

1. **Mṛga** has the generic sense of 'wild beast' in the *Rigveda*¹ and later.² Sometimes it is qualified by the epithet 'terrible' (*bhīma*),³ which indicates that a savage wild beast is meant. Elsewhere the buffalo is shown to be denoted by the epithet *mahiṣa*,⁴ 'powerful,' which later becomes the name of the buffalo. More particularly the word has the sense of an animal of the gazelle type.⁵ In some passages⁶ Roth⁷ sees the sense of 'bird.' See also **Mṛga Hastin**, **Puruṣa Hastin**.

¹ i. 173, 2; 191, 4; viii. 1, 20; 5, 36; x. 146, 6, etc.

² Av. iv. 3, 6; x. 1, 26; xii. 1, 48 (*sūkara*, 'boar'); xix. 38, 2; *Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa*, vi. 7, 10; xxiv. 11, 2; *Aitareya Brāhmaṇa*, iii. 31, 2; viii. 23, 3, etc.

³ Rv. i. 154, 2; 190, 3; ii. 33, 11; 34, 1; x. 180, 2, etc.

⁴ Rv. viii. 69, 15; ix. 92, 6; x. 123, 4.

⁵ Rv. i. 38, 5; 105, 7; vi. 75, 11; ix. 32, 4; Av. v. 21, 4 (not a certain instance); *Taittirīya Saṃhitā*, vi. 1, 3, 7; *Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa*, iii. 2, 5, 6; *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa*, xi. 8, 4, 3, etc.

⁶ Rv. i. 182, 7; x. 136, 6, and perhaps i. 145, 5; vii. 87, 6.

⁷ *St. Petersburg Dictionary*, s.v., 12. Cf. *Pischel, Vedische Studien*, i. 99; 2, 122.

2. **Mṛga** in the *Aitareya Brāhmaṇa*¹ denotes, according to *Sāyaṇa*'s commentary, the constellation **Mṛgaśīras**. But it seems more probable² that **Mṛga** there really covers the whole of Orion, not merely the inconspicuous group of stars in the head of Orion that make up the *Nakṣatra* **Mṛgaśīras**, but also the star α in his shoulder, which is reckoned as *Ārdrā*, and γ in his left shoulder. *Tilak*,³ however, makes **Mṛga** or **Mṛgaśīras** into a different group, consisting of the belt of Orion, with two stars in the knees and one in the left shoulder, which he deems to resemble a deer's head with an arrow through it, an implausible and unlikely theory. Cf. **Mṛgavyādha**.

¹ iii. 33, 5.

² See *Whitney, Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 16, xcii.

³ *Orion*, 99 et seq.

3. **Mṛga Hastin**, the 'animal with a hand,' is mentioned in two passages of the *Rigveda*,¹ in which Roth² recognizes that the elephant is meant, but concludes that the compound name

¹ i. 64, 7; iv. 16, 14.

² *St. Petersburg Dictionary*, s.v.; *Nirukta, Erläuterungen*, 79.