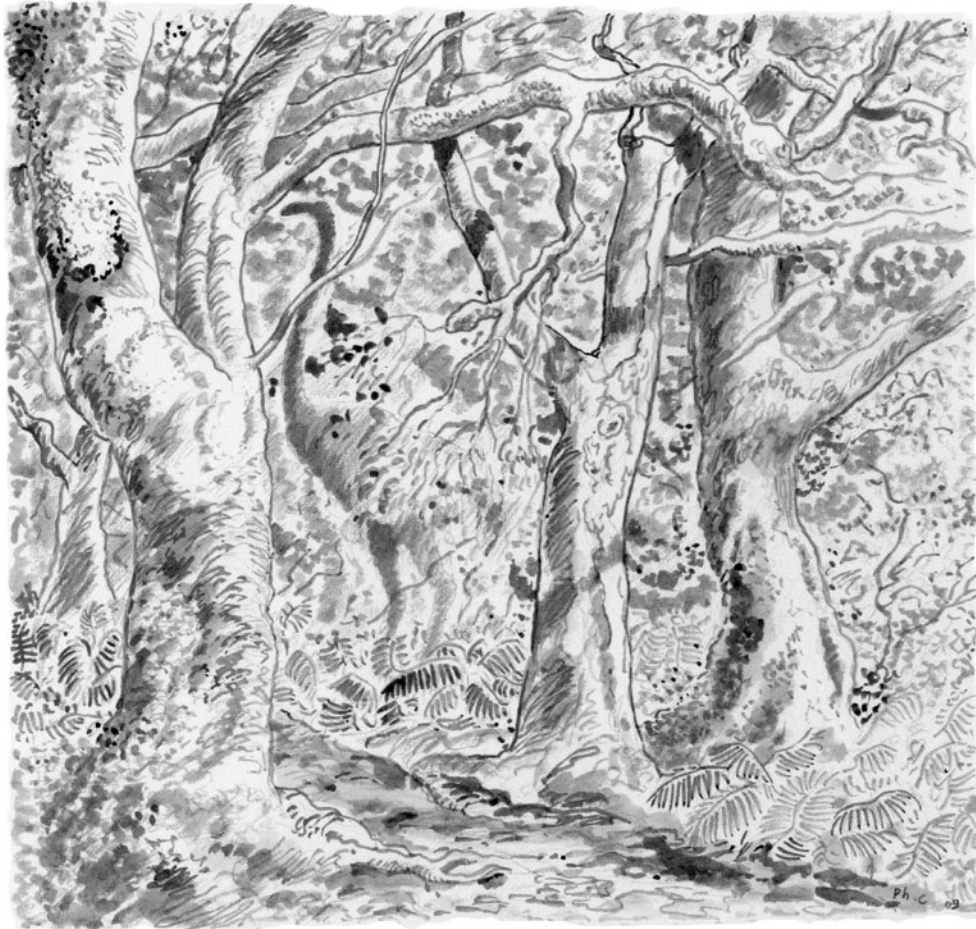
The legged worm no doubt lives in caves, out of the sunlight, and probably feeds on insects. Warning to cavers !



The legged worm has been reported in the Austrian alps, but also in Switzerland, in the Jura, in the Spanish and Italian mountains, and in the Pyrenees.

5- Birds

Birds are rare in cryptozoology for a simple reason : they are the most visible animals. Contrary to most mammals, birds are mainly diurnal. Their aerial way of moving about is not the most discreet, and, in many species, males also adore perching in the treetops in order to show themselves off to the females that they wish to court. That is why most unknown birds are terrestrial ones, which do not fly and, because of this, can easily hide in thickets, even in burrows, or in the water like the great auk. There remains the case of giant raptors which have everything to make them visible but remain perhaps more often unobserved because of the difficulty of estimating the size of a bird in flight.

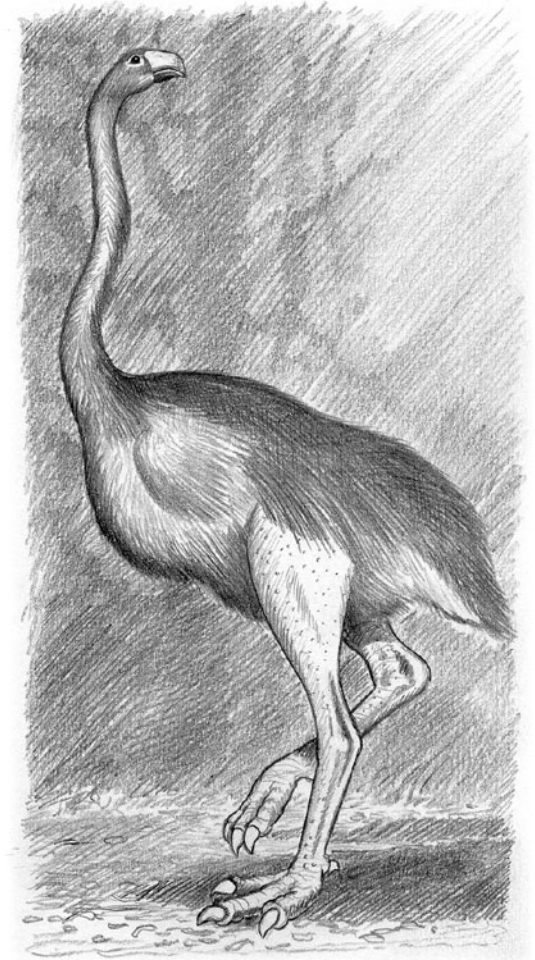


A moa is hiding in this forest. Would you be able to see it ?

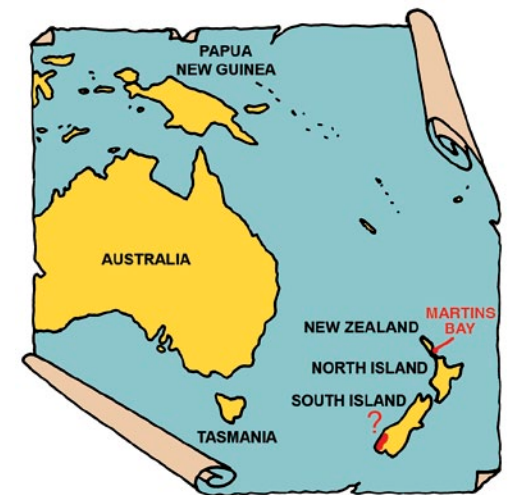
The moa

Last memories : the first mammals were only introduced into New Zealand in the XIIIth century by man (dogs and rats). In the absence of predators, many birds in these islands had lost their wings. This is the case of the moa, the largest of which reached a height of more than 3 meters for a weight of 320 kg. This bird with sturdy legs was no doubt vegetarian. According to the Maoris, it also fed on molluscs, crustaceans and fish. Remains have been found in caves, showing that it must have sought refuge there in bad weather. The last sighting of a moa by a native dates from 1771. American seal-hunters saw it at the beginning of the XIXth century. In 1861, the bird's footprints 35 cm long and 27 cm wide were found. In 1881, a 7-year-old girl observed a large unknown bird, in Martins Bay, in North Island.

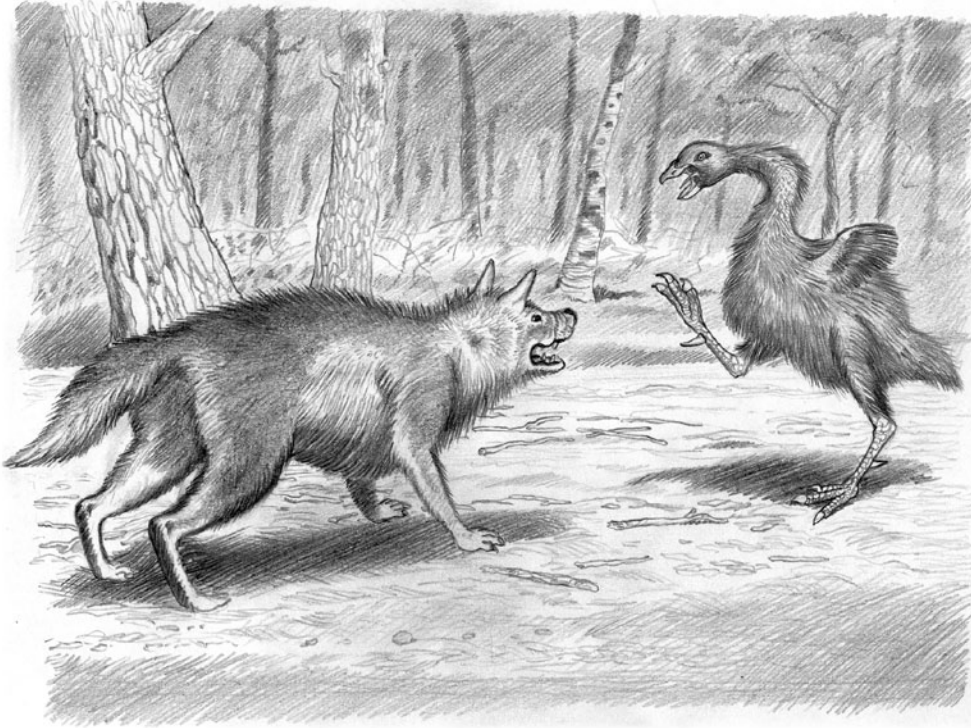
Has the moa disappeared ? It is believed that it could logically be hidden in the impenetrable forests of the south-west of South Island.



Above : reconstitution of a footprint.
Below : the moa could be hidden in the forests of the south-west of South Island of New Zealand. A witness apparently saw one in Martins Bay (North Island) in 1881.



The roa-roa



Sightings : according to witnesses, the *roa-roa* is a kiwi as large as a turkey, with powerful spurs on its feet that allow it to defend itself against a dog. It should be remembered that the kiwi is a bird with atrophied wings, the largest species of which measures 45 cm and lives on New Zealand's South Island. Sightings of the *roa-roa* come from a region named Paparua, now a national park, also in South Island. It would leave tracks in the snow. One was captured in 1868.

A small moa : kiwis being unable to have spurs on their feet, lacking a fourth toe, it could possibly be a small moa.



The roa-roa has been reported in the region of Paparua.

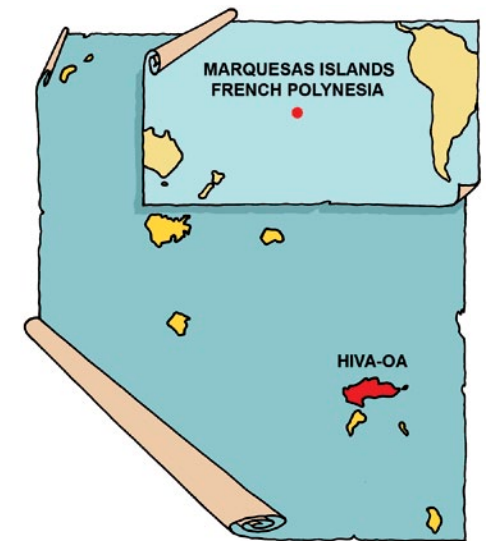
The koau



The *koau* is a kind of waterhen which resembles the *takahe* of New Zealand. The latter is well known but very rare. It is an apterous bird (with atrophied wings) with a thick red beak and red legs. Nowadays protected and introduced into other islands, in the absence of predators, it can proliferate again. The *koau* lives in Hiva-Oa, in the archipelago of the Marquesas Islands and remains to be discovered ...

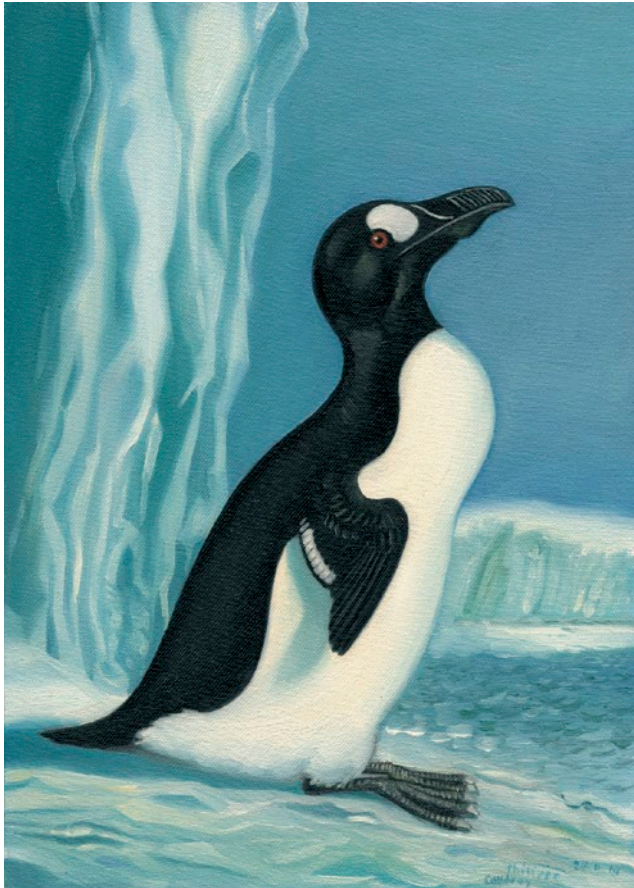
Portrait : it is the size of a rooster. It is a purplish color, has a yellow beak and long, strong legs, also yellow. Its wings are reduced to stumps.

A sprinter : it runs very quickly in the grass and digs galleries in the mud, in which it takes shelter, making it impossible to catch it.



The *koau* is hidden in the island of Hiva-Oa, in the archipelago of the Marquesas Islands.

The great auk (originally called penguin)



Great auk's egg



Razorbills fly

Razorbill or penguin ? Everyone confuses them,. The latter (penguins) will clamour loud and clear that they do not fly, that they live exclusively around the South Pole, and that it is grotesque to confuse them with razorbills, which fly perfectly well and only occur in northern regions. However, the difference between the two has not always been clear.

A short-winged razorbill : effectively, a large northern razorbill, almost as large as the Emperor penguin, with small wings and thus incapable of flying, came and created confusion in this north-south mix-up. Apart from a few details, this northern equivalent of

our short-winged southern penguin imitated perfectly its colleague from below the Equator.

Exterminated by man and a volcano : from there to wiping it out to clarify the question, was only a step, unfortunately taken in 1844. For, even if it is inhospitable, the northern refrigerator is more frequented by man than the southern deep-freeze. The great auk, easy to catch, was in fact hunted by man for its flesh from neolithic times. In the Middle Ages, these birds were so widespread in Iceland that boats were filled with their eggs. Men finished off the destruction of this fish-hunter by using it as bait for fish. Having noticed



Great auk
Pinguinus impennis

Razorbill
Alca torda

Emperor penguin
Aptenodytes forsteri

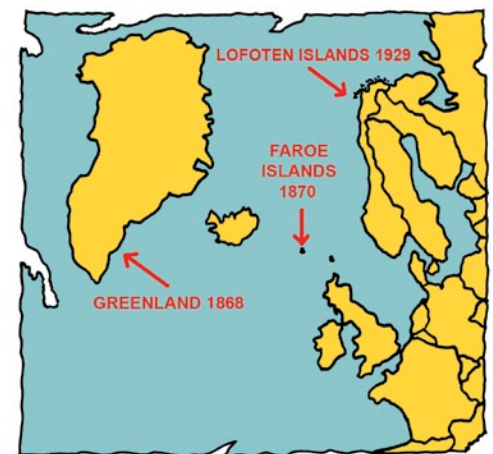
that the false short-winged penguin was as fat as a real one, they used its fat as fuel. As for its feathers, they were used to decorate the ladies' hats of the period. And, to crown it all, one of the last colonies, which survived at Geirfuglasker, off the coast of Iceland, succumbed to a volcanic eruption in 1830. Finally, egg collectors finished off the last known colony on the island of Eldey in Iceland. The 75 cm penguin was therefore officially declared extinct in 1844.

A few reappearances : and yet ... marine animal par excellence, so more difficult to catch than it seemed, this fowl-fish continued to be observed after its disappearance, as mentioned by Michel Raynal's Virtual Institute of Cryptozoology : in 1868 near Greenland, in 1870 off the Faroe Islands (Great Britain) and in 1929 on the Lofoten Islands (Norway).

When an animal unknown to science but known to local people is discovered for good by men in white coats, it lea-

ves cryptozoology to enter zoology. On the other hand, when an animal known to science disappears officially but continues to be observed by witnesses without diplomas, it leaves zoology and enters the realm of cryptozoology.

Such is the case of the great auk which, we hope, will continue to create confusion in north-south comparisons between these black-and-white fowls for a long time.



Giant raptors



Giant prehistoric vultures : in the past, vultures weighing 100 kg with a wingspan of 8 to 9 m existed in North America. They were of the stork family and measured 3.50 m from beak to tail.

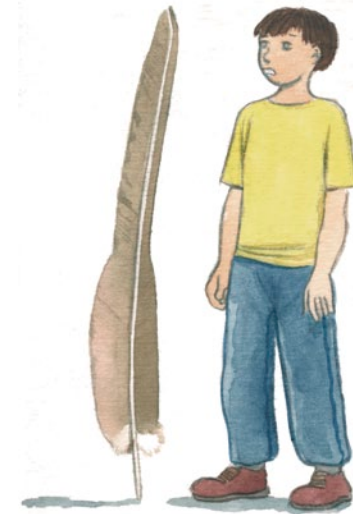
Indian legends : although they disappeared 10 000 years ago, these aerial giants are mentioned in Indian legends : the thunderbird, which sowed terror.

Killed by a cowboy : better, in 1886, a cowboy from Tombstone shot one, with a wingspan of 10 meters or so. A photo published in a local newspaper, seen by the cryptozoologist Ivan Sanderson, has since been lost.

Kidnappings : in 1895, in Virginia, a little 10-year-old girl disappeared. Her tracks were found, turning around and then stopping. In the same year, a sheriff saw an eagle with a wingspan of 4.50 to 5.50 m pick up a fawn.

Five days later, a giant eagle attacks a hunter, digging its claws into his back. His dog wants to defend him. It will have its belly opened up and be carried away.

As big as an aeroplane : in Illinois, in 1948, numerous witnesses saw a bird with a wingspan of about 10 meters and a longish neck several times. At the end of the 1960s, an Indian from Ontario, in Canada, claims to have seen a « thunderbird », much larger than a modern aeroplane, gliding, black above and white underneath. In 1977 : still in Illinois, some people saw normal condors with abnormal behaviour : they attacked a 10-year-old child. Then carried off a piglet. Uniquely scavenger, the condor does not attack living prey. On the other hand, the prehistoric vulture was suspected, because of the shape of its beak, of attacking animals.



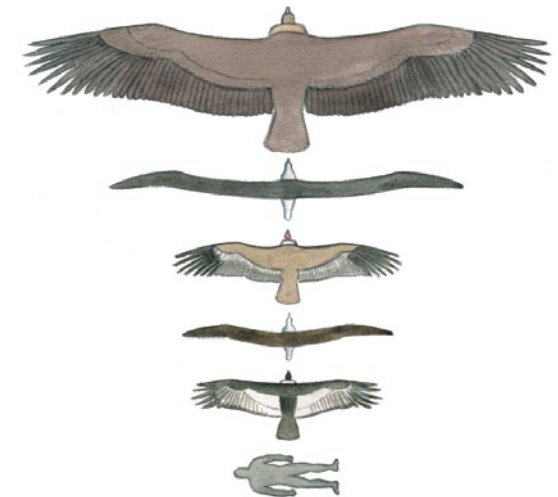
The size of these raptors suggest feathers as big as a 10-year-old child.

2002 : new sightings : in the south-west of Alaska, a bird with a wide wingspan (4.20 m) is observed by a pilot and several witnesses.

As usual in cryptozoology, these sightings tally with recent prehistoric fauna. The survival of a giant prehistoric raptor can seem far-fetched because, as opposed to other cryptids, a raptor, particularly a giant one, is well and truly visible ! But this does not take into account the difficulty in estimating the size of a bird in flight. A clue to identification could be the impression of slowness of its flight.



It is difficult to estimate the size of a raptor from a distance.



Comparison of wingspans :

Argentavis (prehistoric raptor) 9 m
Giganornis (prehistoric albatross) 6 m
Teratornis (prehistoric raptor) 3.90 m
Wandering albatross (current) 3.50 m
Andes condor (current) 3.30 m



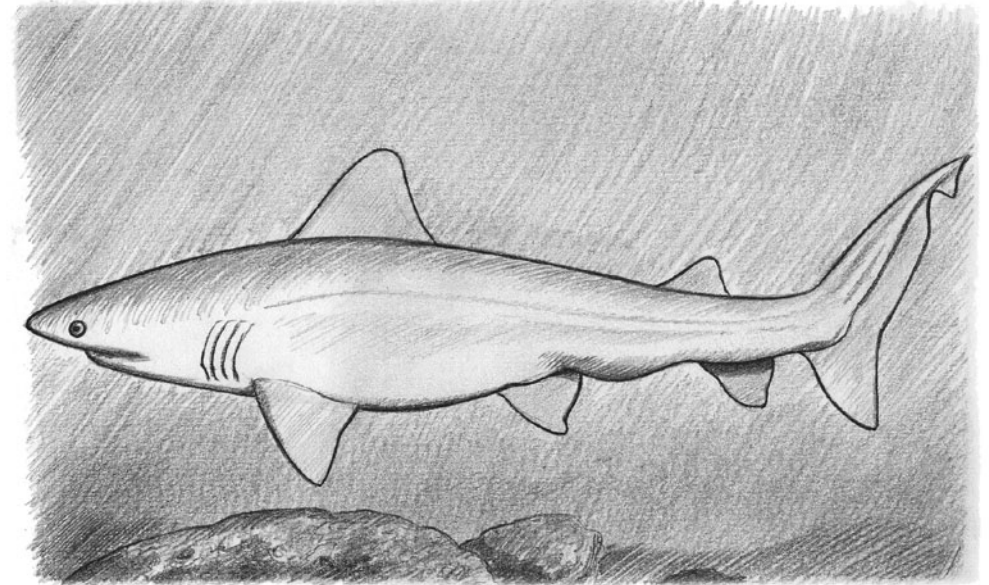
In red, the States in which sightings took place.

6- Fishes

Fishes are not very numerous in cryptozoology because they live in the least known environment : the sea. We only know the light parts of it. Light visible to man does not go further down than 500 m. Deeper than that it is pitch black, at least for us, but certain species are still able to see, because their eyes are better adapted than ours. The further down you go in this icy darkness, the greater the pressure of the water, making it necessary to build more strongly armored submarines in order to resist it. Only with such bathyscaphs can we light up the seabed, hoping to meet new species. It is rather like looking for a puma at night in the depths of the forest with a hand-torch. It is therefore normal that we know only a small part of the aquatic fauna of our oceans. It is good to know that the corpses of whales that go down to the bottom serve as an important reservoir of food for a large fauna of the depths. Our activities at the surface, in particular whale hunting, could endanger the survival of a fauna of the depths which is still quite unknown to us.



The unidentified shark



6 meters and a photo : off the coast of the Malpelo archipelago, south of the isthmus connecting the two Americas, a shark, certain females of which reach up to 6 meters in length, has been photographed.

Different from the ferocious shark : it looks, at first glance, like a known species : the ferocious shark (*Odontaspis ferox*). The latter, however, never exceeds 4 meters, and our unknown beauty possesses a more forward dorsal fin than its ferocious cousin. Furthermore, its eyes are proportionately larger.

New species ? The difference in size and morphology could mean a new species or a sub-species of the ferocious shark, stemming from an isolated population.

It likes the deep : our unknown likes to go down into deep water, below 50 meters, which makes it difficult to approach it. Finally, the region is well known for its heavy storms and strong

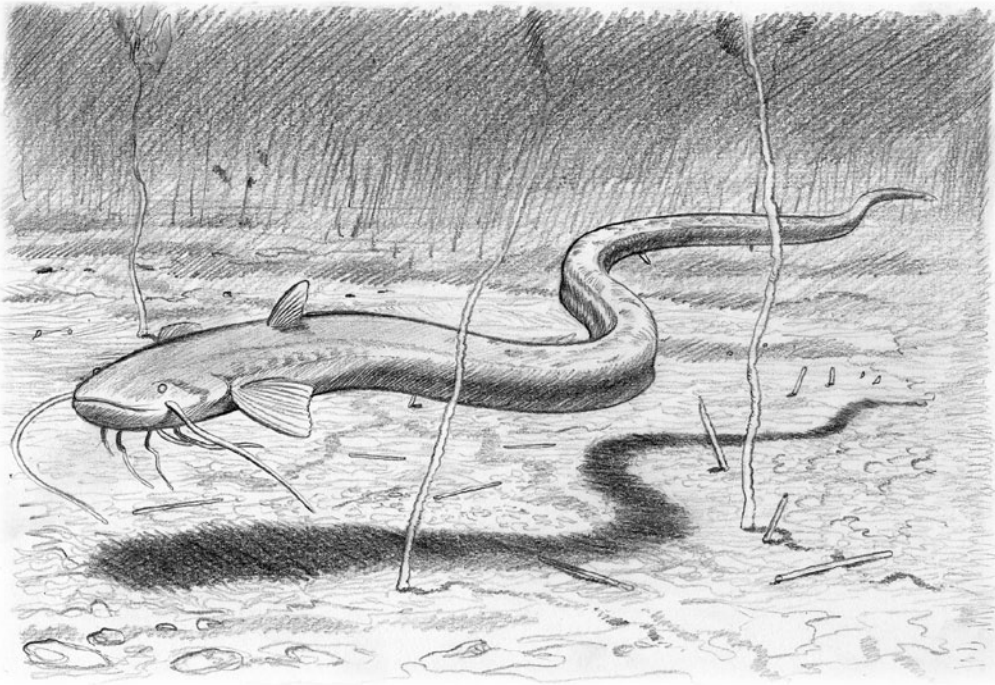
marine currents. Its large size and larger eyes could be an adaptation to depth (more pressure and less light).

The ferocious shark, in spite of its name, possesses small teeth, ill-adapted to slicing up large prey. It is inoffensive to man. Which leaves one to suppose that its larger cousin is not dangerous either.



The unknown shark occurs around the Malpelo archipelago, near Central America.

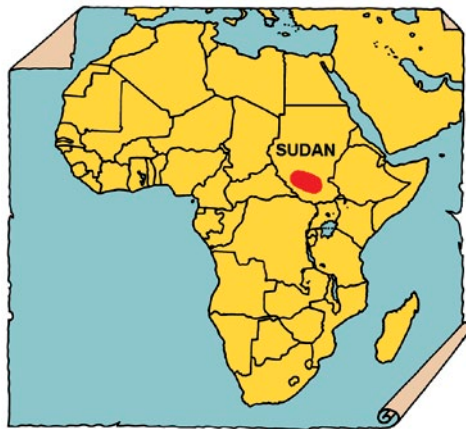
The *lau*



A snake-shaped fish : the *lau* is described with a snake's body proportionately thicker than the python's. It measures up to 12 meters in length and is brown.

A ventral horn : 7.5 cm long and the width of two fingers, this horn, situated between the belly and the tip of the tail, leaves a furrow in the ground. It would have a crest of hairs at the back of its head or whiskers with which it entangles its victims before dragging them underwater. In digesting, it gurgles like an elephant.

A giant silurid : apart from the ventral horn, the description makes one think of an unknown species of giant silurid.



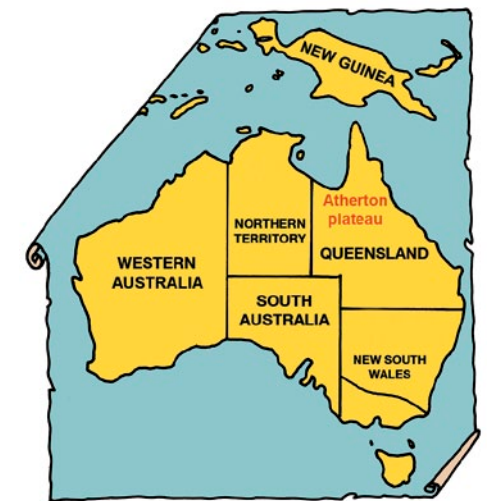
The *lau* is reported in the swamps of the Upper Nile, in southern Sudan, especially in the swamps of the Adda, the rivers Bahr el Ghazal, Bahr el Zeraf, Bahr el Arab.

The *yero*



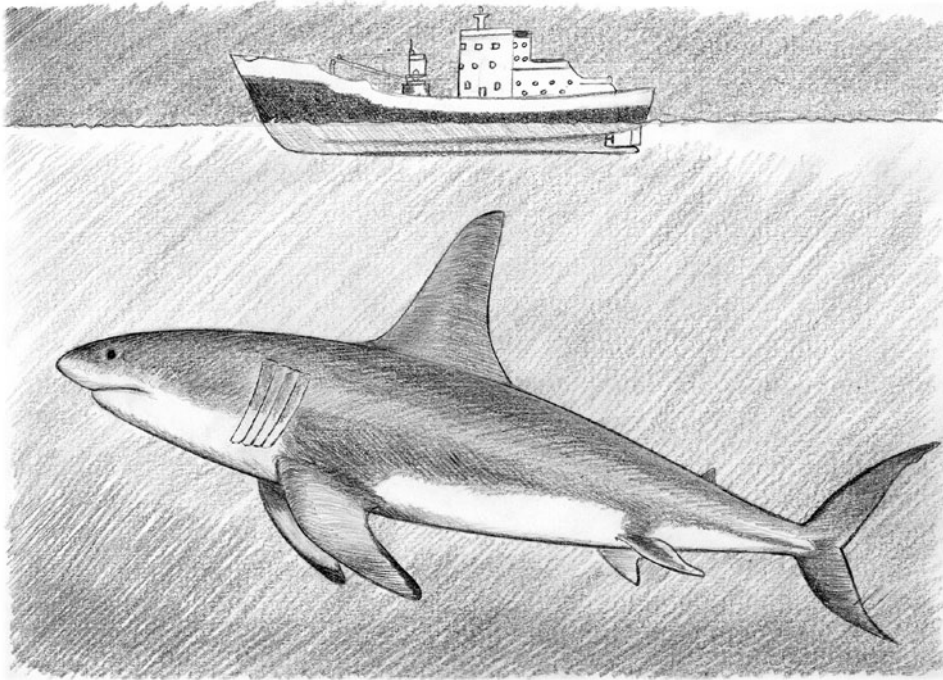
Aquatic fear : in certain lakes of north-eastern Australia, and in particular on the Atherton plateau, in Queensland, the local people are afraid to approach the center of lakes because of an enigmatic snake-shaped creature : the *yero*. It has a large head, adorned with red hairs.

Hypotheses : it could be an enormous water snake or a giant eel.



The *yero* hides in the lakes of north-eastern Australia, particularly on the Atherton plateau, in Queensland.

The megalodon



A prehistoric shark : the megalodon appeared 25 million years ago and disappeared officially 10 000 years ago. It measured up to 40 meters in length and weighed 200 tonnes. Its jaws were 1.80 m wide and its teeth of more than 15 cm inspired respect. It was a sort of giant white shark, the latter reaching up to 8 meters. However, it is considered to be a different species.

Recent fossils : fossilized teeth have however been found off the coast of Victoria (Australia), dating from only 5 000 years ago.

At the end of the XIXth century, 12.5 cm long teeth of the white shark were brought up from the bottom of the Pacific.

In 1954, a ship was bitten near Adelaide (South Australia) : the semi-circle of the teeth's impact measured two me-

ters in diameter and teeth 10 cm long by 8 cm width at the base were found embedded. The shark is estimated at **24 meters.**

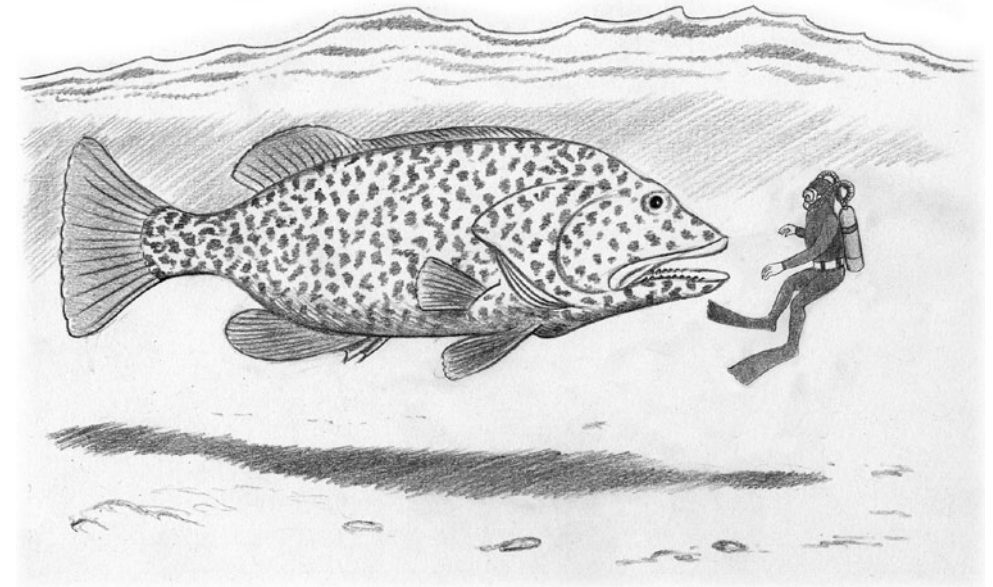
In 1980, a shark estimated at 27 meters was observed off the Australian coasts of Queensland and New South Wales.

Finally, a **20-meter** white shark is known to wander around False Bay (South Africa).

Wounds have also been found on whales which suggest enormous white sharks.

Survival of the megalodon ? The ocean is vast and remains the most secret environment of the planet. It suffices for this giant shark to live mostly in the great depths for it to be totally unobserved, most of the time.

Giant fishes



The megalodon needing to feed, it was logical for it to meet giant fishes here and there... a few examples :

1966 : from a bathyscaph, off the coast of San Diego (Southern California), a 10-meter sea bass is observed, whose tailfin measures 1.20 m and whose eyes are as large as plates.

1968 : 12 cm long teeth were found, embedded in the body of a small shark, resembling those of a grouper.

An oceanographer photographed, between the depths of 1 800 and 3 600 m. fish of an unknown species 6 to 8 meters long off the coast of Baja California and not far from Hawaii ...

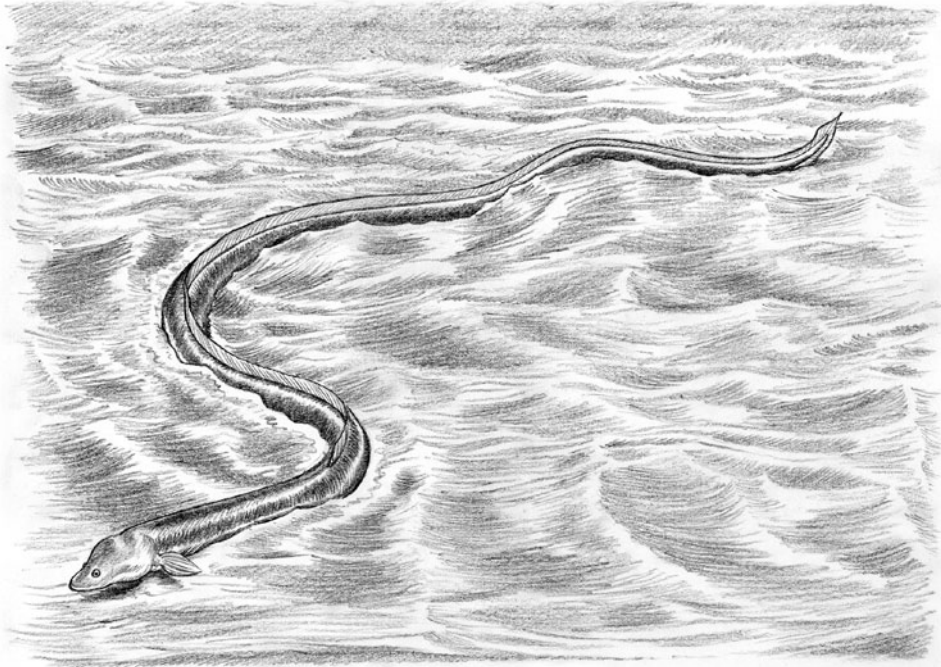
Finally, in Kenya, some fishermen assert that groupers can reach a tonne. The heaviest grouper whose weight could be verified reached 148 kg.

And, to finish with, **between 1986 and 1987** several military pilots saw **giant manta rays** in the Red Sea, near Djibouti. They state that a helicopter could have landed on them.

Logical gigantism : the more massive an animal is, the more the ratio mass-surface is modified in favour of the mass. It therefore seems logical that, in order to resist pressure better, animals living in the depths must be more massive than others. The day that we have the means to explore the bottom of the oceans, we shall no doubt be faced with surprises ... sizeable ones !

See the Japanese **takitarô**, page 166.

The eel-shaped one



Recurrent sightings : reports concerning sea-snakes recur frequently, and a large number of them can be explained by giant fish of the eel type, conger or moray (for the Mediterranean).

A giant baby : the leptocephalus, or eel larva before its metamorphosis, normally measures 7 cm. Now, in 1930, one was fished in the south Atlantic measuring ... 1.80 m ! Extrapolating from that, you arrive at an eel of 33 to 55 meters.

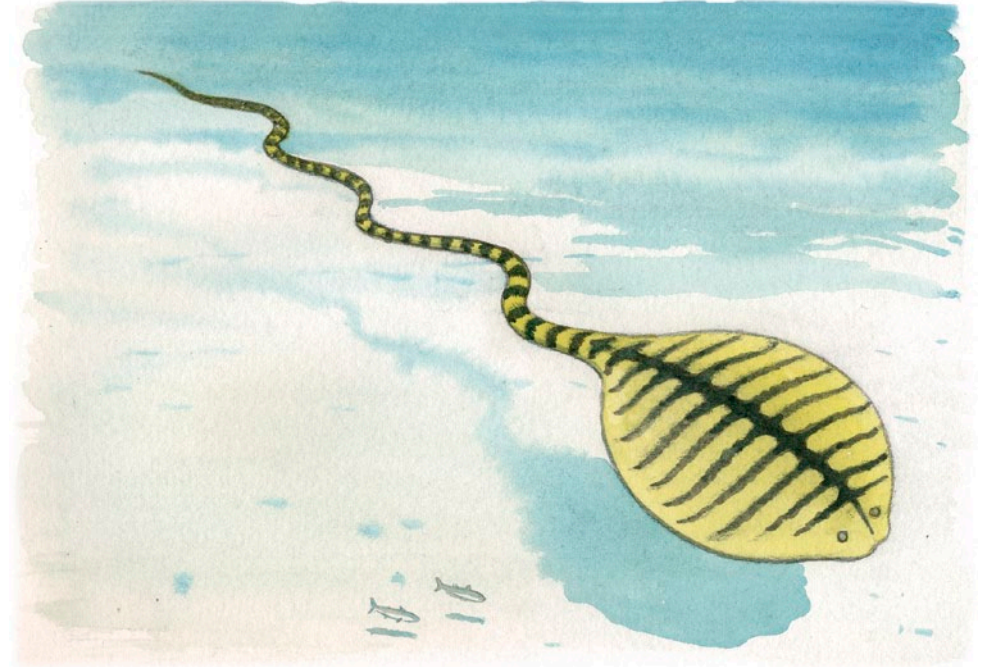
Dorsal fin : most reports speak of a continuous dorsal fin, typical of these fish.

Vertical undulations : some reports speak of vertical undulations, which would indicate a mammal, the only vertebrate to twist its spine in this way. But, in some cases, fishes dying on their

side could explain these vertical undulations. These fishes of the great depths could, in passing through warmer and therefore less oxygenated water, die on reaching the surface in search of oxygen.

Two species : observations mention two peaks of 10 and 30 meters length. This allows one to suppose the presence of two different eel-shaped species. See also the *multi-humpback* page 169 and the *super-otter* page 170, two snake-shaped marine mammals.

The yellow one



A giant tadpole : the *yellow one*, thus named because of its color, has the shape of a flattened tadpole and reaches, including its tail, 20 to 30 meters.

It becomes darker with age : its black longitudinal stripe and its transverse black bands seem to become thicker with age and invade the yellow color, which remains only in the form of brown marks on the body and brown rings on the tail. Unless it is a question of gender difference.

It hates the cold : it is to be found in warm to temperate waters of the Indian Ocean and the Pacific, never below 10°C.

This animal is no doubt a large-sized fish.

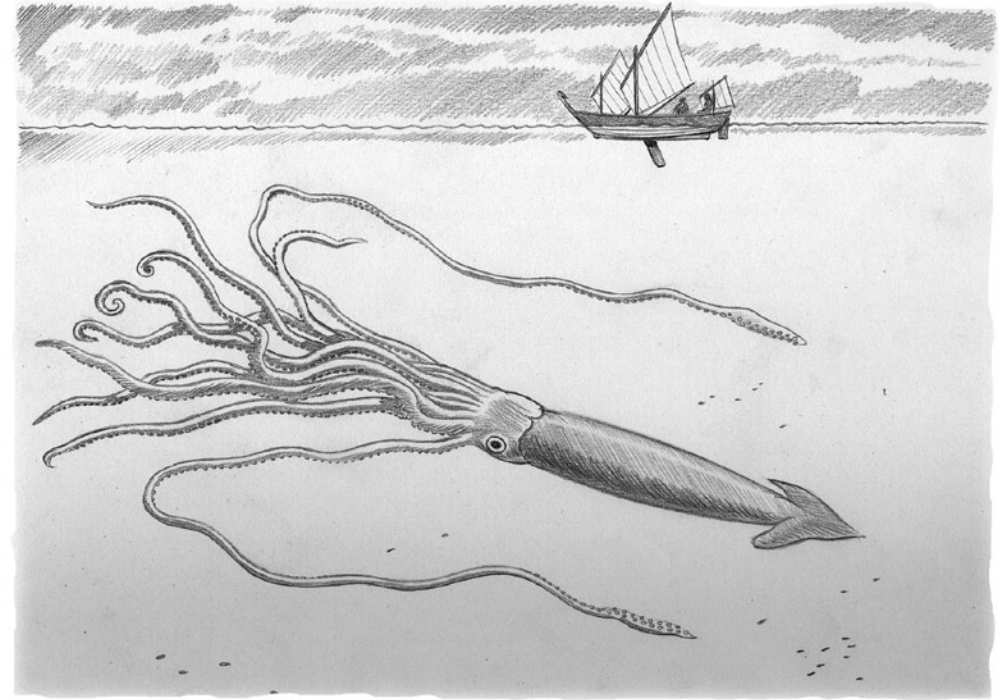


7- Marine cryptids

Men have been describing all sorts of marine monsters since Antiquity. Bernard Heuvelmans went through the enormous collection of documents written on the subject and was able to separate out the reports so as to make precise Identikits of those animals which were most frequently observed. The zoological and ecological coherence of these animals favour their credibility. The sea is an immense environment, the largest of the planet (three-quarters of its surface), which is, in addition, three dimensional. Instead of a surface, one can speak of an unexplored volume. Because it really is the only remaining scarcely surveyed environment. Furthermore, boats, for commercial reasons or those connected with winds or currents, always follow the same narrow sealanes. In this way, marine animals can cruise around in the other sectors in complete liberty without ever being noticed by anyone. It can be added that sailors are not necessarily zoologists capable of picking out a new species unless it is strikingly different from the others. It is clear that, as soon as new technical means permit us to explore the great depths efficiently, we shall discover infinitely more unknown species than this book could contain. Those who will be astounded at the marine cryptids described in the following pages can expect even more astonishing discoveries in the coming years.



The colossal squid



Squid of the deep : giant squid live below 500 m depth. They have the largest eyes in the world, adapted to a dimly lit environment. The two whips are longer than the eight other tentacles and are double the length of the body, including the tentacles. The suction pads, in two rows, have claws that leave scars on the skins of sperm whales that capture them for food.

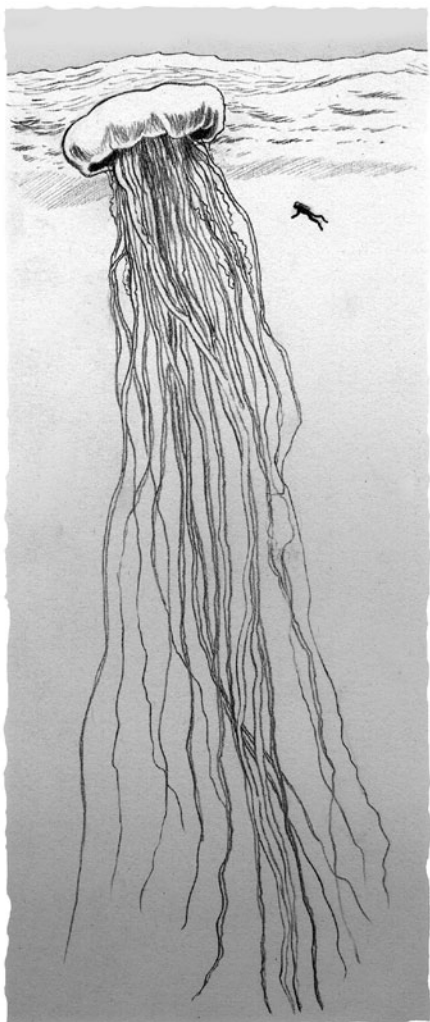
Uncertainty about their size : we know already that they continue to grow throughout their lives and that the females are larger than the males. As they tend, after their death, to be washed up on shore, it has been possible to measure some of them. The official size currently retained is **18 meters**, but that would seem to be considerably lower than the maximum authorized for the species ... In fact, other beachings give sizes estimated at **22 meters**, but the

bodies were incomplete. A 40 cm eye in a sperm whale's stomach indicates a squid of **25 meters**. Tentacles, also swallowed by a sperm whale, give a size of **45 to 50 meters** for the animal ... Finally, traces of suction pads on sperm whales, according to unverified sailors' tales, would reach 45 cm in diameter ... which suggests a squid of **150 meters**.

As the beachings continue, the race for length goes on.

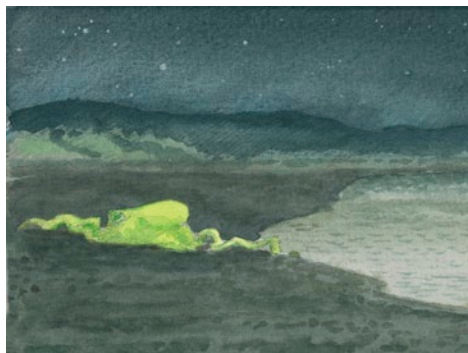
They are found in all the seas in the world where they follow lines of temperatures of 10°C. They are always washed up on the coasts of temperate regions, particularly in northern Europe, Iceland, Labrador, Newfoundland, but also in New Zealand, Japan, Tasmania ...

The giant jellyfish



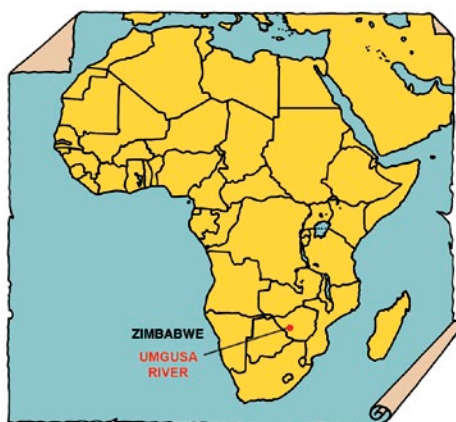
In 1973, the cargo-boat Kuranda was sailing off the coast of Sydney (Australia). An enormous wave swept over the boat and left on the deck a gigantic jellyfish. Some of its tentacles measured 60 meters in length. They were twisting about on the deck and became entangled in the machine room. A man was killed by one of them. An SOS was sent out and a ship came to the rescue. With the help of flamethrowers, the crew managed to return the unwelcome guest to the sea.

The luminous creature



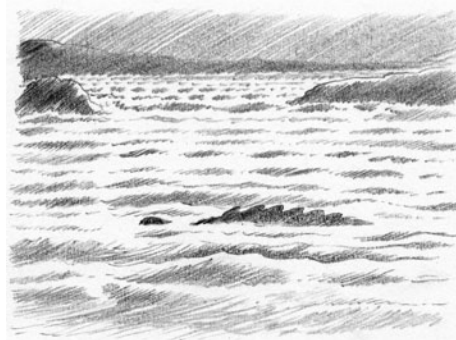
Luminous and crawling : in Zimbabwe, around 1950, a strange animal is observed : it is intermittently luminous, leaves the water and crawls up the bank, followed by all the crabs, which then come out of the water.

Hypothesis : it could be an octopus. Some species of octopus have luminescent organs, in the way of other cephalopods such as the squid. Normally, the octopus lives only in salt water. However, in certain American states, such as Kentucky, Indiana and West Virginia, animals resembling the octopus have been seen.



The luminous creature was seen in the upper dam of the Umgusa river, in Zimbabwe.

The beast of Soay



The beast looks like a **3 meter long turtle** topped by a saw-edged dorsal crest, perhaps with large scales. The gullet is red, the mouth widely split, and it has large prominent eyes (the leather-back turtle can reach 2.20 m).

In **Sumatra**, legends talk of a marine animal called « the father of all the turtles ».

Possible confusion : because of its presence in cold waters, the hypothesis of a reptile must be discarded. It could be a question of confusion with unknown marine mammals such as those we shall describe further on.

Conclusion : it might not exist as a separate cryptid.



The beast of Soay owes its name to a very small island near Great Britain, which is one of the observation sites. Apart from the legend of Sumatra, it is mainly observed in cold temperate regions (near Newfoundland, western France).

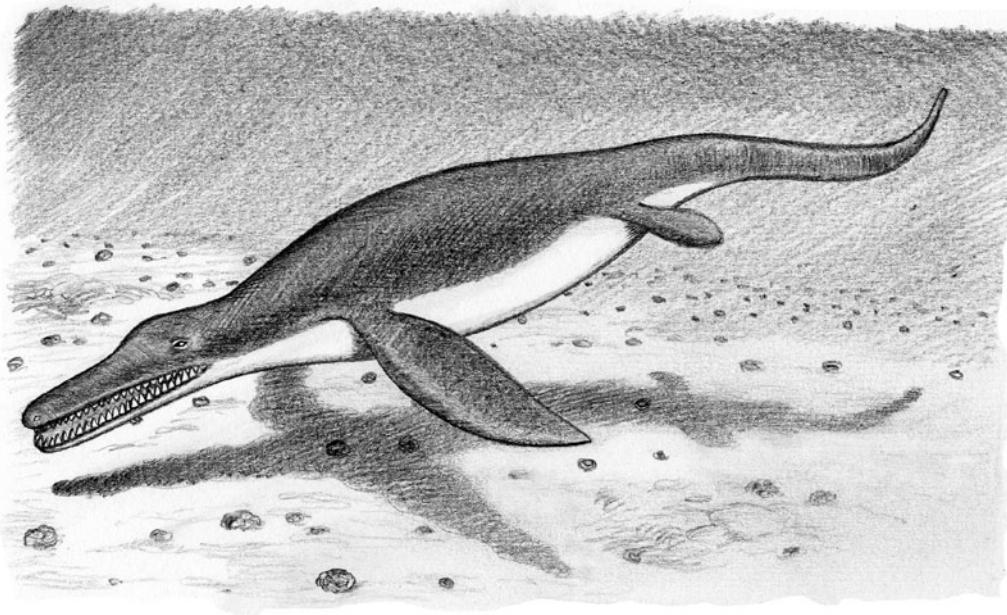
The web-footed crocodile



30 July 1915 : when the British steamer Iberian exploded, torpedoed by a submarine in the north Atlantic, a crocodile of about 20 meters length was seen thrown up into the air, with **webbed feet** and a long slender head.

This crocodile makes one think inevitably of a prehistoric web-footed crocodile, the *metriorhynchus*, which lived in the Jurassic period, and also had a fish's tail, not mentioned in this report.

Marine reptiles



Gambo, the creature washed up in 1983 on a beach in Senegal.

1860 : off the Burmese coast (Asia), a crocodile was seen, estimated at 13.5 meters long, swimming at about 55 km/h.

1877 : another one, even longer, was observed in the Atlantic Ocean, estimated at between 15 and 18 meters, with **flippers** 3 meters behind its head.

1976 : a 15-meter long crocodile was seen near the coasts of Borneo.

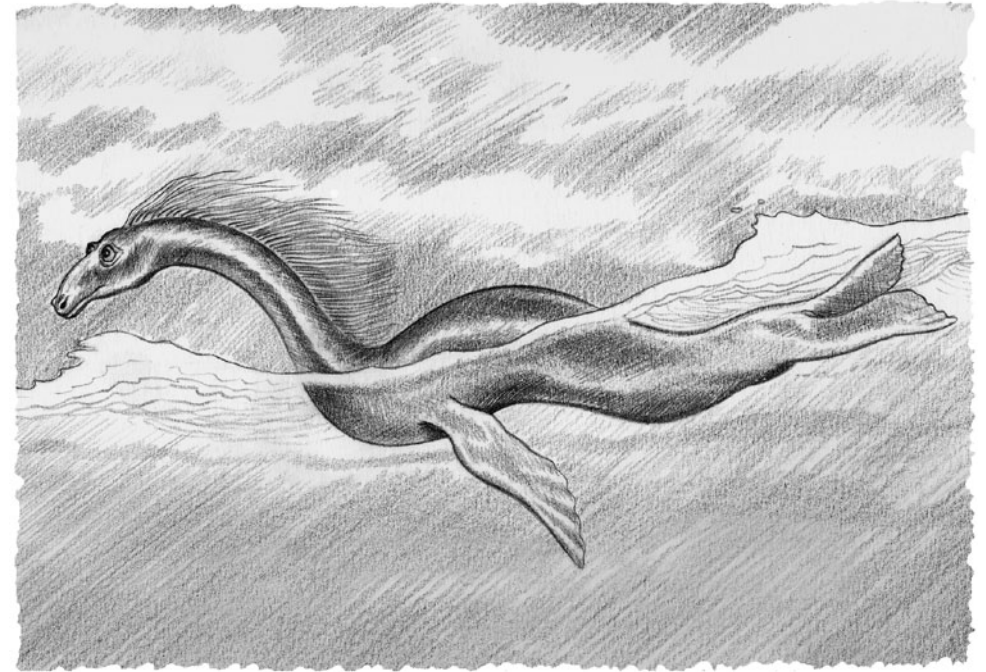
1983 : Gambo, the strange beached marine creature : one fine morning, an Englishman found, on a beach in Senegal, the carcass of an unknown marine animal. Fishermen were cutting it up. He was able to take measurements quickly and make a sketch of the animal. It was 4.5 m long and had no scales. It was dark brown above and white underneath. The tail measured about 1.50 m. It possessed four flippers but no dorsal fin. The jaws, 50 cm long,

were armed with 80 identical conical teeth. The nostrils were placed at the tip of the upper jaw. The flesh was red.

Hypotheses : these reports and others can concern classical but giant marine crocodiles, an unknown species of marine crocodile, or else prehistoric marine reptiles such as the mosasaurs and the pliosaurus from the end of the Mesozoic Era, which were endowed with flippers.

Reproduction : it is presumed that pliosaurus came onto land to lay their eggs in the sand, as turtles do. This behavior, however, ought to make them more visible than reptiles which reproduce entirely in the water.

The marine horse



Rather lanky : the marine horse is a long mammal, no doubt about 20 meters, whose snake-shaped body oscillates vertically, which proves it to be a mammal. No more than one hump or curve in the middle of the back is seen.

A horse's mane : its name comes from its mane, made of long reddish filaments along its neck. Ivan Sanderson put out the hypothesis that this mane could be a respiratory organ, in the same way as the hairy frog's filaments, which are presumed to facilitate gaseous exchanges, obviously exceptional in a mammal.

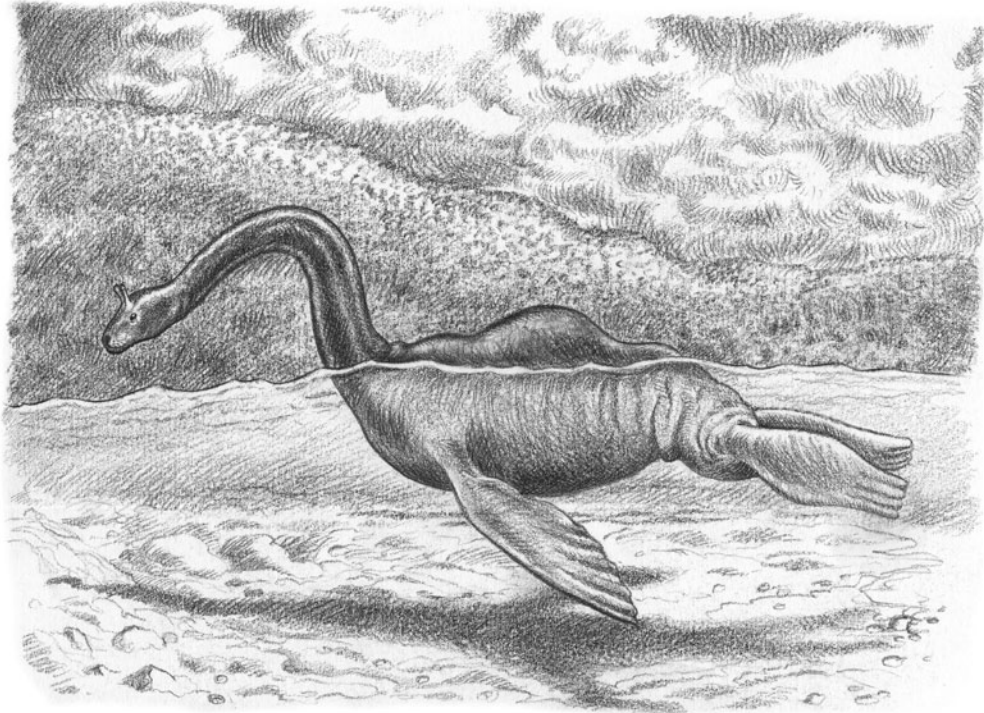
A camel's head : fairly flat and wide, its head is reminiscent of that of a horse or a camel. Its eyes are enormous and look forwards, which would mean an adaptation to darkness and predation. Seen from the front, its head has the shape of a lozenge and reminds one of a snake.

An animal of the deep : it would live at a depth of 100 or 200 meters and would come up to the surface at the approach of night. It would only be seen in full daylight when coming up to the surface for oxygen.

Distribution : it is seen just about everywhere at sea, apart from glacial oceans and the Indian Ocean, always above the continental shelf.

Hypothesis : this marine mammal, whose body seems to be covered by a thick fleece, could be an eared seal, particularly well adapted to life in the deep, keeping to coasts and the continental shelf in search of fish. It is no doubt an animal that swims quickly.

The long-necked eared seal or Loch Ness monster



A worldwide monster : the famous Loch Ness monster, one of the rare cryptids, along with the yeti, to be known to the public, is observed not only in Loch Ness. It is a marine animal, seen mostly in the oceans, which seems, here and there, to have been trapped in fjords closed up into large, deep lakes. It occurs in fact in numerous other Scottish lakes, Ireland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Malaysia, Australia, Alaska, Canada, USA, Argentina, Japan and even Africa.

A portrait which excludes the reptile : the head is round, slightly flattened. The quite slender snout becomes longer with age. A short coat, gleaming when wet and rough when dry, is mentioned, as well as a mustache.. Its eyes are small. Sometimes the animal rests

its supple neck on its back, like swans do. On the top of its head there are two small horns which could be respiratory tubes extending from its nostrils, so that it can breathe without emerging, thus explaining its discretion. According to the cryptozoologist Ivan Sanderson, another use of these tubes could be to send bubbles back over its head to avoid interfering with its field of vision. The mouth is large. Sometimes a small mane at the base of the neck is mentioned. The back has three humps, the one in the middle being the largest. The four paws have large webbed fingers. The skin is sometimes creased and shrivelled. The tail, when it is described, is powerful and accounts for one-third of the body. The animal is extremely supple.

Argument about the tail : Bernard Heuvelmans thinks that the animal might not have a tail and that what has been observed would be the two hind paws close together.

Sometimes on land : like an eared seal, also known as a sea lion, the animal is sometimes observed on land. However, it is presumed that it reproduces in the water ; otherwise, the animal would not be seen so seldom.

In Loch Ness, the animal would come up to breathe in underwater caves that have never been explored, and which would come above the surface of the lake, allowing it to rest unobserved. In this lake, it would feed mostly on salmon.

Color : dark brown above, with irregular light or dark and yellowish white patches below.

Size : quite variable according to the reports, generally between 5 and 20 meters.

Rapidity : what often strikes witnesses is the speed with which the animal swims, estimated at between 25 and 55 km/h.

A migratory sea lion : marine observations take place near coasts in cold temperate zones of both hemispheres (between 0°C and 10°C), and in the open ocean in warm temperate zones. The observations are seasonal : it is seen in the summer in the northern hemisphere, from the end of April till October, in the tropics until February and in the southern hemisphere from February till April. These migrations would be made possible by its high speed.

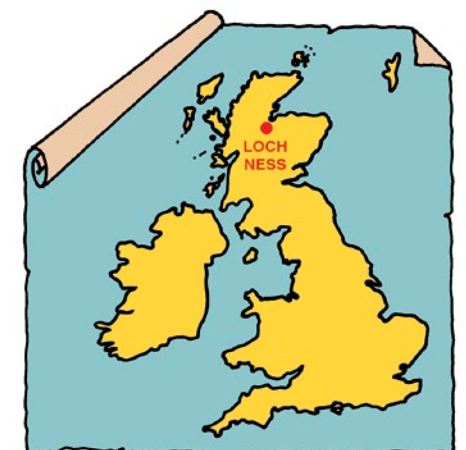
Sonars in Loch Ness : in 1968, two long objects, about 20 meters in length, were captured by sonar. They were moving at 35 km/h. In 1970, a sonar captured two animals hunting salmon. A photo

taken from the film shows a lozenge-shaped flipper, measuring between 1.50 and 2.40 m. In 1997, thanks to a system based on ultrasounds, a boat located two large masses at a depth of 120 meters.

A video made in 2007 shows, close to the surface of Loch Ness, a large, rather snake-like silhouette, moving along with the head just about at the surface.

Unusual sounds in Norway : in 1999, an expedition to Lake Seljordsvatnet in Norway searched for sounds beneath the water thanks to hydrophones placed at a depth of 30 meters. Low-pitched sounds were registered, up to eight times a day, in a frequency situated between 200 and 400 hertz. Specialists believe that they could be produced by a large mammal, a whale or a sea lion.

Conclusion : this cryptid seems to be a long-necked sea lion adapted to deep waters, more aquatic than its cousins, and very swift. Like many cryptids, it is certainly through improved methods of detection that we shall manage one day to find out what it is.



« Nessie » hides in Loch Ness, a large lake situated in Scotland.

Gregory Beaussart gave me some information about Japanese lake monsters which also abound in different regions and each bears a local name.

Hassie : in 1986, in the Nagara river, near the town of Haneda, commune of Kuwabara, department of Gifu, Honshu, two schoolteachers glimpsed the shadow of a triangular shape about 2 meters long by 1 m width. The back was dark brown or black.

Assie : in Lake Akan, near the town of Kishiro, on the east side of Hokkaido, just a large shadow of about 10 meters was seen, filmed in a video by a fisherman.

Assie no. 2 : in Lake Ashi, commune of Hakone, district of Ashigara, Honshu, the monster is far better known than the one in Lake Akan. Observed for the first time in 1940, it is described as measuring 10 meters and having a streamlined body and a long neck.

Issie : from 1943, in Lake Ikeda, near the town of Ibusuki, southern tip of Kyushu, there appears from time to time a large creature of 10 to 20 meters length which shows two humps or fins when it touches the surface. It and the previous one could be close to the Loch Ness monster.

Kussie : from 1973, in Lake Kusharo, commune of Teshikaga, Hokkaido, another replica of the Loch Ness monster could be seen : long neck, two antennae on the head, a hump on the back and about 15 meters long.

Matsudodon : from 1972 or 1975, in the Edogawa river, near the town of Matsudo, not far from Tokyo, an animal of about 2 meters resembling a sea lion was seen. The head is round,

with bulging eyes. It would have a moustache and a red face. Sea lions regularly come up this river. The problem is that a witness states that the animal is bipedal, and that it came out of the water to climb a tree.

Missy : observed one evening by a fisherman in the lake of Mizumoto Park near Tokyo, it would be a reptile of about 3 meters, different from the alligator or the iguana. An alligator would have been seen in this lake in 1986. It could be a question of a domestic animal, released and wrongly identified.

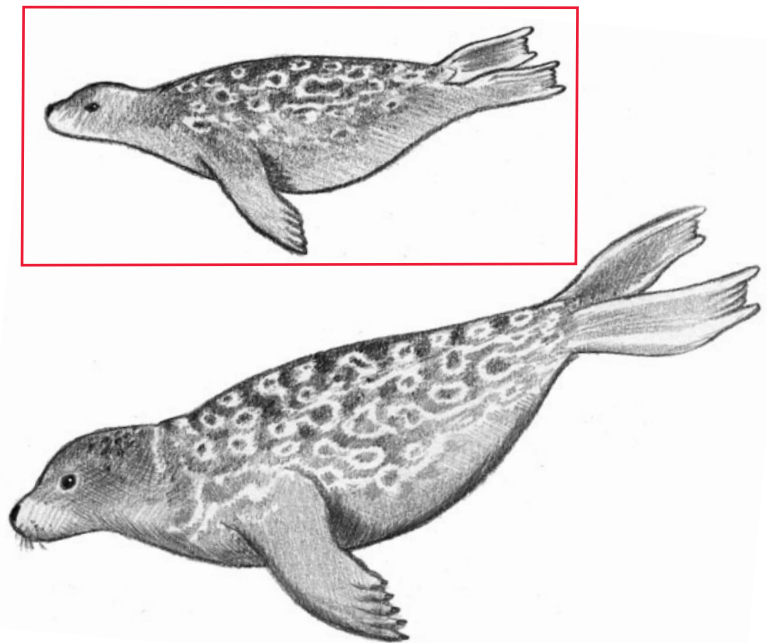
Namitarô : first observation : 1966. Near the town of Itoigawa, department of Niigata, a large unknown fish is swimming in Takanami pond. Some speak of a dorsal fin.

Takitarô : in Ootori pond, near the village of Asahi, department of Yamagata, a 3.50 m fish, of the salmon family, was seen for the first time in 1982. However, this giant fish is mentioned in Japanese legends prior to the IXth century.



Locations of Japanese lake monsters according to name (see geographical names in the text).

The pygmy seal



The pygmy seal (top) compared with the spotted seal.

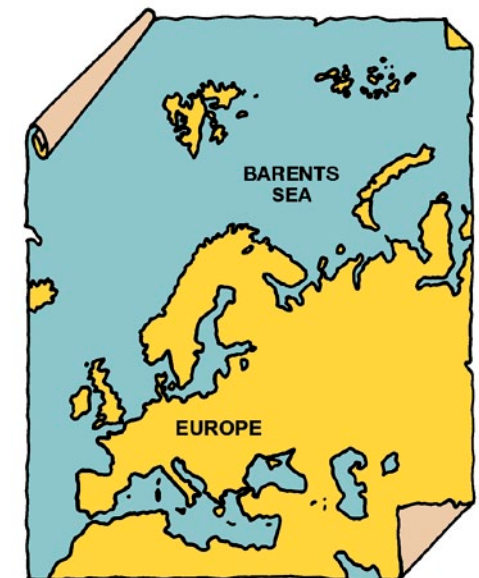
An Arctic dwarf : the pygmy seal measures only 73 cm. The female of the spotted, or ringed, seal, the smallest of the known seals, measures 1.15 m, record of smallness which it disputes with that of Lake Baikal, of roughly the same size.

Herd of seals : this animal lives in groups of 300 individuals.

A specimen in a zoo : Hamburg Zoo had a specimen of this seal at the beginning of the XXth century, proving that at least one had existed, even if it is always possible that a single individual is a case of abnormality.

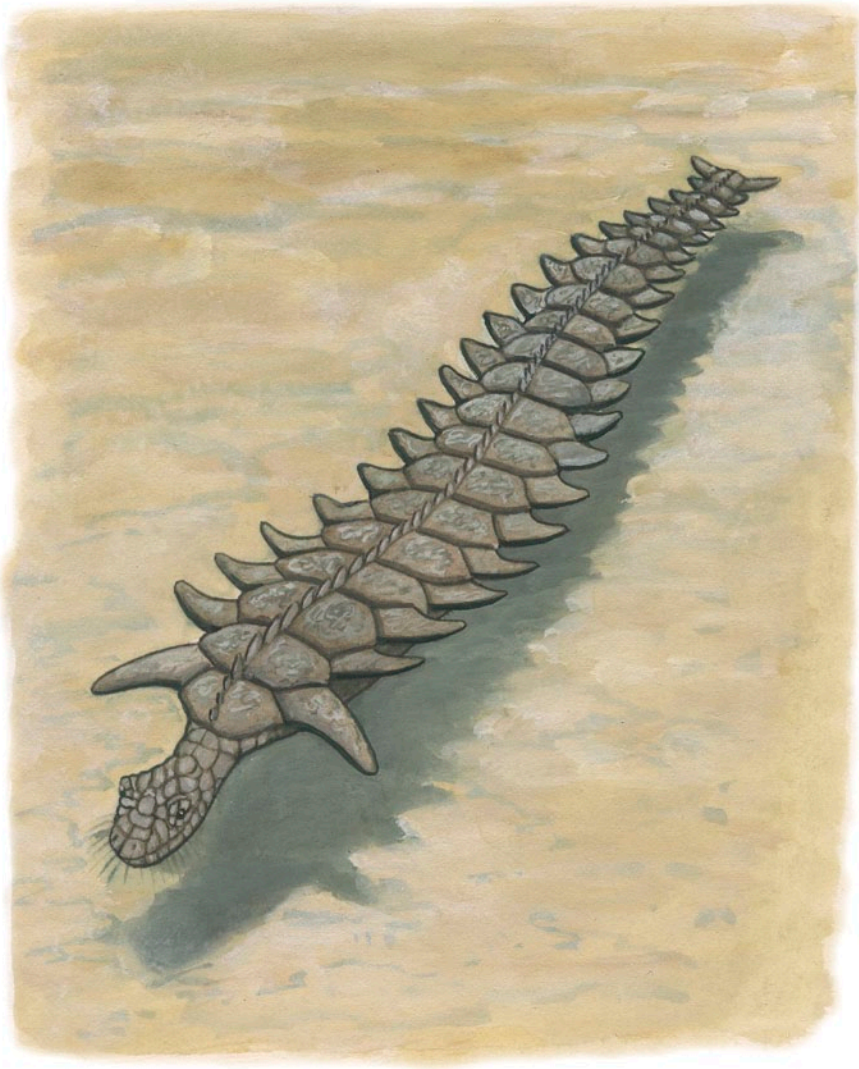
It likes cold waters : it would be visible off the coasts of the Barents Sea, north of Norway.

Sub-species : it is thought that it could be a sub-species of the spotted seal.



The pygmy seal occurs in the Barents Sea.

The *multi-fin*



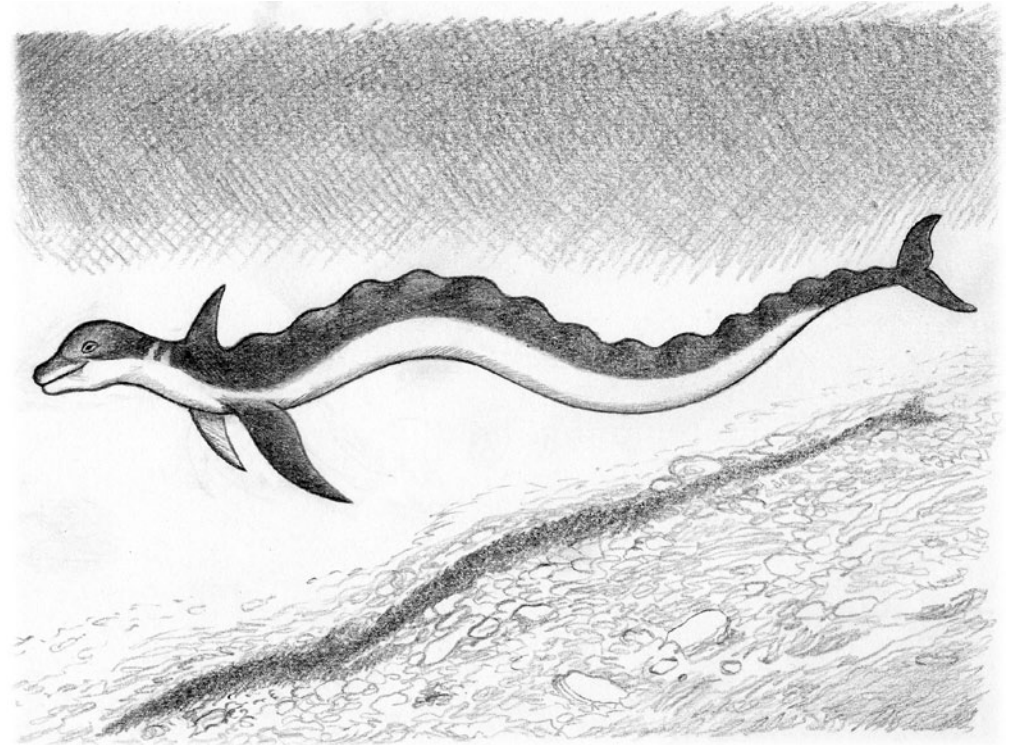
A strange mammal : the *multi-fin* is a mammal without any doubt : it blows noisily and its nostrils, placed in front, are surrounded by whiskers. In addition, it undulates vertically.

Difficult to turn : its flat body, undulating up and down, stabilized by its many fins, must have difficulty in turning. This is why the animal has to lean to one side in order to turn, making its fins visible at the surface.

Armor : the skin is strengthened by what appear to be scales, and the spine has a small saw-edged crest.

Warm seas : our battleship is observed in tropical waters, but also in warm temperate waters. It would be fond of rocky and coral shallows. In any case, it is a coastal mammal, colored brown with spots.

The *multi-humpback*



The multi-humpback looks like a very streamlined cetacean which could reach 35 meters in length and is characterized by the presence of a series of humps on its back. These could be air-bags, serving as stabilizers and oxygen reserves at the same time (hypothesis of Ivan Sanderson). It is very dark brown above and white below, with two white zebra stripes on the side of its neck. Only the males or old individuals would have a fin behind the neck.

Very swift : its maximum speed is estimated at 65 km/h, which is very fast in water.

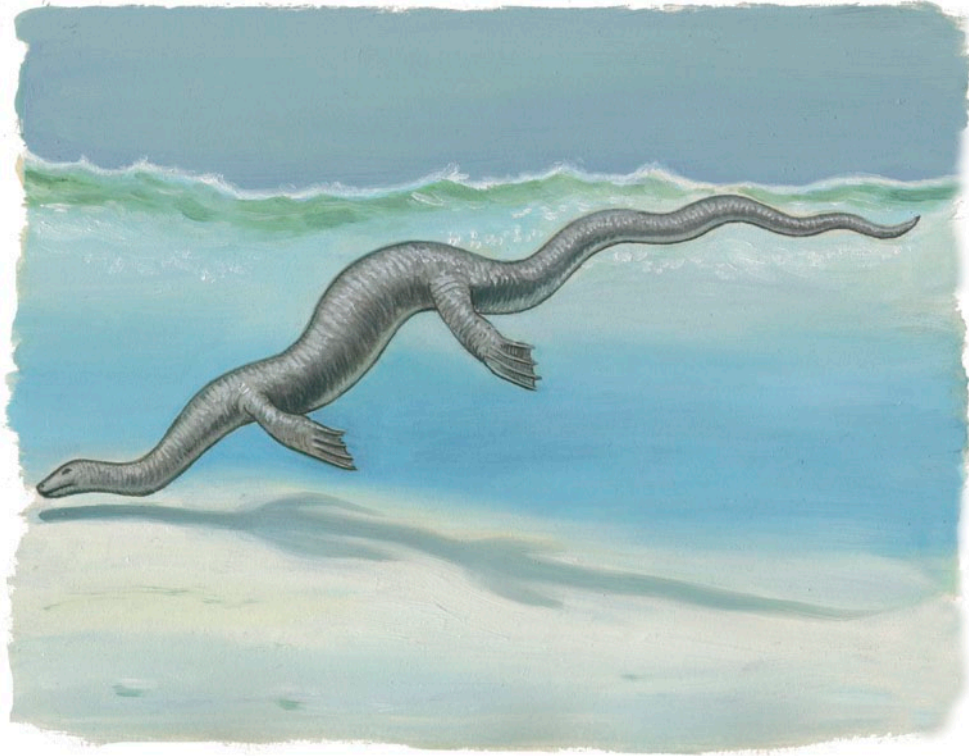
Lover of the Gulf Stream : the animal is most often observed between New York and Newfoundland, especially in the bay of Massachusetts, but also in southern Iceland, indicating that it moves around in the Gulf Stream, the

warm current of the north Atlantic, spending the summer close to the coasts of America.



The *multi-humpback* enjoys the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, with a preference for the American coasts in the summer.

The *super-otter*



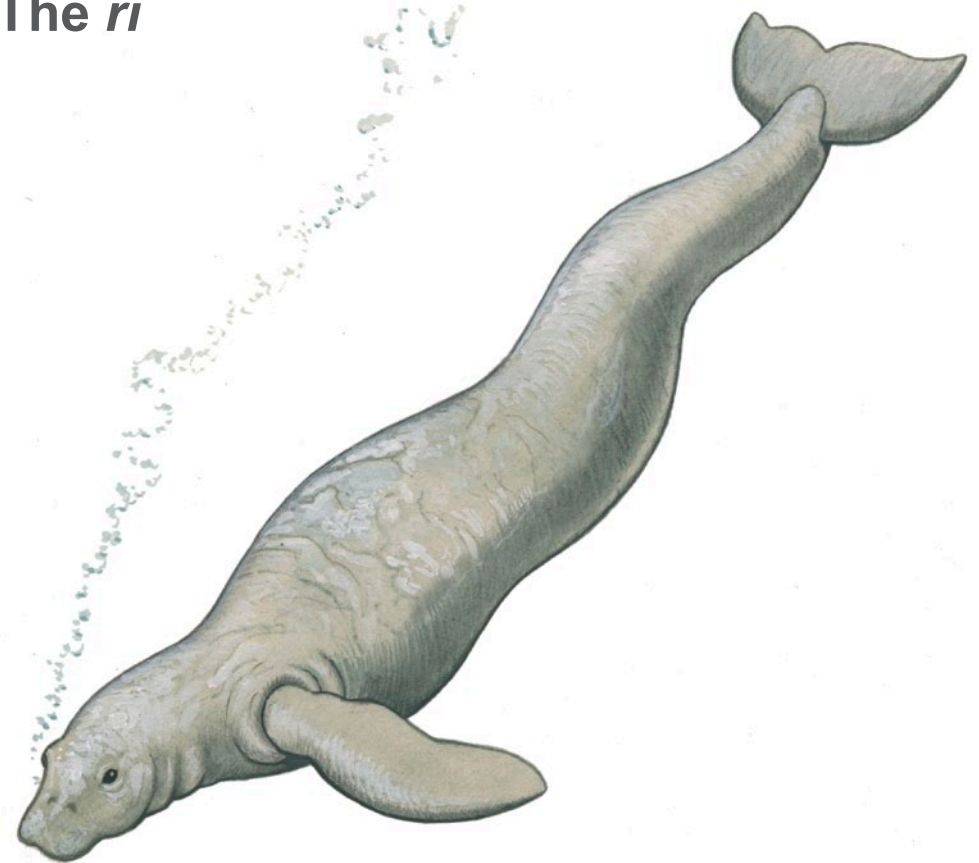
A super-seal : the *super-otter* resembles a very long seal with a tail almost as long as the body, ending up in a point. The whole animal undulates vertically and can reach 20 or 30 meters in length. Six or seven undulations can be seen above the surface of the water. The animal has four paws with visible webbed fingers. The allusion to the otter may stem from the rather flattened shape of the head and to its elongated snout. The animal often opens its mouth, showing its teeth. Its color is uniformly light, a brownish-gray (reminiscent of the walrus).

A puffing sound coming from its nostrils was reported once. Its nostrils were placed at the end of its snout and not on its back as is the case with cetaceans.

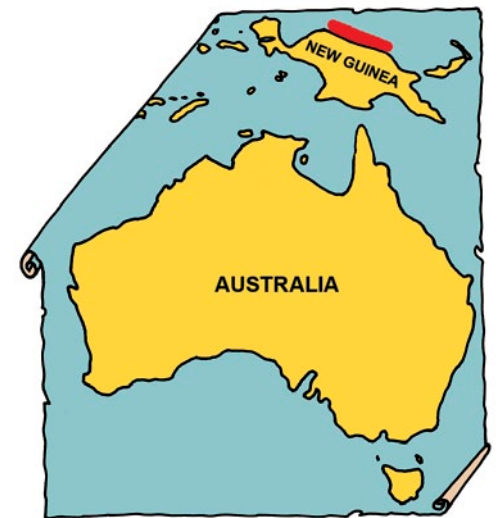
It likes the cold : observed mainly in the glacial Arctic Ocean, always in the summer, near the coasts of Norway and Greenland, our large seal is adapted to the cold by its solid mass. It has only been observed at the surface between the isotherm lines -5 and $+5^{\circ}\text{C}$. In the summer it would go down to warmer waters to reproduce, the young withstanding the cold less well because of their small size. The fact that its adaptation to marine life is not so well established as that of the cetaceans (dolphins and whales) would lead one to suppose that it lives fairly close to the coastline, above the continental shelf.

Perhaps disappeared : the last observation dating from 1848, one can wonder whether the *super-otter* still exists today.

The *ri*

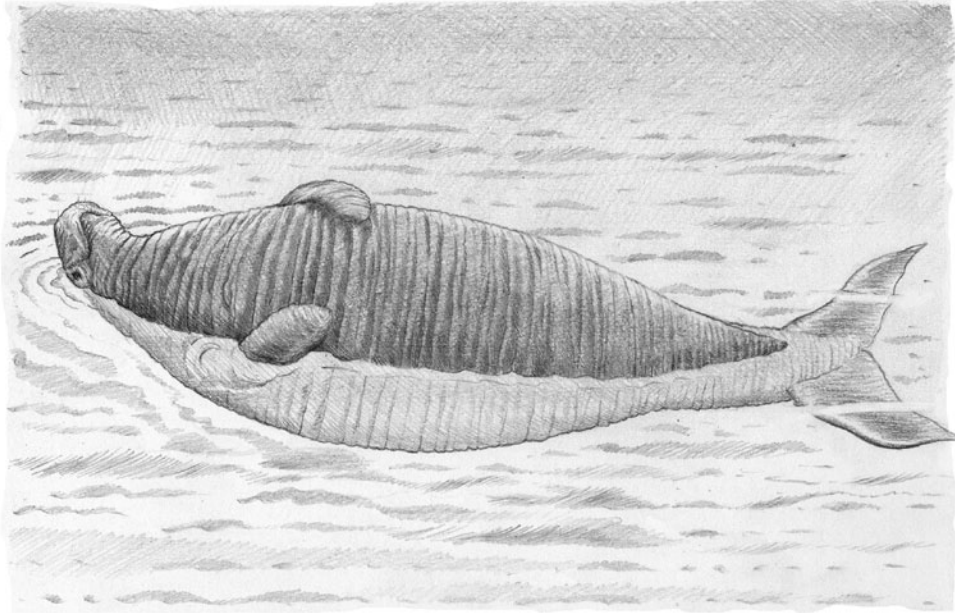


A contorsionist : the *ri* is described as a marine mammal with a horizontal bilobate (two-lobed) tail, without a dorsal fin, which swims by making large vertical contorsions. It twists itself more than the dugong, a vegetarian marine mammal also in the area. The indigenous population know the *ri* well and distinguish it from the dugong. It could as well be a cetacean as a member of the Sirenian family (dugongs, manatees). However, the absence of a dorsal fin is typical of the Sirenians and remains rare among the cetaceans. Our contorsionist is observed near the north-eastern coasts of New Guinea.



The *ri* is observed near the north-eastern coasts of New Guinea.

Steller's sea-cow



Officially disappeared in 1768 : Steller's sea cow was discovered in 1741 by the naturalist of that name, to the east of Kamchatka. It is a Sirenian, a family including dugongs and manatees, herbivorous aquatic mammals. It reached 9 meters and 13 tonnes. Called « sea cow », the peaceful herbivore browsed nonchalantly on kelp and sea kale. The nipples are placed on the chest. The skin is blackish, almost horny in places and stretched out by its fat. The eyes have no eyelids. It breathes through its nostrils and not through a dorsal orifice. And, like quite a few of us, the sea cow sleeps on its back !

Exterminated for its flesh : the disappearance of the sea cow stems from the massacre of its populations, easy source of food.

Survival : sightings seem to give credit to a survival of the sea cow along the coasts of Kamchatka. And, in the Aleutian Islands (which surround the

Bering Sea), other witnesses describe an unknown, smaller, species of the sea cow.



The sea cow should be sought in the Bering Sea, between Asia and North America.

The marine monkey



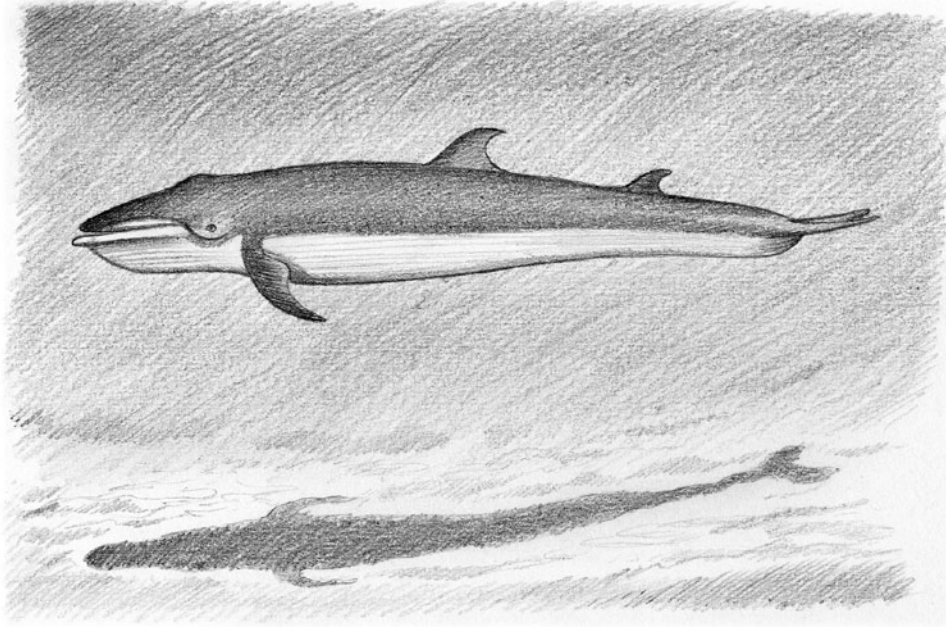
1741 : Steller, who discovered the sea cow, observed near the Shumagin Islands, which are a part of the Aleutian Islands at the southern tip of Alaska, a strange seal which had a dog's head with pointed ears. It had a beard and mustaches. Its body, long and cylindrical, tapered off towards the tail. What surprised Steller was the absence of forelimbs and the unequal length of the tail lobes.

1965 : Miles Smeeton, writer and navigator, saw the same animal in the central Aleutians, off the coast of Atka : he described it as being the size of a sheep. He was surprised by its long hair floating around its body like seaweed around a rock, 10 to 12 cm long. Its color was pepper and salt yellowy-reddish. It had a Tibetan terrier's head with eyes

on the front and drooping mustaches. It dived with an undulating movement.

An unknown pinniped : the sub-order of pinnipeds includes seals, walruses and eared seals (sea lions). The latter having hind limbs which are autonomous and not fixed into a single tail, they can use one and then the other, which can give the impression of an asymmetric tail. The forelimbs, more mobile than those of dolphins, can be flattened against the body and seem absent. This animal seems to occur in the Aleutian Islands, which form a long archipelago surrounding the Bering Sea between Alaska and Siberia (see the sea cow's map).

The whale with two dorsal fins



We come now to the case of unknown cetaceans. Michel Raynal has collected all the information on the subject and shown that a cetacean has been discovered on average every 8 years since 1758, in an irregular way, naturally. By a mathematical study of the curve of discoveries, he concluded in 2001 that 15 species remained to be discovered, which would bring the number of species to a total of 94. In 2002, a new species of beaked whale had already been discovered.

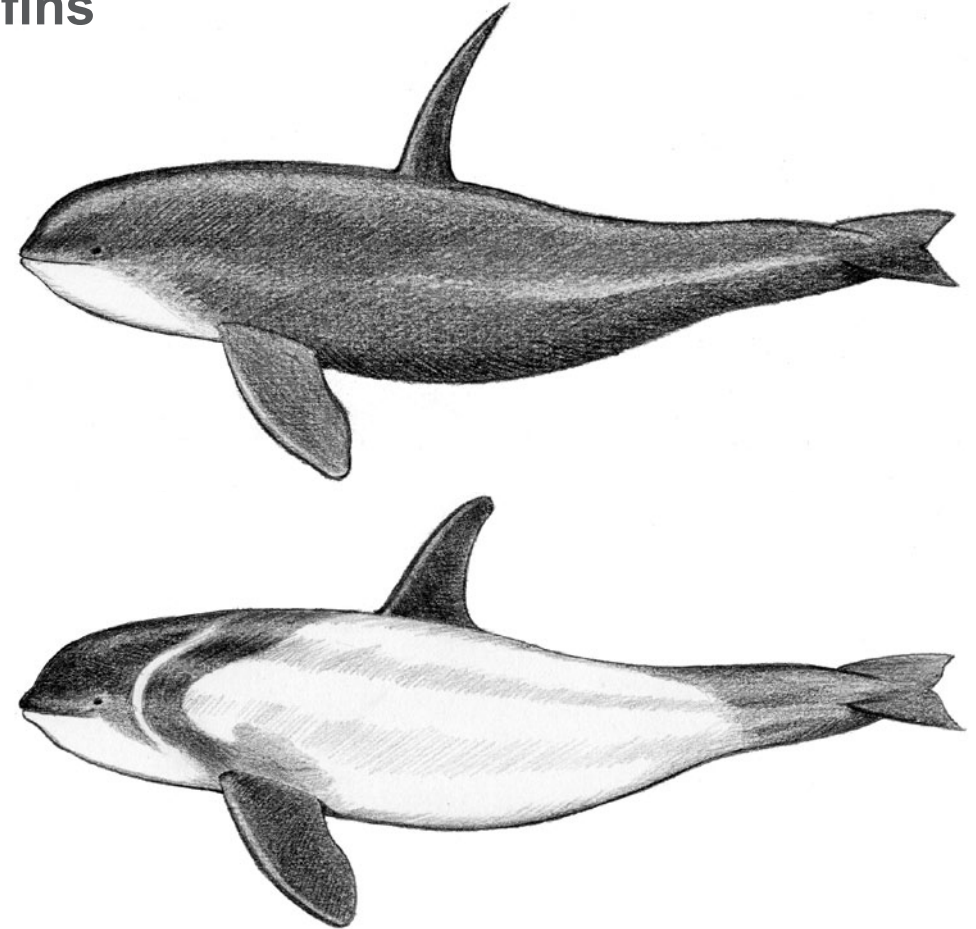
1667 : a naturalist observes between Callao (Peru) and Valparaiso (Chile), in the south-east Pacific, a whale with two dorsal fins : the back is a grayish-green. The two dorsal fins, well developed, straight up, triangular, are separated by an apparently smooth space of about 2 meters. Its length is estimated at 18 meters. A fairly precise drawing was produced (see the website of Michel Raynal's Virtual Institute of Cryptozoology).

1898 : another observation, off the coast of Stonehaven (Scotland) : the two triangular fins had a space of about 6 m between them. Behind a fin, there was a protuberance shaped like a camel's hump. The body was bluish, and the head was apparently flatter than a whale's. It measured more than 10 m, without the tail, which was hidden.

1983 : in the Mediterranean, between Corsica and the Var : a large animal had two dorsal fins, a trapezoidal-shaped head and a white belly.

The 1667 report of the naturalist is so exact that it gives us an Identikit of the animal which is better than a photograph ! It is a baleen whale, a different species of course from the rhinoceros dolphin quoted on page 179. Sharks having two dorsal fins indicates to us that this double addition must have a hydrodynamic usefulness.

The two cetaceans with high dorsal fins



1902 : A group of whales was observed in the Antarctic. They had high saber-shaped dorsal fins. They were entirely black except for their chins and were 6 to 9 meters long. This famous dorsal fin was estimated as 0.90 to 1.20 m high. The observer made very exact drawings showing the animals as he saw them, that is to say coming out of the water.

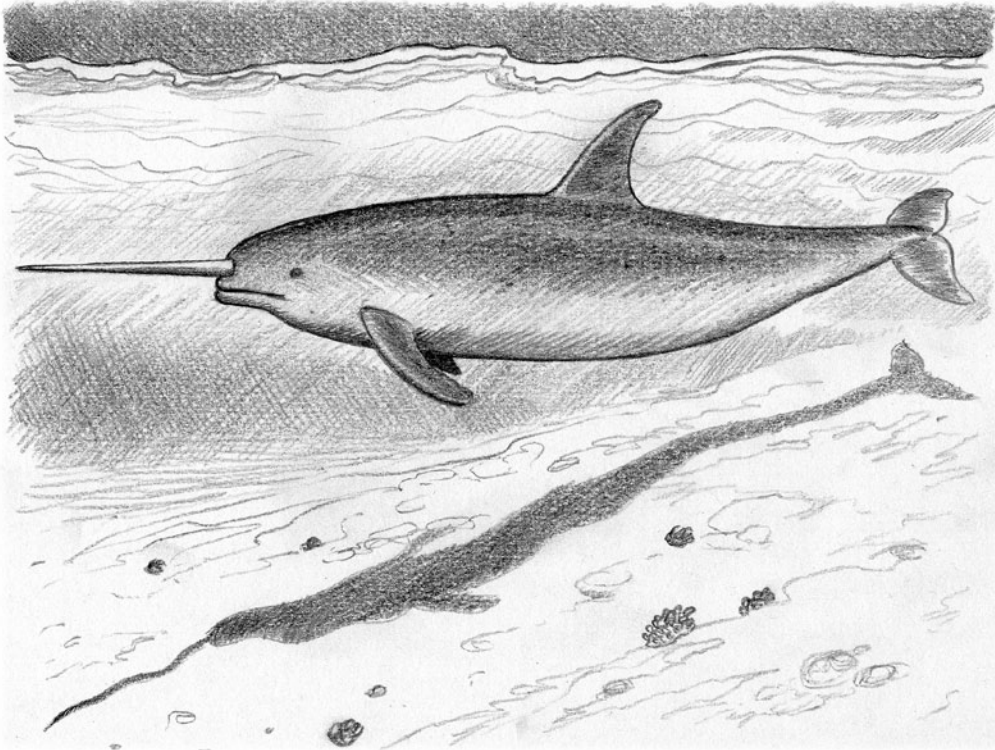
1910 and 1911 : other expeditions to the Antarctic were able to observe these cetaceans : 9 meters long, uniformly black back and pointed dorsal fin.

1964 : off the coast of Chile, uni-

identified cetaceans with high dorsal fins were photographed. The snapshot can be seen on the site of the Virtual Institute of Cryptozoology. Their fin is nevertheless not so high and slender as the one drawn in 1902, and their color is different. It could therefore be a question of another species, particularly as the observation site is not the same. The lower drawing shows a very liberal interpretation of the animal based on photographs that show only the back.

Linnaeus described a sperm whale with a high dorsal fin in 1758.

The southern narwhal



1615 : a boat, in the north Atlantic near the Equator, is struck by a sea animal that leaves the broken end of a horn embedded in the prow, a piece of about 30 cm which is compared with an elephant's tusk.

1620 : in the Atlantic, off the coast of Africa, at a southern latitude of 31°, a merchant observes, from his boat, some « beaked fishes » : they measure 3 meters (without the tooth), are dark blue, have a high dorsal fin, possess a tooth 45 to 60 cm long from the base, very sharp and not spiralled, and a head similar to a porpoise but finer.

1892 : in the straits of Bransfield, in the Antarctic Ocean (at the part of the South Pole near the tip of South America) : some men saw what they took to be narwhal's horns.

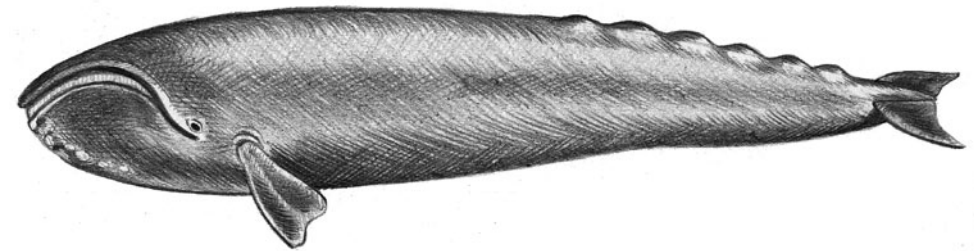
It is not a narwhal : which is larger (4 to 5 m), has no dorsal fin, and lives near the North Pole.

Nor a fish : swordfish and marlin, fish with swords, do not live in the Antarctic, the tooth is not so short and is not made of ivory.

Cases of **convergent evolution** between southern and northern seas are frequent. In effect, many cold water species do not go from one pole to the other, and thus make northern and southern oceans two separate habitats.

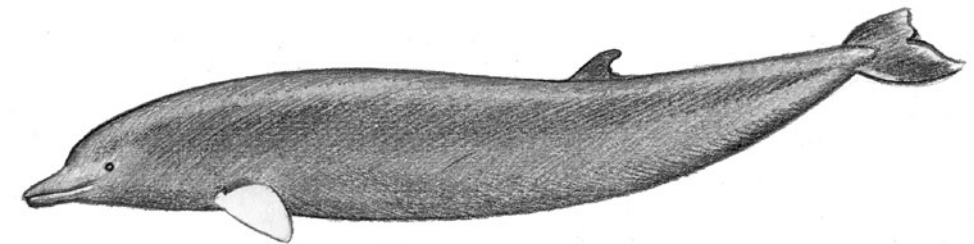
Southern narwhal : it is no doubt a cetacean, a southern equivalent of the northern narwhal, whose tooth is, however, not so long and is not twisted.

The whale without a dorsal fin



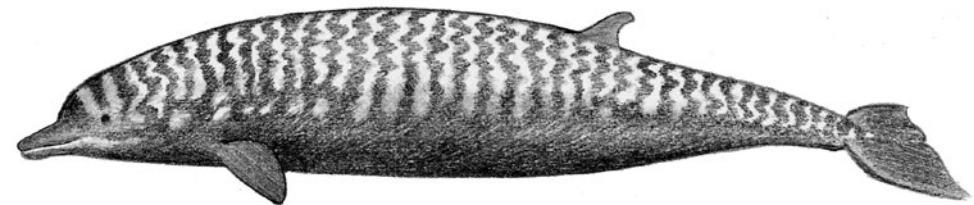
A baleen whale was observed in the north Atlantic until the XVIIth or XVIIIth century by the English, who called it the *scrag whale*, because of its six bumps visible at the end of its back. It is close to the right whale or the gray whale. The latter do not have a dorsal fin either, but do not live in the north Atlantic. However, there exists today in the north Atlantic a baleen whale without a dorsal fin : the northern whale or Greenland whale (*Balaena mysticetus*), but it has no bumps on its back.

The white-finned whale



Observed in the north Atlantic, it would be a beaked whale.

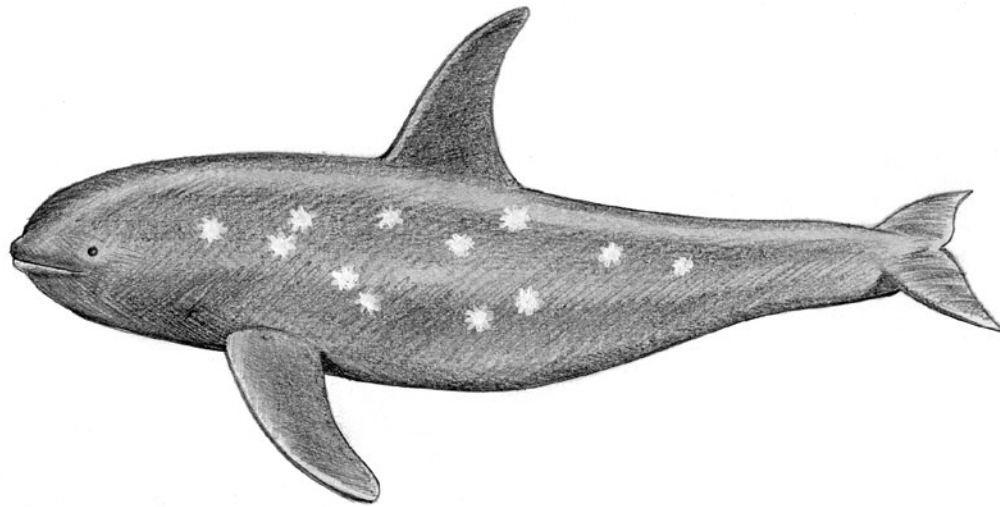
The whale with a marked back



Observed in the eastern tropical Pacific, it would be a whale with a black and white beak, whose back is marked as though by a herringbone pattern.

The four cetaceans on this page were observed by the same witness during his career in the Dutch merchant navy. He gave the reports of his observations in 1971.

Alula's whale



Alula's whale resembles a brown killer whale of 6 to 7 m with star-shaped markings. It lives in the Gulf of Aden (between Somalia and Yemen), at the entrance to the Red Sea.

The Greek dolphin

It is a variation of the striped dolphin without its longitudinal stripe, living in Greece, where the striped dolphin also occurs.

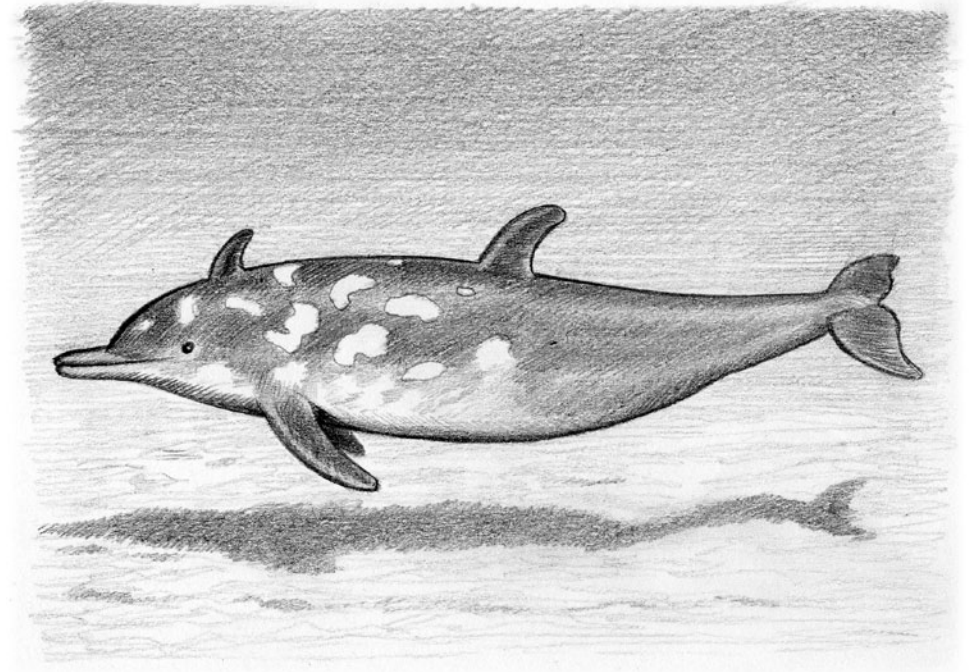
The Senegalese dolphin

It is a variation of the spotted dolphin, observed near the coasts of Senegal. The black parts would be brown and the yellowish parts white.

Illigan's dolphin

It is a variation of the melon-shaped headed dolphin, whose back would be brown, sides yellow and belly pink, living around the Philippines.

The rhinoceros dolphin



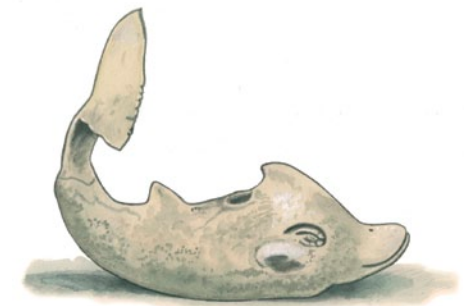
Antiquity : two antique Greek dolphins in *terra cotta* show animals with two dorsal fins, placed on the body in the same way as the 1819 observation.

1741 : a fish of about 14 meters was washed up on the shores of Sicily. A naïve drawing shows the animal with two dorsal fins and a hole in the back through which water was pouring out. The two dorsal fins could be a shark's. But the hole in the back makes one think of the one through which cetaceans breathe. So this drawing is intriguing ...

1819 : between Hawaii and Australia, an observation, more exact this time, shows an entire group of dolphins with a second dorsal fin placed just behind the head. They had small white markings on the front half of the body. The heads, which remained underwater, were not seen. A more precise drawing was produced.

1857 : in the south-west of England, one (or two) dolphin(s) with two dorsal fins was (were) observed in a group of normal dolphins. But the two fins were further back than in the previous case.

These dolphins with two dorsal fins do really seem to exist. Confusion is always possible with dolphins side by side or slightly ahead or behind, as with sharks.



Dolphin in *terra cotta* dating from the IIIrd century B.C., from Apulia (southern Italy).

8- Snakes, batrachians and the like

Snakes spend much time without moving. Depending on the size of the snake and that of its prey, digestion can take several weeks. Apart from that, they like to bask in the sun, stalso immobile. Cold-blooded animals, they are lethargic when the temperature is low. Furthermore, many of them hunt by lying in wait, therefore without moving, and have the reflex to remain still at the approach of a predator ... If one adds to that the fact that many species are twilight ones or completely nocturnal, one can conclude that a snake is an animal which can easily remain unnoticed. Finally, once an individual becomes a giant, for these animals continue to grow throughout their lives, it tends to find refuge in water, which supports its weight better, and also hides it. It is not therefore surprising if certain species still manage to escape us. As to salamanders, these aquatic species live most of their lives immobile at the bottom of cloudy water, in a muddy universe unimaginable to man for daily life ...



The crested cawing cobra



of large rocks (see illustration). Its cry is chicken's chirping and a hiss. Its poison is very powerful.

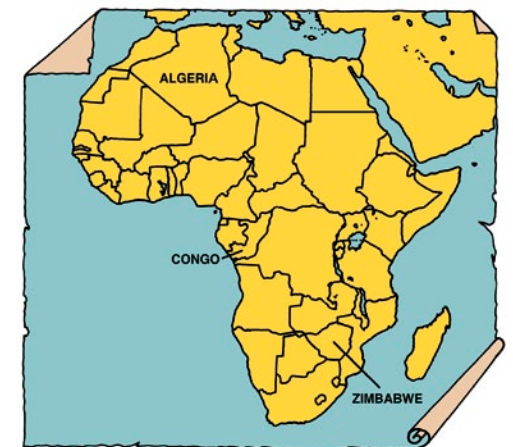
In the whole of Africa : there are numerous reports concerning snakes with or without crests, bleating, crowing, possibly like a rooster ...

Several species must be being described by these reports, which are not very consistent.

Algerian version : according to the Arabs and Tuaregs, it would be a very short and very fat snake, with the volume of a goatskin. It would make a noise like a baby goat and would project a mortal venom on man.

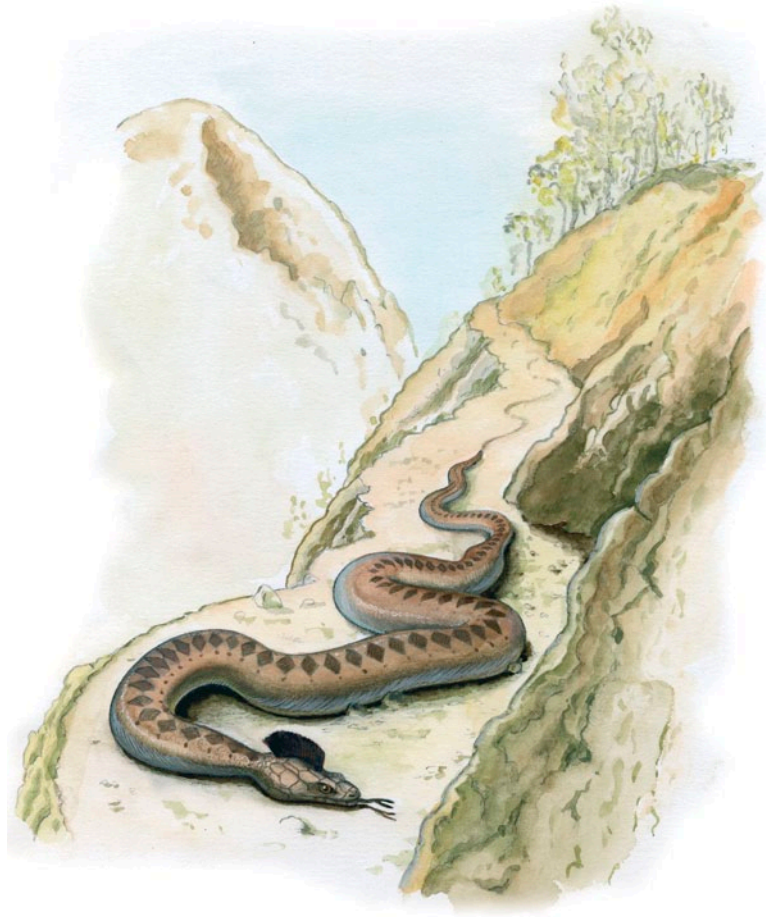
Congolese version : in the Congo, they speak of an aquatic snake of at least 15 m length, observed stretched out in a tree or two near the riverbank, possessing a red crest.

Zimbabwean version : in this country, it would be more of a large snake (4.60 m), uniformly gray or brown, wearing the crest and red beard of a rooster. Its eyes are very large, it lives in baobab trees or on the mounds



Crested or cawing snakes are described throughout Africa.

The northern giant snake



of its head. This reminds us of the snakes' crests seen on page 181, but this one is black.

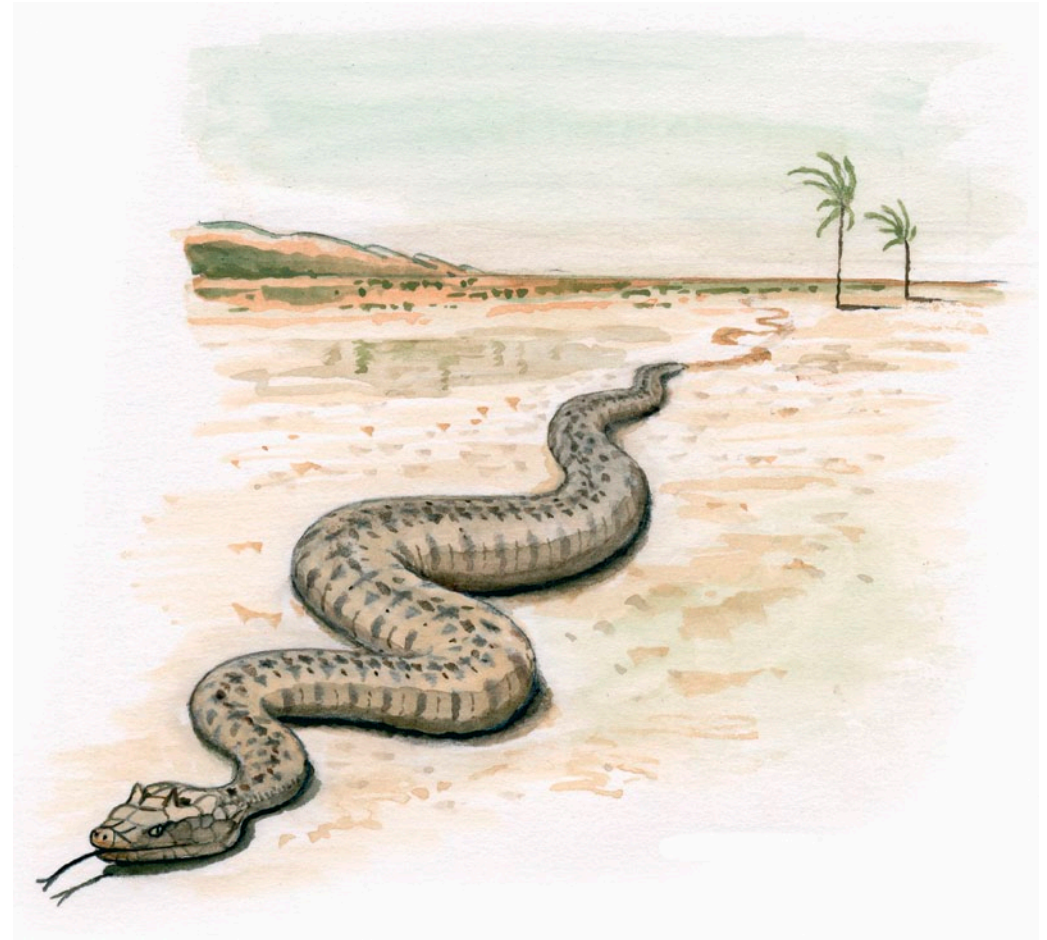
Poisonous : according to local rumours, this snake would have killed several people by biting them on the head.

A precise description : a witness actually killed this snake with his mechanical digger while working on the Djorf-Torba dam, about 10 km east of Bechar. A sketch was made following the witness's instructions. The snake measured 9.20 m. Its belly was whitish and its back brown with an alignment of lozenge-shaped black markings. Its head ended up in a point. It possessed an enormous mane 10 cm by 10 cm on the top



Location of the northern giant snake in Algeria.

The *taguerga*

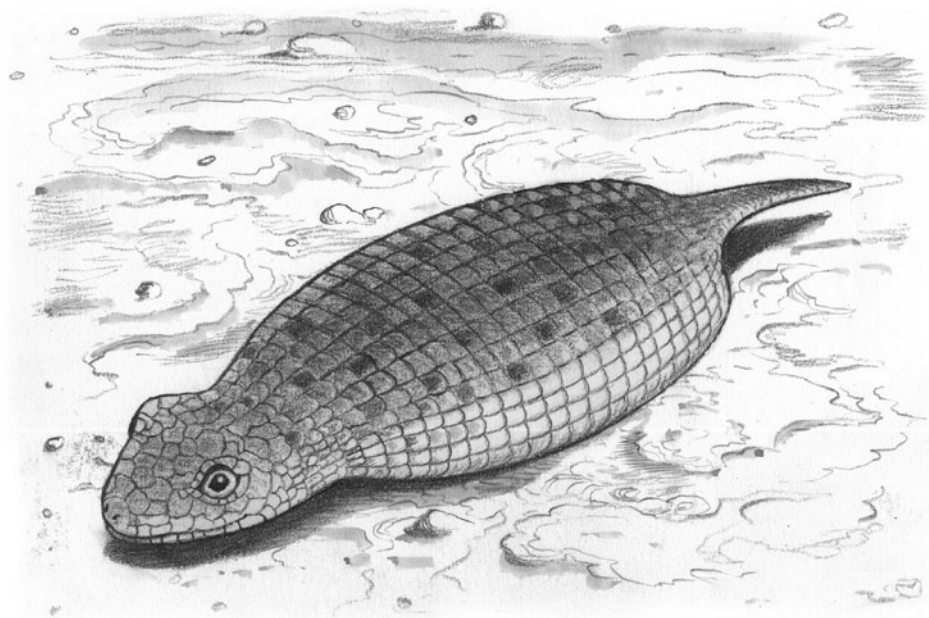


Panic in southern Tunisia : this snake measures 2.10 to 4.50 m. Its body is as thick as a man's thigh. The indigenous people, who claim that it is extremely poisonous, consider it as a very old horned viper. Bernard Heuvelmans believes that it could be a type of striking viper, some of which have scales shaped like horns on their heads.



This snake occurs in the mountains at the edge of the Tunisian Sahara, particularly in the lower parts of the Baâdja and at the foot of the djebel Teldja.

The *tzuchinoko*



A legendary reptile : the *tzuchinoko* is very much represented in Japanese folklore. It appears in children's books, cartoons, video games and films.

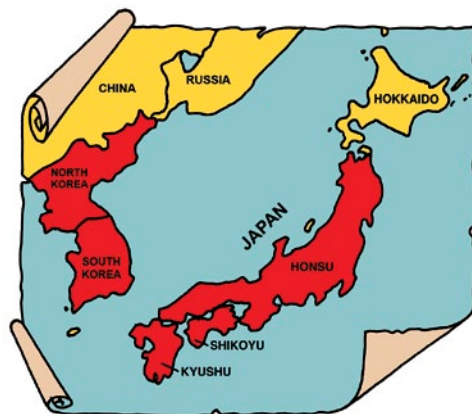
A shortish animal : it would measure between 30 and 80 cm. Its body is short, thick and flat.

Presence of paws : This flat animal is rarely described with two front paws, which would make it a lizard rather than a snake. There exists a flat, rather short lizard family, the skinks. The *tzuchinoko* could be an unknown species of skink.

Distribution : although elusive, this snake is supposed to be widespread throughout Japan, except on the island of Hokkaido, which is the farthest north of the four Japanese islands. An identical animal would live in **Korea**.

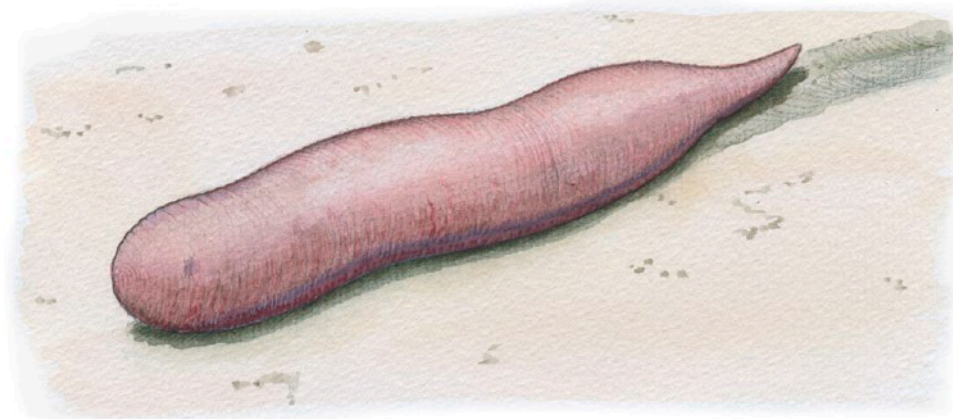


Une des nombreuses espèces de scinque.



Location of the *tzuchinoko*

Le *olgoï-khorkhoï*



An intestine on the sand : in the Gobi desert, a 60 cm dark red worm looking like a cow's intestine, possibly ringed, moves by twisting itself or by rolling down slopes. No head or eyes are visible.

Killer of herds : poisonous, it can kill a man, a camel or a herd by simple contact, even at a distance. It could be a question of electrical discharges. However, some speak of a poison that would corrode metal. It occurs in places where the goyo grows, the roots of which contain a poison.

Caucasian version : Marie-Jeanne Koffmann carried out investigations in the northern Caucasus on the same kind of thick worm, whose skin was smooth and gray. The front is round and the rear end pointed. It moves straight forward, slowly and like an accordion. Some witnesses reckon it to be poisonous, others harmless. It would be « boneless ».

Second worm : Marie-Jeanne Koffmann describes in the same region a smaller worm (about 17 cm), with a widely-split mouth. It has been seen carrying a rat in its mouth. It resembles the amphisbène (a reptile like an

earthworm, covered with translucent scales and having very small eyes).

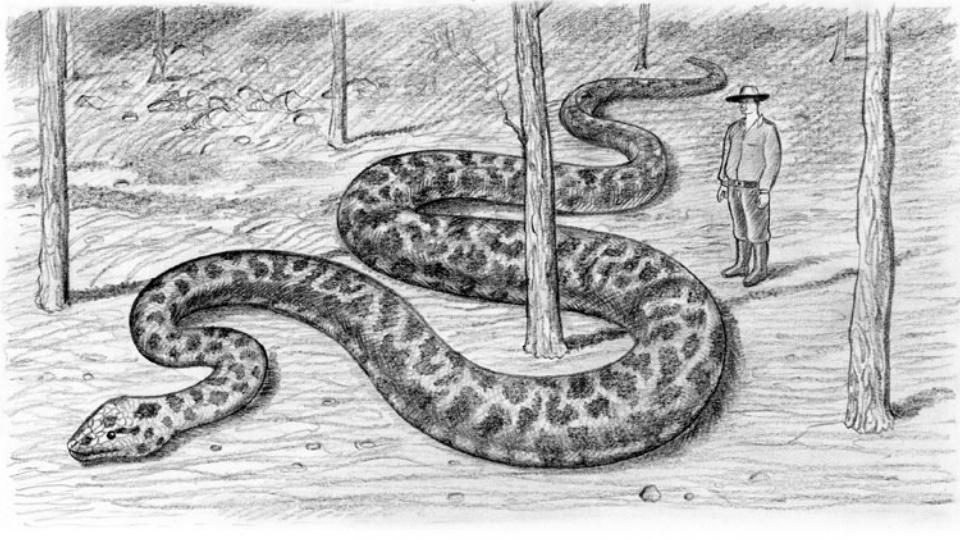


The *olgoï-khorkhoï* occurs in remote areas of the Gobi desert.



The Caucasian version of this worm is found in the steppes and deserts of Kalmykia and in northern Chechnya and Dagestan.

Giant snakes



Throughout the world, snakes of an abnormally large size are described. It needs to be realised that snakes continue to grow all their lives. It is therefore not surprising that the estimated maximum size of a species is regularly exceeded. A few examples :

The giant grass-snake of the Alps : the famous writer and artist Samivel reported two observations in 1859 of a 3-meter long grass-snake as thick as a man's thigh. Another observed in 1870 ;

The giant python of Seba : photographed from a helicopter in 1959, in Katanga (southern Democratic Republic of the Congo), it is estimated at 12.50 or 14 meters. Its head is reckoned to be 80 cm wide ;

The giant anaconda : the anaconda does not officially exceed 10 meters. An army major killed one in the Amazonian jungle measuring 19 meters ;

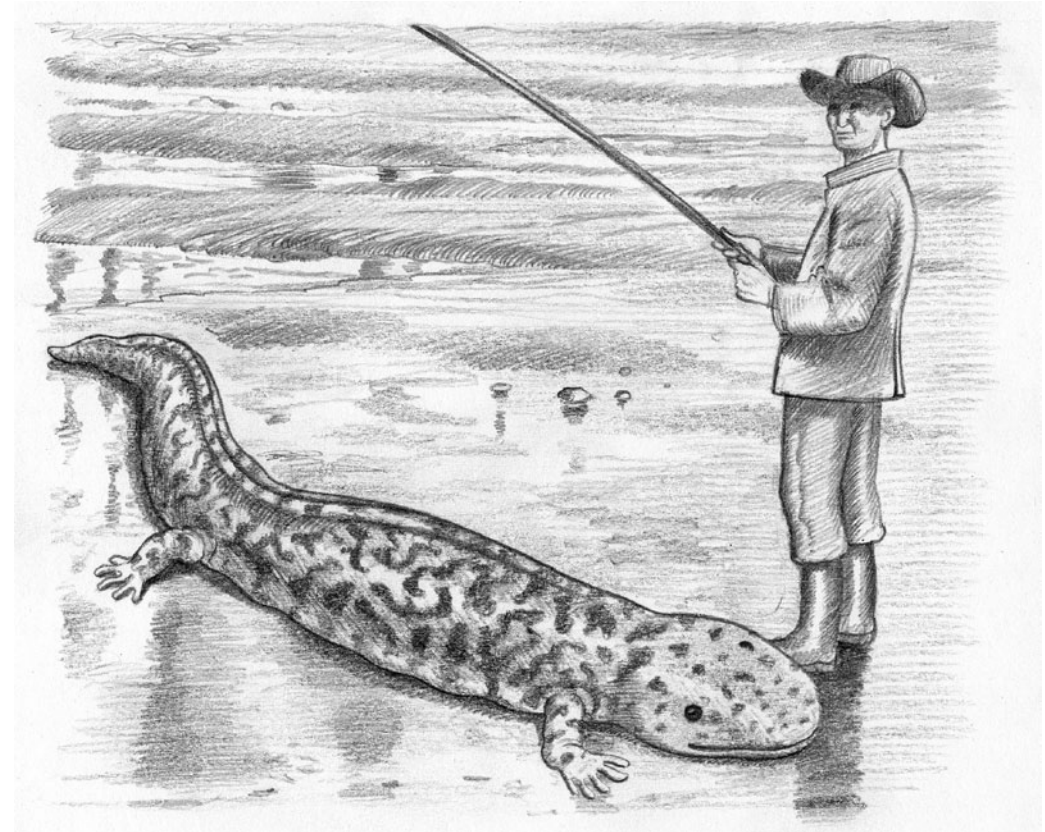
The giant boa : living in the Amazonian region, the boas are not supposed

to be as aquatic as the anacondas, which possess nostrils that close when under water. However, these very long and very heavy specimens would tend to enter water, which supports them better. A photo exists of a boa that had been killed, which was 35 meters long. Others, observed in the water, have been estimated at up to 50 meters. A local newspaper states that two boas which had been killed measured 40 meters and weighed 5 tonnes. They sowed terror, eating oxen, horses and children. They were killed by machine-guns.

The giant snake-tiger of Australia : it is normally estimated at 1.80 m. A specimen of 4.50 m was discovered in the Blue Mountains (New South Wales) in 1968 ;

The giant red-bellied black snake of Australia : official size : 1.80 m. Observed size : 2.40 m. A specimen of 7.50 m would have been killed near Camden, south of Sydney, about 1970.

The Californian giant salamander



Official giants : in Japan and China, salamanders reach 1.80 m. In the USA, they are not supposed to exceed 70 cm for the aquatic menopome (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*) (Allegheny alligator) and 30 cm for the terrestrial species (*Dicamptodon ensatys*).

Fishermen report : in January 1960, an animal breeder fished a salamander of more than 2.50 m in a lake in the Trinity Alps. Other fishermen talk of creatures reaching 2.75 m. One kept one in his bath, measuring 1 meter and resembling the Japanese species.



The Trinity Alps are a mountainous region in northern California.

Bibliography

I give below a list of the main works, magazines and websites in French to which I referred. Most of the works presented below are no longer available and have to be sought in second-hand bookshops or on Internet. The publisher Œil du Sphinx intend republishing the entire works of Bernard Heuvelmans. To be followed up.

Books

Ivan Sanderson

- **Hommes des neiges et Hommes des Bois.** Editions Plon 1961. (Original title : Abominable snowmen : legend come to life). An essential work, which is still relevant today, which covers hominids throughout the world, with the exception of Australia and Oceania, for which the author had no documents at the time. An excellent collective work.

Bernard Heuvelmans

- **Le grand serpent de mer** (The big sea snake). Editions Plon 1965. The reference book on marine monsters, which analyses the entire subject with the master's meticulousness.
- **L'homme de Néanderthal est toujours vivant** (Neandertal man is still alive). Editions Plon 1974, Editions Œil du Sphinx 2011. The first half of the book is by Boris Porchnev, a Russian, pioneer in the search for wild men, who worked with Marie-Jeanne Koffmann. The second part deals with the discovery of the body of a wild man by the author, in America, probably imported from Viet Nam. Essential reading.
- **Sur la piste des bêtes ignorées** (On the track of unknown animals). First edition in two volumes : Edition Plon 1955. Second edition in four volumes, brought up to date : Editions Famot 1982. The bible which was at the origin of nearly all the callings of cryptozoology. The English edition was published by Rupert Hart-Davis in 1962 and has an introduction by Gerald Durrell, and Taylor & Francis today.
- **Les Bêtes humaines d'Afrique** (Africa's human animals). Edition Plon 1980. The

author begins by raking out all the false rumours, to eliminate them, ending up by isolating the essential reports concerning unknown African hominids.

- **Les Félines encore inconnus d'Afrique** (Africa's still unknown felines). Editions de l'Oeil du Sphinx 2007. Heuvelmans' main point on the subject.
- **Les derniers dragons d'Afrique** (Last dragons of Africa) Editions Plon 1980.

Jacqueline Roumeguère-Eberhardt

- **Les hominidés non identifiés des forêts d'Afrique** (Unidentified hominids of the African forests). Editions Robert Laffont 1990. Based on reports from her Masai friends, whom she studied in depth, she draws portraits of five types of hominids from the forests of Kenya, three of which would be *Homo sapiens*. There remain therefore two enigmatic hominids. Introduction by Bernard Heuvelmans.

Marie-Jeanne Koffmann

- Two articles on the *almasty*, enigmatic wild man of the Caucasus, in nos. 269/June 1991 and 276/February 1992 of the magazine *Archeologia*. In these articles, Marie-Jeanne Koffmann sums up her meticulous and exceptional work on the subject, carried out over a period of several decades.

Jean-Jacques Barloy

- **Les survivants de l'ombre** (Survivors of the shadows). Editions Arthaud 1985. One of the most complete books on cryptozoology.
- **Bernard Heuvelmans, Un rebelle de la science** (Bernard Heuvelmans, a scientific rebel). Editions de l'Oeil du Sphinx 2007. The biography of the father of cryptozoology.

Christian Le Noël

- **La race oubliée** (The forgotten race). Editions Les Trois Spirales 2002. The author shows us a panorama, in a very recent past, of wild men in France.
- **La race oubliée 2** (The forgotten race 2). Author's publication to be ordered from AFRC, 2005. A series of reported observations concerning wild, hairy men (HSV) from throughout the world accompanied by personal comments.

Jordi Magraner

- **Les hominidés reliques d'Asie centrale** (Relics of central Asian hominids). Editions Association Troglodytes 1992. The account of two investigations among shepherds in northern Pakistan, collecting reports of wild, hairy men. Download here : <http://daruc.pagesperso-orange.fr/hominidesreliquesasiacentrale.pdf>

Jean-Paul Debenat

- **Sasquatch et le mystère des hommes sauvages** Editions Le Temps Présent 2007. This book is the only one, at present, in the French language dealing with *sasquatch* (or *bigfoot*). In English, there exists : **Sasquatch/Bigfoot and the Mystery of the Wild Man** : Cryptozoology & Mythology in the Pacific Northwest. Paperback, 2009. A large part of it studies Amerindian traditions concerning *sasquatch*.

Dimitri Bayanov

- **Sur les traces de l'homme des neiges russe** (On the tracks of the Russian snowman). Editions Exergue 2001. Reports of observations of wild, hairy men in Russia.

Jean Roche

- **Sauvages et velus** (Wild and hairy). Editions Exergue 2000. A work of reflexion on the subject of wild men in general, dealing at the same time with their behavior and the reception given them by human beings. In this book a panorama of the main names in the field of cryptozoology can be found.

Richard D. Nolane

- **Sur les traces du yeti et autres créatures clandestines** (On the tracks of the yeti and other clandestine creatures). Editions Plein Sud 1996. A collection of the principal stars of cryptozoology.
- **Monstres des lacs et des océans** (Monsters of the lakes and oceans). Editions Plein Sud 1996. A panorama on the subject of aquatic cryptids.

Peter Costello

- **A la recherche des monstres lacustres** (Original title : In search of lake monsters). Editions Plon 1977. Translated from English by Jacques Brécart. Preface by Bernard

Heuvelmans. A book dealing in detail with the vast subject of lake monsters, the Loch Ness monster being just one case among many others spread about in lakes worldwide.

Éric Joly - Pierre Affre

- **Les monstres sont vivants** (Monsters are alive). Editions Grasset 1995. Another collection of the principal stars of cryptozoology.

Ralph Izzard

- **Sur la piste de l'abominable homme des neiges** (Original title : The abominable snowman). Editions Amiot-Dumont 1955. Translated from English by Henri Thies and Micheline Morin. The account of one of the first yeti expeditions.

Carlo Graffigna

- **L'énigme du yeti** (The yeti enigma). Editions René Julliard 1962. Translated from Italian by S. de Vergennes. 267 fascinating pages about the Asiatic snowman.

Robert A. Hutchison

- **Sur les traces du yeti** (Original title : In the tracks of the yeti). Editions Robert Laffont 1991. Translated from English by Patrick Gador, this account reports one of the last expeditions searching for the yeti. It reports footprints and many local observations.

Albert-Frédéric Baudrimont

- **Le yeti démystifié** (The yeti demystified). Editions Librairie des Pyrénées et de Gascogne 2001. An excellent summing-up concerning the yeti, in which the author begins by describing in detail its habitat.

Bernard Duhourcau

- **Guide des Pyrénées mystérieuses** (A guidebook to the mysterious Pyrenees). Editions Tchou 1985. This book does not deal with cryptozoology but, on page 190, there is an interesting article concerning monitor lizards having lived there until the end of the XIXth century. There are also allusions to the *basajaun*, a Basque wild, hairy man. Allusions to wild men of the Pyrenees are to be found in practically all the books of local legends.

Associations and magazines

ABEPAR : Association belge d'étude et de protection des animaux rares, Square des Latins 49/4, 1050 Brussels, Belgium (Belgian association for the study and protection of rare animals). This association, organized by the cryptozoologist Eric Joye, publishes the magazine *Cryptozoologia*, organizes European meetings on cryptozoology and expeditions to North America in the search for sasquatch.. See website : <http://www.cryptozoologia.eu/> and its blog which relates the expeditions : <http://bigfoot.skynetblogs.be/>

AFRC : Association française de recherches cryptozoologiques, 92 rue Henri-Lacroix, 83000 Toulon (French association for cryptozoological research). Directed by Christian Le Noël, it publishes the magazine *Hominologie et Cryptozoologie*, a mine of information.

Ngoko : after publishing the ex-magazine *Cryptos*, Michel Ballot and his team specialized in the search for the *mokele-m'bembe*, possible African aquatic dinosaur. He takes part in several expeditions a year and publishes the magazine *NGOKO* which reports on his investigations. Association Ngoko, 16 avenue Foch, 06190 Roquebrune Cap Martin. See website : <http://mokelembembeexpeditions.blogspot.com/>

Musée zoologique de Lausanne : this museum holds Bernard Heuvelmans' archives. It publishes the cryptozoological magazine *Kraken*, the first number of which appeared at the end of 2008. This museum is situated at 6 place de la Riponne, 1014 Lausanne, Switzerland. Website : <http://www.zoologie.vd.ch>



Websites

We have already mentioned the websites of ABEPAR and Ngoko, but would like to quote also :

Institut virtuel de cryptozoologie (Virtual Institute of Cryptozoology) <http://perso.wanadoo.fr/cryptozoo/>. Impossible to leave out Michel Raynal and his website, which is the most complete and most meticulous in the field. His detailed enquiries have brought to light many hoaxes and errors in this well-filled domain. Michel Raynal also has a blog : <http://pagesperso.orange.fr/cryptozoo/bibliographie/blog.htm>.

Francophone gateway to cryptozoology :

<http://cryptozoologie.conceptforum.net/index.forum>

BFRO : <http://www.bfro.net/>
The anglophone website of the American association Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, which collects all the reported sightings of *bigfoots* in North America, classified by State and type of observation. Also to be found are reports of the association's expeditions. A very complete website for those who are not fazed by the English language !

Cryptomundo :
<http://www.cryptomundo.com/>
A wealth of information !

I also referred to other websites but the list would be too long to give here. In general, a search on Internet turns up many discoveries but it is necessary to sift through the data, to avoid bad surprises. In the same way as certain new species have been discovered in museums, in the shape of stuffed animals that have been wrongly labelled, a systematic search on the net is a source of unexpected discoveries, with the reservation, however, that confirmation is necessary.

Author's website :
<http://www.philippe-coudray.com>

Publisher's website :
<http://www.editionsdumont.fr/>



Drawing based on a black and white photo of a wild man « resembling a bear » killed in China on 23 May 1957. A schoolteacher cut off its hands and feet and preserved them in his stall of Chinese pharmaceutical products (translation Gregory Beausart). This photo representing the backs of two hands and another of the palms of the two hands are published in a Japanese book on cryptozoology (jacket cover shown opposite). The hand of the central Asian wild man, according to the photos of the 1968 deep-frozen corpse, shows a slightly less opposable thumb but of about the same length. The above hand is therefore almost certainly that of a hominid of the big yeti/*bigfoot* type. This hand's thumb is as short as the gorilla's, but the other fingers are longer than that of the large ape. Furthermore, contrary to the gorilla, the skin is pale. Nor is it a chimpanzee's hand, the palm of which is longer and the thumb shorter, nor the hand of an orangutan, the thumb of which is particularly short.



