

is a proof of the newness of the elephant to the Vedic Indians.³ Later the adjective *ṛstin* alone became the regular name of the animal (like *Ma. śa* of the 'buffalo'). The elephant is also denoted in the Rigveda by the descriptive term *Mṛga Vāraṇa*,⁴ the 'wild or dangerous animal,' the adjective *vāraṇa* similarly becoming one of the names for 'elephant' in the later language. Pischel's view⁵ that the catching of elephants by the use of tame female elephants is already alluded to in the Rigveda⁶ seems very doubtful. In the Aitareya Brāhmaṇa⁷ elephants are described as 'black, white-toothed, adorned with gold.'

³ Pischel, *Vedische Studien*, i, 99, 100, combats the view that the elephant was new to the Vedic Indian, because of the similar use of *mṛga mahiṣa* and *mṛga sūkara* (Av. xii. i, 48) to denote the 'buffalo' and the 'boar' respectively. But *Mahiṣa* seems rather to bear out Roth's conclusion; while *Sūkara* appears alone in the Rigveda, and *mṛga sūkara*, 'wild hog,' seems to be used in one passage of the Av.

(xii. i, 48) to distinguish it from *Varāha*, 'boar,' in the same verse.

⁴ Rv. viii. 33, 8; x. 40, 8.

⁵ *Vedische Studien*, 2, 121-123; 317-319. Cf. Strabo, pp. 704, 705; Arrian, *Indica*, 13. 14 (from Megasthenes).

⁶ viii. 2, 6; x. 40, 8.

⁷ viii. 23, 3 (*hiraṇyena parivṛtān kṛṣṇāṇ chukhladato mṛgān*). See Pischel, *op. cit.*, 2, 122.

Cf. Zimmer, *Altindisches Leben*, 80.

Mṛgaya occurs in several passages of the Rigveda¹ as defeated by Indra. That he was a human foe, as Ludwig² thinks, seems unlikely: more probably he was a demon, as *Mṛga* unquestionably is.³

¹ iv. 16, 13; viii. 3, 19; x. 49, 5.

² Translation of the Rigveda, 3, 166.

³ Rv. i. 80, 7; v. 29, 4, etc.

Mṛgayu, 'hunter,' occurs in the later Saṃhitās¹ and the Brāhmaṇas,² but not very often. The Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā³ and the Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa,⁴ however, in the list of victims at the Puruṣamedha ('human sacrifice') include a number of names which seem to be those of persons who make a livelihood by fishing or by hunting, such as the *Mārgāra*, 'hunter,'

¹ Av. x. i, 26; Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, xvi. 27; xxx. 7, etc. Cf. *mṛganyu*, Rv.

x. 40, 4.

² Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa, i. 5, i, i;

iii. 4, 3, i; Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa, xiv. 9, 12, etc.

³ xxx.

⁴ iii. 4.