

*Uganda Protectorate*

**Annual Report  
of the  
Game and Fisheries  
Department**



FOR THE PERIOD  
1ST JANUARY, 1955, TO 30TH JUNE, 1956

1957

visibility is reduced to almost nothing. This is the time when the main elephant herds move out of the national parks and game reserves and approach the cultivated areas, and advance information obtained by aerial reconnaissance can enable Game Guards to be strategically placed to prevent crop damage.

110. It has also already proved a valuable aid to the work of the Biologist, being the simplest and quickest way to assess game populations, vegetational changes and seasonal migrations; and by fitting a special tank it has been usefully employed for stocking with *Tilapia* fry waters which are normally difficult of access. A photograph of this plane carrying out an air-drop of fry appears in this report.

111. *Unpalatable Foods of Karamoja Animals*.—Dr. A. J. Haddow, Director of the Virus Research Institute, and an Honorary Game Ranger, has sent the following interesting report:—“An eland shot in Karamoja was found to have eaten a considerable quantity of aloe leaves. One of the constituents of the aloe is a strong purgative, and it is included in the recipe of what is probably the world's best-known pill. The substance concerned may also cause abortion and yet various female eland, some obviously pregnant, were watched feeding freely on aloe leaves.

112. “A lesser kudu obtained at about the same time was browsing the shoots of *Acacia mellifera* when shot and was found to contain a good deal of the same material when opened. *Acacia mellifera* is the ‘wait-a-bit’ thorn whose vicious recurved thorns are only too well known to foot travellers in the Northern Province.”

113. *Unusual Ectoparasites on a Warthog*.—Dr. Haddow has also provided the following interesting note on lice, although he would not wish to be regarded as a “lousy” expert! :—“The lice of mammals are very particular about their host and as a rule will feed on one species of animal only. The warthog has a louse of its own, *Haematopinus phucochoeri*, which is quite well known. A warthog shot in Karamoja this year, however, was found to have a heavy infection of *Haematomyzus elephantis*, which so far had only been known from the African and Indian elephant. The identification was made by an expert in U.K. There is no possibility of confusion as the collector had not shot an elephant since 1948 and had not even been in elephant country for some time. Further material from Karamoja warthogs would be very welcome for study.”

114. *Use of Poison for Pests*.—The policy governing control of animals such as baboons, monkeys and bushpig, which receive no protection from the law, remains unchanged. Responsibility rests on the local authority, but the department makes it its business to instruct selected men from the various African local governments in the proper use of poison, which is the best known means of control of arboreal pests.

115. Apart from specific and local poisoning operations, three main courses have been held during the period under review, one in Kigezi, one in Ankole and one in Bugerere County of Buganda. These courses were

