

EXOTIC ZOOLOGY

The Bimonthly Magazine of Cryptozoology

Vol. 3., #4 July/August 1996 Matthew A. Bille, Editor

DISCOVERIES: THE NEWEST PRIMATES

Since *EZ* began, we've devoted two cover stories to the flood of **Brazilian primate discoveries** coming out of the rain forests. Now there is another one. The **Satere marmoset** (*Callithrix sateri*) was just described, bringing the number of new species found in the 1990s to six. The newest marmoset is, like its relatives, a small primate with a long tail. **Unlike every known marmoset**, however, this one has "a distinctive face and ears, unpigmented facial skin, mahogany colored fur, and fleshy appendages on the genitalia of both sexes whose purpose has biologists puzzled," as Les Line wrote in the *New York Times*.



The world's newest primate, *Callithrix sateri*. Photo courtesy of Conservation International.

MARMOSET (Continued):

Dr. Russell Mittermeir, president of Conservation International, remarked, "This shows how ignorant we are of our fellow species - even a well-studied group such as our closest relatives, the primates." **Comment:** I doubt Dr. Mittermeir calls himself a cryptozoologist, but Bernard Heuvelmans himself couldn't have stated the rationale for cryptozoology any better. **Sources:** Line, Les. 1996. "New Primate Species Discovered in Amazon Rainforest," *New York Times*, June 19 // Conservation International. 1996. "New Primate Species Discovered in Brazil," press release. **Thanks to** Gayle Bennett of Conservation International for the press release and photograph.

Yet another new primate has fallen into the lap of science: not from a tree this time, but from a drawer. An old specimen drawer at the University of Zurich has been found to hold a very strange skeleton collected in Africa. The animal has been placed in a brand-new genus, *Pseudopotto*, since it is most closely allied to the pottos. (Pottos are small primates about ten inches long. Along with lorises, lemurs, and others, they belong to the suborder called the prosimians, or, to use a traditional German term, *halbaffen* (half-monkeys).) This new specimen, compared to known pottos, is smaller, has more primitive dentition, and sports a long tail, whereas other pottos have only the stump of a tail. Anthropologist Jeff Schwartz, who made the discovery, thinks the animal is so unique it might even merit naming a new family. Could there still be living *Pseudopottos*? No one knows, but it can't be ruled out. **Source:** Holden, Constance (ed.) 1996. "Our New Relation," *Science*, March 1, p.1235. **Thanks to** Angel Morant Fores for this article.

RESOURCES: CRYPTOZOLOGY ON THE INTERNET

In a field like cryptozoology, where the available experts and data are widely scattered, the Internet is an extremely valuable resource. Useful sites include both "mainstream" zoology and cryptozoology pages.

To begin with zoological sites, the home page for **Conservation International** (www.conservation.org) includes an on-line bimonthly news bulletin, *News From the Front*, along with information on CI's work and a variety of other resources. **The WorldWide Fund for Nature**, a.k.a. the **World Wildlife Fund**, also has a good site (www.panda.org). A recent check showed it had graphics, news releases, and a great deal of other information. For instance, I learned about Cameroon's Mount Kupe bush shrike (*Malaconotus hupeensis*), believed extinct until its 1989 rediscovery, and China's Yunnan snub-nosed monkey (*Rhinopithecus bieli*), missing from 1890 to 1967 and also thought to be extinct.

The **World Conservation Monitoring Centre** in England is located at <http://www.wcmc.org.uk>. This site has a wealth of information on the WCMC and its supporting organizations, the **IUCN**, the **World Wide Fund for Nature**, and the **United Nations Environment Program**.

INTERNET (Continued):

For instance, one can peruse information on the WCMC's own list of 20 of the most endangered animals (cryptozoologists will recognize the golden bamboo lemur and the kouprey) or hop to the IUCN's Red List, broken down by phylum. Or you can search a particular region: <http://www.erin.gov.au/life> will get you to **Australia's Interior Ministry**, with its newsletter, *On the brink!*

If you're searching for zoological information, there's no better place to start than **The Internet Resource Guide for Zoology** at <http://www.york.biosys.org/zrdocs/zoolinfo/zoolinfo.htm>. This site, with an enormous store of data and links to countless other resources, is maintained by Biosis, a nonprofit organization which also publishes (in partnership with the Zoological Society of London) the *Zoological Record*. An on-line version of that publication can be reached from this site, although most *Zoological Record* on-line services carry an extra fee.

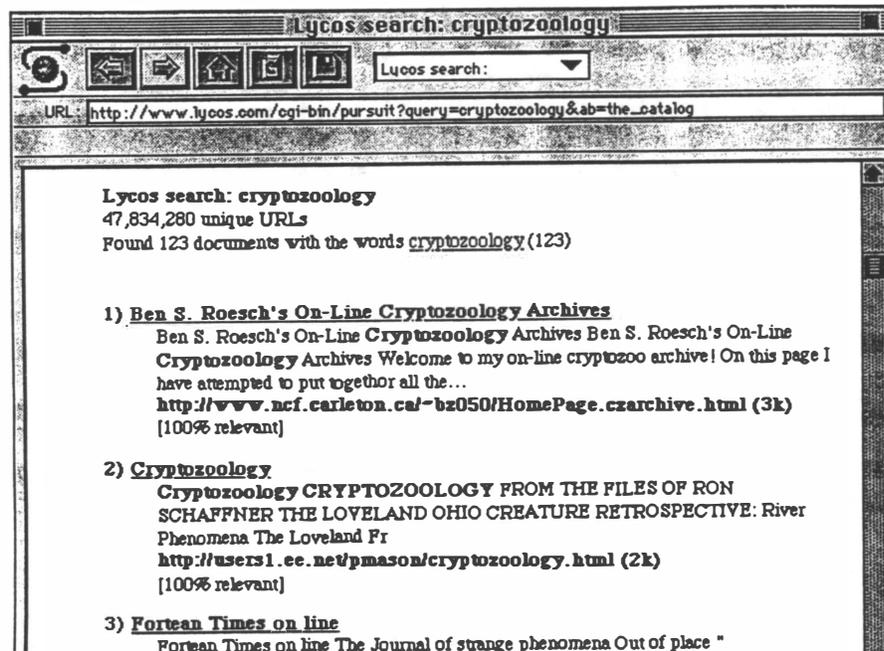
The **Smithsonian's Natural History Web site** (<http://nmnhwww.si.edu/nmnhweb.html>) is another good source. For example, one of its databases is titled "Mammal Species of the World." A search of this source under "thylacine," one of the favorite animals of cryptozoology, produced three entries. **Canada's Royal Ontario Museum** has information on discoveries in Vu Quang at <http://www.rom.on.ca>. There is also the **Internet Public Library's Zoology Ready Reference** (<http://ipl.sils.umich.edu/ref/RR/SCI/zoology-rr.html>).

There are many sites on specific types of animals. For instance, an excellent location for **dolphin information**, including pictures and descriptions of species, is at <http://www.awinc.com/users/mbrent/dolphins.html>. Tricia Lamb Feuerstein has posted a very thorough **cetacean bibliography** at <http://www.physics.helsinki.fi/whale/literature>. Web sites on **reptiles, amphibians, etc.** can be reached from the Herpmed site, <http://www.xmission.com~gastown/herpmed/>. For primate data, check the **Primate Information Center** site at <http://uakari.primate.wisc.edu/pin/pic/>. If you want to discuss your favorite animals, Usenet zoology newsgroups include "alt.animals.lions," "alt.animals.bears," "alt.animals.dolphins," and "rec.animals.wildlife." The best one I've yet seen is "alt.fan.lemurs," which includes many files of data on the animals and even lemur jokes in addition to the usual messages and commentary.

An Australian researcher named Vern Weitzel has set up two sites with information on Vietnam. <http://coombs.anu.edu.au/~vern/species.html> has descriptions and photos of the Vu Quang mammals plus Vo Quy's pheasant, discovered in 1975. His second site, [~vern/wildman.html](http://coombs.anu.edu.au/~vern/wildman.html), offers interesting reports and speculation on an alleged unidentified primate called *Nguoi Rung*. The *Nguoi Rung*, meaning "forest people," are Vietnam's version of sasquatch.

INTERNET (Continued):

This brings us to cryptozoology. There's a **Cryptozoology Web site** at <http://fugl.ucsd.edu/Drywall/cryptozoo/cryptozoo.html>. It has links to other cryptozoological and zoological sites, and a discussion of sasquatch evidence. **Ben Roesch** has created another resource at www.ncf.carleton.ca/~bz050/HomePage.cryptoz.html. This site includes several pages of links, reports, and other useful information, including how to order Ben's publication, *The Cryptozoology Review*. Scott Norman has a new site called **Cryptozoology Realms** at <http://members.aol.com/mokele/crteaser.html>, but there's little content so far.



Cryptozoology on the Internet: the beginning of results found
Using the Lycos search engine.

At least two of the on-line services have crypto discussion areas. There is a "Cryptozoology" roundtable on Genie and a board called "Monsters" under **OMNI On-Line** (reach through America On Line).

Some of the popular phenomena magazines, which may lack scientific credibility but nonetheless publish some worthwhile crypto material, have their own sites. Two are **STRANGE** magazine (which has an extensive site at <http://www.cais.net/strangemaq/home.html>), and **Fortean Times** (<http://www.forteantimes.com/>).

Mention should also be made of **The Skeptic's Dictionary** at <http://wheel.ucdavis.edu/~btcarrol/skeptic/dictcont.html>. This site offers short entries on major cryptozoological subjects (among other alleged phenomena) and a reading list for each.

Not surprisingly, the two most famous alleged cryptozoological creatures have their own homes on the Web. **Nessie** has at least five sites,

INTERNET (Continued):

with collections of reports, history, pictures, etc. <http://www.fmci.com/mlong/bgo/lness/lness.html> and <http://www.foremost.co.uk/highland/nessie.html> are two examples. The Loch Ness Society's site at <http://www.scotnet.co.uk/highland> features a number of "monster" photographs that might be intriguing if they included any kind of information about who supposedly took them, when, where, etc., that might aid the viewer in forming an opinion of their authenticity. There are numerous sasquatch sites, such as the Bigfoot Research Project (<http://www.teleport.com/~tbrp>) and Sasquatch Tracks (<http://www.cet.com-mwalters/sasquatch/tracks.htm>). At this latter site, you can buy your own copies of plaster sasquatch footprint casts, Gigantopithecus skulls, and other conversation pieces.

NEWS AND COMMENT

A team from Conservation International's Rapid Assessment Program (RAP) has charted entirely unknown habitats in a region straddling the border between Ecuador and Peru. This area, called the Corderilla del Condor, contains mountaintop environments like the tepuis of Venezuela, accessible only by helicopter. RAP teams visited here in 1993 and 1994. According to CI's on-line bulletin, among the new species they've discovered so far are "the largest known shrew-opossum in the world," eight insects, and a pygmy owl. The owl was named for Ted Parker, the late ornithologist. Source: Anonymous. 1995. "Condor RAP Trips' Remarkable Discoveries," *News From the Front*, Vol. 1., No. 1, Sept/Oct.

With all the recent fanfare over the giant squid *Architeuthis dux*, it should be remembered that a still-unexplained encounter over 20 years ago shows there is at least one "giant" type still at large. A U.S. Navy frigate, the USS *Stein*, put into port in Long Beach with the rubber antifoul coating over its sonar dome shredded by some undersea attacker. Claws were recovered from the material and identified as those of a squid. While some known squid have similar claws around the edges of their suckers, *A. dux*, the only universally accepted giant species, does not (despite the error made on this point in Peter Benchley's novel *Beast*). The fishhook-size (3cm) claws found on the *Stein* were many times larger than those from known species. The squid involved, as C. Scott Johnson of the Naval Ocean Systems Center wrote, "must have been extremely large and of a species still unknown to science." Source: Johnson, C. Scott. 1978. United States Naval Institute *Proceedings*, August, pp.106-7. Thanks to Angel Fores for this item.

A recently discovered fly has an unusual occupation. The Malaysian species makes its living by imitating an ant larva. Legless and wingless, the adult female *Phoridae* moves into an ant colony and mimics both the appearance and, presumably, the chemical cues used by ants to identify their nestmates. Source: Anonymous. 1995. "Fly Infiltrates Ant World," *Globe and Mail*, November 11.

RESOURCES

BOOKS.

The writings of David Quammen are best dealt with as a group. Quammen, best known for his column in *Outside* magazine, has also produced three books. The first two, *Natural Acts* and *The Flight of the Iguana*, collect his articles from *Outside* and other publications. His newest, *The Song of the Dodo*, is an original work of great significance.

In *Natural Acts*, Quammen includes two essays of cryptozoological significance. "Avatars of the Soul in Malaya" concerns discoveries in the world of moths and butterflies. Two bizarre finds from recent years are *Lobocraspis griseifusa*, which drinks the tears of mammals, and *Calpe eustrigata*, which actually sucks their blood. In "Rumors of a Snake," Quammen collects the stories of a giant anaconda in South America. Of the famous claim by Major Percy Fawcett to have shot a snake 62 feet (19m) long, Quammen observes, "It might all be true but most likely it isn't."

Quammen looks specifically at cryptozoology in *The Flight of the Iguana*. In a piece entitled, "Stranger than Truth: Cryptozoology and the Romantic Imagination," he provides an affectionate if bemused overview of the International Society of Cryptozoology and the field in general. Quammen holds the common view that "cryptozoology is biased toward large unknown animals." He seems skeptical about the existence of such animals but thinks well of the scientists involved and describes the journal *Cryptozoology* as "intriguing, diverse, and mainly quite sane."

The Song of the Dodo is subtitled *Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinction*. In this massive (702 pages) and thoroughly researched tome, Quammen examines a topic of great interest to cryptozoologists. In studying what happens to "island" populations - how they change, how they survive, how many individuals they need to remain viable, and how they become extinct - he deals not only with literal islands but with isolated areas on larger land masses. Two sections of special interest deal with the 1986 discovery of the golden bamboo lemur (*Hapalemur aureus*) and the apparent extinction of the thylacine (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*). Concerning the latter, Quammen agrees some animals survived their supposed 1936 demise, but he doubts the remnant population was large enough to survive the stresses and fluctuations all species go through.

Quammen makes one error when he lists the Jamaican iguana (*Cyclura collei*) as extinct. It was actually rediscovered in 1990. I saw a breeding colony at the Indianapolis Zoo in 1994.

Quammen has made some valuable contributions to the subject of cryptozoology. *The Song of the Dodo*, especially, is mandatory reading. Sources: Alberts, Alison. 1993. "The Most Endangered Lizard in the World," *The Vivarium*, July/August.

Quammen, David:

1985. *Natural Acts*. New York: Nick Lyons Books. 221pp.

1988. *The Flight of the Iguana*. New York: Anchor Books. 302pp.

1996. *The Song of the Dodo*. New York: Scribner's. 702pp.

BOOKS (Continued)

Hunt, John. 1969. **A World Full of Animals**. New York: McKay. 378pp. Hunt, a conservationist and zookeeper, produced a now-dated but still highly enjoyable tour of the vertebrates. For cryptozoologists, there's a good discussion of how the tarpan was "re-created," plus reports and rumors of African bears, wild Przewalski's horses, and surviving thylacines. Most intriguingly, Hunt reported (without giving a source) that "Russian reports" indicated that not only was Steller's sea cow alive, but that a surviving population was under official protection.

Ward, Paul, and Suzanne Kynaston. 1995. **Wild Bears of the World**. New York: Facts on File. 191pp. As with all the books in this series, this one is a well-written and -illustrated study of its subject. However, Ward and Kynaston seem unaware of the anomalous bears reported in South America and elsewhere. There is a mention of "the legendary, gigantic brown bears which roam the wastes of Kamchatka," but those reports actually refer to huge *black* bears.

ARTICLES.

Conniff, Richard. 1996. "**Clyde Roper can't wait to be attacked by the giant squid**," *Smithsonian*, May, pp.126-134. Profiles Dr. Roper's quest to find *Architeuthis* in its home waters. Conniff notes that Roper has, in his career studying squid, "identified one new family, two genera and about 20 species."

Shuker, Karl. 1996. "**The Cave Time Forgot**," *Fortean Times*, August, p.42. Explores the bizarre chemosynthesis-based ecosystem of Romania's Movile Cave, home to 33 new species resembling nothing else on Earth.

Two older articles from *National Geographic* are worth mentioning. William Hammer's "**Deadly Jellyfish of Australia**" (August 1994, p. 116), concerns *Chironex fleckeri*, the "sea wasp," which was only described in 1956 despite its sometimes-deadly encounters with humans. "**Last of the Black-footed Ferrets?**" by Tim Clark (June 1983, p.828) describes the rediscovery of this "extinct" North American predator.

PERIODICALS.

Roesch, Ben (ed.). **The Cryptozoology Review**. I've mentioned this newsletter before, but we now have the first issue in hand. The publication (32pp., stapled) is quite good. The lead article, on a large, apparently unknown polychaete marine worm in the Caribbean, is well researched and written. News on new and rediscovered species covers much of the same ground as *EZ*. The revised subscription cost is \$10 (U.S.) for four quarterly issues. Address: 137 Atlas Ave., Toronto, ON Canada M6C 3P4.

EDITOR'S PAGE

PURPOSE: Cryptozoology is the zoological subspecialty of finding new or supposedly extinct species. The term has been misapplied by some to sensationalized "monsters" and even "ghost" animals. I hope that *Exotic Zoology* can help restore the word's proper usage: the name of a science devoted to collecting and studying evidence.

IN CLOSING: Some of the most important cryptozoology work has come from the International Society of Cryptozoology, which labors to make searching for new animals a respectable scientific specialty. Contact J. Richard Greenwell, Secretary, P.O. Box 43070, Tucson, AZ 85733.

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Logo illustration: the mysterious cetacean *Delphinus rhinoceros*, described by French naturalists Quoy and Gaimard in 1819 and not reported since. Reconstruction by Craig Gosling copyright 1994.

EXOTIC ZOOLOGY SUBSCRIBER DIRECTORY

We hereby present EZ's first annual subscriber directory. The reason for this listing is to help readers find those with similar interests for purposes of research, exchanging information, or just for fun. Remember, this lists only those readers who told us they wanted to be included.

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