

1.

## ~~ETHIOPEAN~~ ETHIOPEAN REGION.

INTRODUCTION:- Owing to the peculiarities of distribution shown by the animals at the present day, it has been found practicable & advisable to divide the whole surface of the earth into a number of regions, according to the similarities & dissimilarities of their fauna. Every specialist follows the dominion of its own particular group & hence a large number of schemes has been proposed. The most accepted view regarding the division of the animals was proposed by P.L. Selater (1858) & Wallace (1876). Blanford (1890) Lydenkar (1896) Heilprin (1887) Bradlow (1913) Serivenar & Schmidt (1954). also made their contribution in study of Zoogeography. Wallace divided the animal universe into six zoological regions, — Palearctic, Ethiopian, Oriental, Australian, Neo-tropical & Nearctic region. we deal only Ethiopian region:-

### FACTORS DETERMINING THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ANIMAL:-

The distribution of species or a group of animals is governed by the effects of ecological spatial & historical factors that are independent of organic evolution.

### ECOLOGICAL FACTORS:-

- (i) The Constitution of the organism including its ecological requirements & the changes produced in these by evolution.
- (ii) Nature & distribution of the physical & biological environment in which it can live.

### SPATIAL FACTORS:-

- (i) The place where the species or group originated & from which it has dispersed.
- (ii) The means of dispersal available to the organism.



## 2. HISTORICAL FACTORS:-

- ① The times of origin of the species or group as a result of which it has been subjected to the effects of a longer or shorter sequence of changes.
- ② changes in the physical environment both as regards barriers & high ways and changes in the biological environment as modified by evolution & migrations.

## ETHIOPEAN REGION:-

Extent:- It consists of whole of Africa and Arabia South of the tropic of Cancer together with Madagascar and neighbouring islands. But Darlington do not consider Madagascar as a part of this region.

Physical features:- In the north of the region is a great Sahara desert, the largest desert in world. It forms an effective barrier between the Palaearctic region & the ethiopean region. Thus the fauna north & south of it, are quite distinct. South of this region is characterised by luxuriant forests.

Sub-regions:- This region is divided into four following sub-regions:-

[A] SOUTH AFRICAN SUB-REGION:- It comprises the southern portion of the Continental from the Cape Northwards. It is represented by 133 families of terrestrial & vertebrates.

[B] WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGION:- It includes most of the African forest region from the river Gambia eastwards to beyond Lake Chad & Southwards to embrace the water shed of Congo.

[C] EAST AFRICAN SUB-REGION:- It includes the rest of the tropical Africa & tropical Arabia. It is represented by 145 families of terrestrial vertebrates.



3.

[D] MALAGASY SUB-REGION:- It is comprised of Madagascar, Mauritius, Comoros & Neighbouring islands.

### FAUNA OF THE REGION:-

The primitive and fresh water fishes of this region are as follows:-

- ① Polypterous ② Lepidosiren ③ Cat fish ④ Gchids.

### AMPHIBIANS:-

The representative of amphibians are:-

- ① Cicciliane ② Bufonids ③ Rhacophoridae ④ Leptodactylids  
⑤ Dactylethridae.

### REPTILES:-

Reptiles are represented by:-

- ① Trionychides ② Testudinidae ③ chameleons ④ Typhlops  
⑤ Sand boa ⑥ pythons ⑦ Typical viperids.  
⑧ Zonuridae (banded lizard).

### BIRDS

Among birds, the important ones are -

- ① Serpentinidae (Secretary birds)  
② Numididae (Guinea fowl)  
③ Accipitridae (Helmet birds)  
④ Ostriches.  
⑤ Mucophagidae (plains eaters)  
⑥ weaver birds.

MAMMALIA:- Important families and genera representing the mammals are -

- ① Chiromyidae (Aye-Aye)  
② Chrysochloridae (Golden Moles)  
③ Prolelidae (owl)  
④ Bathyergidae (African mole rats)  
⑤ Lophomyidae (crested rat)  
⑥ Pedetidae (African jumping mouse)  
⑦ Anomaluridae (African flying squirrel)  
⑧ Giraffidae (Giraffes)  
⑨ Hippopotamidae (Hippopotamus)  
⑩ Orycteropodidae (Aard-vark).



#### A. Pecularity of the region:-

- (i) Among fishes the *lepidosirens* & *polypterus* are Pecularity of the region.
- (ii) Among Amphibians clawed Toads are the peculiarity.
- (iii) Among birds the Ostriches, Secretary birds & Helmet birds are the Pecularity.
- (iv) The mammalian peculiarity of the region is the presence of Aye-Aye, African flying squirrels crested rats, & Hippopotamus and the most common is Giraffe.

