

Edited by - RICHARD LYDEKKE (1896)

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Indian crocodile - Commonly known to the natives of India as MAGAR, and misnamed alligator by Anglo-Indians, the Indian crocodile (Crocodylus palustris) is the best known representative of a group of four species which in their broad and short snouts, make the nearest approach to the CAIMANS and alligators. In all these the length of the snout does not exceed one and a half times its basal width; the bony union between the two branches of the lower jaw does not extend behind the level of the fourth or fifth tooth; while on the palate the line of union between the anterior and main jaw-bones (premaxillae and maxillae) extends nearly straight across the skull, as shown in the figure on P. 2. The Indian crocodile has no bony ridges on the snout while there are usually four longitudinal rows of bony plates on the back, and there are five teeth in each anterior upper jaw-bone or premaxilla. An allied species (C. robustus) from the interior of Madagascar differs by having six longitudinal rows of plates on the back; while the Cuban crocodile (C. RHOMBIFER) of Central America, and a nearly related species (C. moreletii), from GUATEMALA, are distinguished

by having a more or less distinct oblique ridge in front of the eye.

The habitat of the Indian crocodile includes India, Ceylon, Burma and the Malay peninsula and Islands; its most westerly range being SIND and BALUCHISTHAN. Inhabiting rivers, lakes, and marshes, it appears to be an exclusively fresh-water species, never venturing into estuaries. As to the dimensions attained by this species there is some uncertainty, although it is probable that at ^{the} present day specimens seldom grow to the size that was reached before. Firearms were common nowadays from 12 to 14 feet appears to be large size for this species, but length of 18 feet has been recorded, while skulls in the Calcutta museum would seem to indicate still larger individuals. A nearly allied extinct species has left its remains in the Siwalik Hills of northern India. Swarming in most of the rivers and marshes of India, except where the current is too swift, the Indian crocodile is said to be less ferocious than the species next mentioned (Ceylonian crocodile), generally preying on the smaller animals, and not infrequently dragging down ~~a~~ wounded or dead bird before the eyes of the gunner. When the waters they frequent become dried up, these crocodiles will either travel across country by night

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to another lake or river or bury themselves
in the mud.

- The End -

HARM SWORTH NATURAL HISTORY

CHIEF CONTRIBUTORS

RICHARD LYDECKER

SIR HARRY JOHNSTON

J. R. AINSWORTH-DAVIS

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MAGAR, OR INDIAN CROCODILE

Commonly known to the natives
of India as the magar, and misnamed
alligator by Anglo-Indians, the Indian
crocodile (*C. palustris*) is the best known represen-
tative of a group of four species which
in their broad and short snouts make the
nearest approach to Caimans and alligators.
In all these species the length of the snout
does not exceed one and a half times its
basal width; the bony union between the
two branches of the lower jaw does not
extend behind the level of fourth or fifth
tooth; while on the palate the line union
between the anterior and main jawbones
(premaxillae and maxillae) extends nearly
straight across the skull, as shown in the
figure on page 1469

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The Indian crocodile has no bony ridges on the front, there are usually four longitudinal rows of bony plates on the back, and five teeth in each anterior upper jawbone, or premaxilla. An allied species (C. robusta) from the interior of Madagascar differs by having six longitudinal rows of plates on the back; while the Cuban crocodile (C. RHOMBIFER), of Central America and a nearly related species, C. moreletii, from Guatemala are distinguished by having a more or less distinct oblique ridge on front of the eye. The habitat of the Indian crocodile includes India, Ceylon, Burma and the Malay peninsula and Islands, its most westerly range being SIND and BALUCHISTAN. Inhabiting rivers, lakes and marshes, it appears to be an exclusively fresh-water species, never venturing into estuaries. As to the dimensions attained by this species there is some uncertainty, although it is probable that at the present day specimens seldom grow to the size that was reached before firearms were common. Nowadays from 12 to 14 feet appears to be a large size for this species but a length of 18 feet has been recorded.

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white skulls in the Calcutta museum seem to indicate still larger individuals. Definite information as to the length to which this big crocodile will grow is, however, still lacking.

A nearly allied extinct species has left its remains in the Simlik Hills of northern India. Inhabiting in most of the rivers and marshes of India, except where the current is too swift, the Indian crocodile is stated to be less ferocious than the species next mentioned (Ceylonian crocodile), generally preying on the smaller animals, and not infrequently dragging down a wounded or dead wild beaver before the eyes of the gunner. When the waters they frequent become dried up, these crocodiles either travel across country by night or to another lake or river or bury themselves in the mud.

- The End -
