# THE MAMMALS OF SOMALILAND

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The mammals of Somaliland by R. E. Drake-Brockman

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## R. E. DRAKE-BROCKMAN

# THE MAMMALS OF SOMALILAND





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BY

#### R. E. DRAKE-BROCKMAN

F.Z.S., F.R.G.S., ETC. COLONIAL SERVICE

WITH EIGHTEEN COLLOTYPE PLATES
AND DIAGRAMS

#### LONDON

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### To MY MOTHER



#### PREFACE

THIS work is the result of five years' study of the Fauna of Somaliland, made while residing in the Somali country. That it may be of some interest to naturalists, and of use to the sportsman, is the earnest hope and ultimate desire of the author.

The Somali country has long been renowned for its peculiar and beautiful Fauna, which, owing to the warlike nature of its inhabitants, has been but slightly studied.

There are still immense areas in the "Horn of Africa" unexplored by the white man which in all probability contain many interesting birds and mammals as yet unknown.

My endcavour throughout has been to state as concisely as possible all that is known regarding the mammals of the vast region called Somaliland, and to show how slight our knowledge is concerning them.

It is impossible for me to thank individually all those who have from time to time assisted me in one way or another; but I cannot close without one word of praise for one, Abdullah Warsama, H.G., Aidagalleh, Guyube, my orderly, who during the past five years has not only assisted me in obtaining most of my specimens, but has been responsible for the preparation of many of them. His knowledge and his intelligent interest in the habits and the peculiarities of the wild beasts of his country have been of the greatest help to me.

My best thanks are due to the Secretary of State for the

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Colonies for permitting me to reproduce in full the Ordinance relating to the Game in the Somaliland Protectorate; to the Trustees of the British Museum of Natural History for their Hints on Removing and Preparing Skins of Mammals; to Mr. Oldfield Thomas for many hints and suggestions; to Mr. H. A. Byatt for allowing me to make use of his photograph of the Dibatag; and to Captain Walford of the Suffolk Regiment for the use of some of his notes.

R. E. D.-B.

Berbera, British Somaliland.

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