ON THE PRESENCE AND SPECIFIC POSITION OF PANGOLINS (GEN. MANIS L.: PHOLIDOTA) IN NORTH MOZAMBIQUE

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The genus *Manis* L. is known for the fauna of the southern and central parts of Mozambique, through the presence of the Cape Ground pangolin — *M. temmincki* Smuts, 1832 (Smithers & Tello, 1976). This species inhabits South and East Africa, from Transvaal to Southwest Sudan (Kingdon, 1971; Meester, 1971; Dorst et Dandelot, 1976). In some regions of this range, however, the Ground pangolin is rather rare (Kingdon, 1971), and for other its presence has not been proven.

According to the most authoritative report on the mammalian fauna of Mosambique (Smithers and Tello, 1976), this pangolin reaches up to the north in the Zambesia district (reports for the Gile Wildlife Reserve). Neither is any more northern observation mentioned in a new work on the mammals of Mozambique (Frade & Sylva, 1981/1982). The species has not been observed in the northwest Tete district, neither have pangolins been reported in the spacious territories north of the cited location, which is situated some 550 km towards the northern boundaries of the country and occupies an area of over 300 000 sq. km. As the cape pangolin inhabits the southern parts of Malawi (Sweeny, 1959) and is also found in Tanzania (Swynnerton & Hayman, 1950). Smithers & Tello (1976) suppose it also occurs in Northern Mozambique.

At the same time Ellerman et al. (1953), and later Meester (1971), who follow W. Ansell's views, suppose that North Mozambique is in the range of the tree pangolin *M. tricuspis* Rafinisque. However, its distribution here was rejected by Smithers & Tello (1976), and later by Ansell himself (1982). The picture becomes even more complicated because of the doubts of the possible presence of the giant pangolin *M. gigantea* Illiger east of lake Malawi (Kingdon, 1971). Travassos Dias in a popular book on Mozambique fauna (1981) reports the catching of a pangolin in the Cabo Delgado district, close to Lagoa Iungo in 1956. The report (not mentioned by Smitheres & Tello, 1976) does not state clearly whether it was namely the ground pangolin that was caught or the find was automatically attributed to this pangolin, simply because of its existence in the southern provinces.

A Bulgarian Zoological Expedition, organized in 1983 by the National Natural History Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, jointly with the Museum of Natural History, Maputo, carried out obserbations and made a collection of medium-sized and large mammals, thus providing additional information on the distribution of some species (Spassov, Roche, 1989). Information was gathered on the existence of the pangolin in the northern parts of the country. At the same time a pangolin had been seen by a Bulgarian geologist north of the Lurio river, 30 km from its estuary. A simi-

lar specimen, photographed near the village of Mazeze made it possible to identify the animal (Fig. 1).

The massive body and the broad, relatively short tail, and the small number of transverse rows of scales, the small number of lateral caudal scales exclude the possibility to attribute the specimen to the tree pangolin (*M. tricuspis*) (Mohr, 1961; Meester, 1971; Dorst, Dandelot, 1976; Patterson, 1978). The photograph also shows, that the front legs are covered with scales up to the claws, while the lower part of the body is not covered with whitish hairs. These characteristics add to and confirm the above conclusion. According to literature, the tail of the massive ground and giant pangolins is shorter than the length of the head and the body. In some cases it appears (see Mohr, 1961 — the photograph, and Fig. 1) that with *M. temmincki* the tail may reach and to a certain extent exceed the length of the head and the body, however it is quite shorter than that of *M. tricuspis*, where the tail may be 1,5 times the size of the head and the body.

The small number of transversal body rows of scales (not more than 13), the limited number of lateral tail scales (not more than 13), and as it appears the rather broad tip of the tail indicate that the specimen photographed cannot belong to the species of the giant pangolin and that it belongs to the species *M. temmincki* (Mohr, 1961; Meester, 1971; Dorst et Dandelot, 1976).

The discovery of the ground pangolin near the village of Mazeze in the Cabo Delgado district proves the presence of this species in the northern parts of Mozambique, thus complementing information on its distribution, and clarifies the question of the presence and specific position of the pangolins in the cited regions.

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О ПРИСУТСТВИИ И ВИДОВОЙ ПРИНАДЛЕЖНОСТИ ЯЩЕРОВ (РОД *MANIS* L., PHOLIDOTA) В СЕВЕРНОМ МОЗАМБИКЕ

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(Резюме)

До настоящего времени не выяснен окончательно вопрос о присутствии и видовой принадлежности рода *Manis* в Северном Мозамбике.

Анализ фотографий ящера, сделаных в провинции Кабо-Дельгадо, позволяет с уверенностью установить присутствие капского наземного ящера и в северных районах страны.