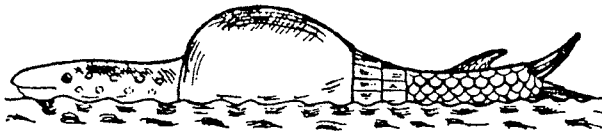


BERNARD HEUVELMANS
THE NATURAL HISTORY
OF HIDDEN ANIMALS



EDITED BY PETER GWYNVAY HOPKINS

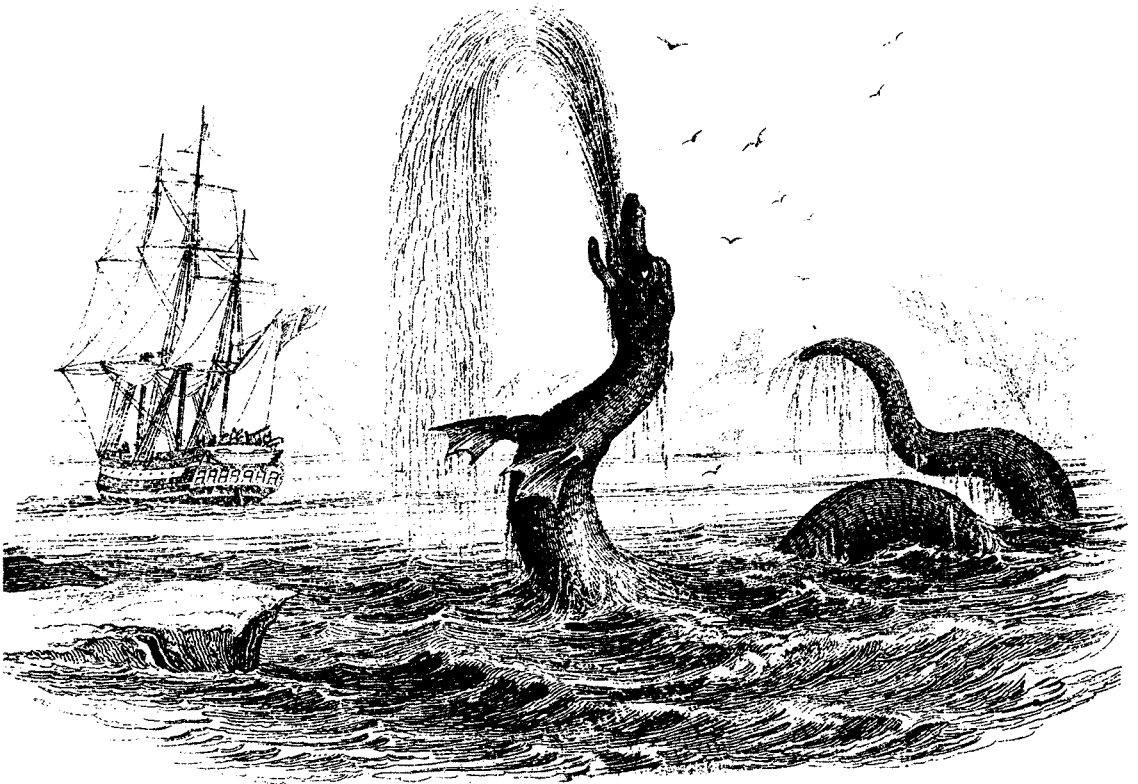
THE NATURAL
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Other works by Bernard Heuvelmans

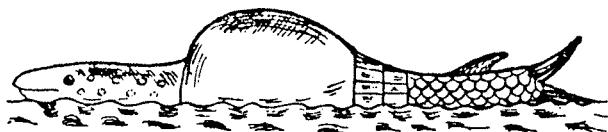
On the Track of Unknown Animals
The Kraken and the Colossal Octopus

both published by Kegan Paul



*A modified version of the monster of Hans Egede, after the Naturalist's Library of 1839.
Previous and facing page: Views of the mola-mola according to Miss S. Lowell, 1890.*

Bernard Heuvelmans'
THE NATURAL
HISTORY OF
HIDDEN ANIMALS



Edited with an Introduction by
Peter Gwynvay Hopkins

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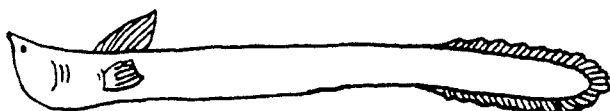
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EDITORIAL NOTE



This work was composed under the direction of the author, Dr Bernard Heuvelmans, President of the International Society of Cryptozoology, before his death in 2001. The contents have been drawn from his various works, including unpublished manuscripts, as well as his scientific articles.

Briefly put, it is based on the enormous body of documentation, for the most part as yet unpublished, which was amassed by him in his Centre for Cryptozoology in the course of nearly a half-century of work in this field.

My involvement with Dr Heuvelmans began in April 1994 when two of his admirers and supporters, senior members of the International Society of Cryptozoology, arrived at my offices. After a fascinating meeting we arrived at the idea of publishing Dr Heuvelmans' collected works in English, for which a contract was eventually signed by the author. It was an unbelievable task which I hasten to say is far from completed.

We began with the publication of his most important work, a much enlarged edition of *On The Track of Unknown Animals*. A shorter version of this work had been previously published by Rupert Hart Davis, London, in 1958. This was followed in 2003 by *The Kraken and the Colossal Octopus*, an amalgam of two works which had already been published in French.

Both of these titles were a great success, *The Kraken and the Colossal Octopus* coming out just at a time when marine scientists began accepting

The Natural History of Hidden Animals

that there was much more unknown life at the bottom of the oceans than they had first suspected, and they had begun systematically searching and tracking the floors and depths of the sea using the latest scientific instruments.

His supporters all wanted Heuvelmans to sanction the putting together of some of his material, a lot of it unpublished, to create something like ‘an introduction to cryptozoology’ that was not too long. This is it, as blessed by the master before his death in 2001.

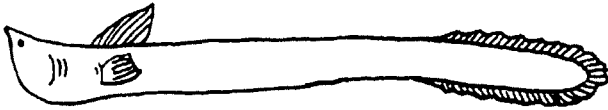
Since that time we have been editing, though not altering, the text and finding appropriate illustrations.

Dr Heuvelmans was quite difficult to communicate with. He lived in a small, somewhat off the track French village. Parcels were sent to the local post office. Occasionally, I could get in touch with him on the telephone and once I had the pleasure of meeting him. I would not use the word ‘recluse’ but he had to be searched for and, when found, he was delightfully friendly, but not overbearingly so, in the secure knowledge that he was right. Rather similar to his subject matter, really.

The text of this work has been translated by diverse hands over some years. All of them were close to Dr Heuvelmans’ thinking and his archives. All translators had English as their mother tongue and the author approved their works before his death.

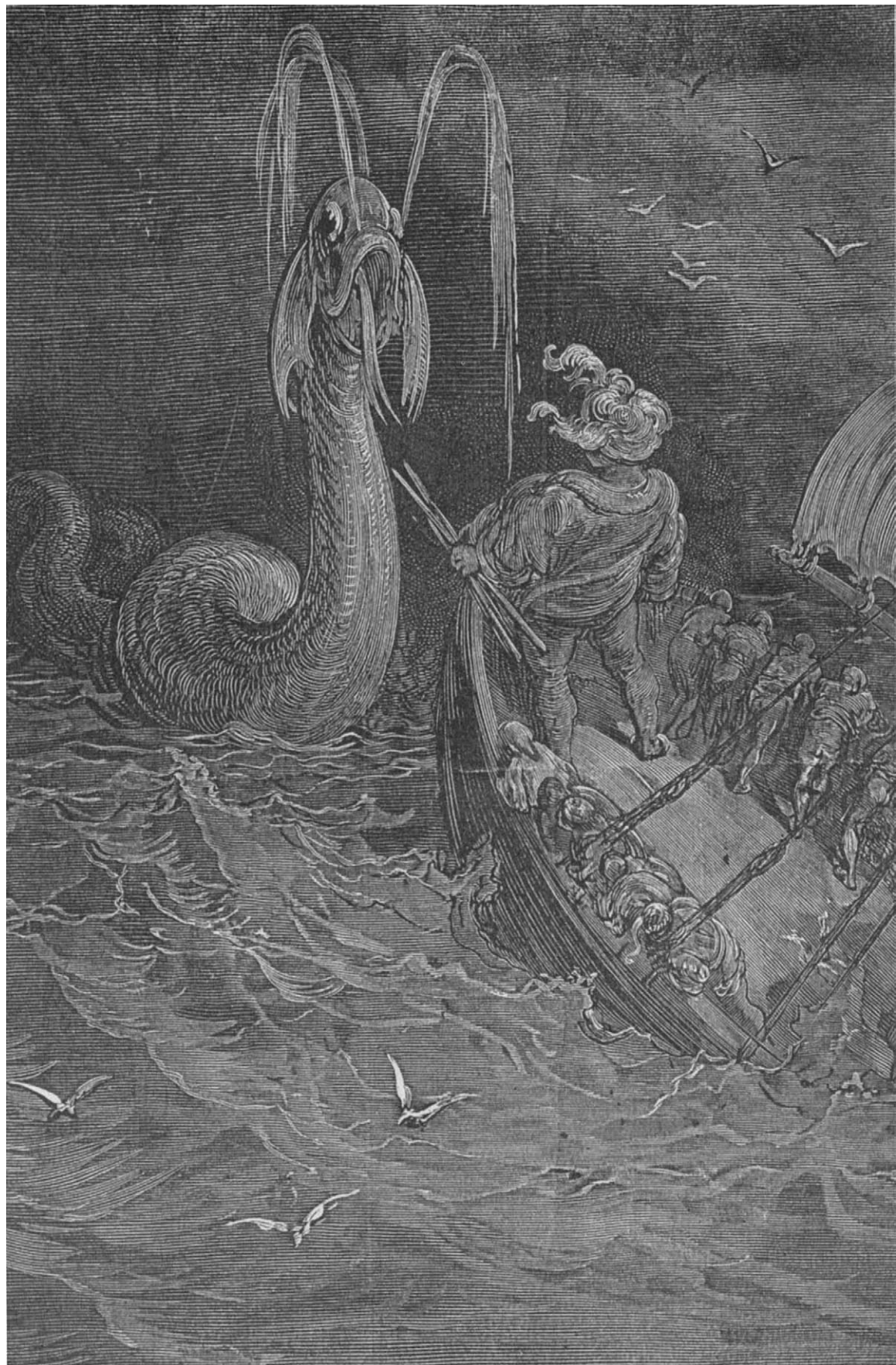


CONTENTS

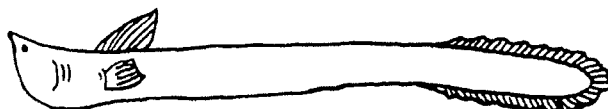


Editorial Note	v
Editor's Introduction	ix
1 An Introduction to Cryptozoology	1
2 Monsters of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow	11
3 The Forever Unfinished Inventory of the Animal World	27
4 Survivors from the Past	53
5 There are Lost Worlds Everywhere	77
6 The Birth and Early History of Cryptozoology	95
Index	143

Following page: Pontagruel's physter, as drawn by Gustave Doré



EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION



Cryptozoology, to give a precise definition of it, is the scientific study of animal forms, the existence of which is based only on testimonial or circumstantial evidence, or on material proof judged to be insufficient by some.

The word is derived, like so many words in science, from the Greek roots *kryptos*, meaning 'hidden', *zoon*, meaning 'animal' and *logos*, meaning 'discourse': in short, 'the science of hidden animals'. The word appeared in print for the first time in 1959 in a French publication, in English translation entitled *Cynegetic Geography of the World*, by Lucien Blancou, Honorary Inspector of the Game Preserves and Wildlife for the French Government. He dedicated the volume to 'the Master of Cryptozoology'.

The 'Master' was of course Dr Bernard Heuvelmans, the man who invented the subject, although there had been identifiable people before him who hinted at it. As Heuvelmans' research progressed, he found that he began to use the term more and more, particularly after the publication of his seminal work, *On the Track of Unknown Animals*, in French in 1955, in English in 1958, and subsequently in numerous other major languages.

Bernard Heuvelmans, the universally acknowledged 'Father of Cryptozoology', was born on October 10, 1916 in Le Havre in France, of a Dutch mother and a Belgian father. He was raised in Belgium. As a young boy he was very interested in natural history and from the beginning kept all kinds of pets, especially monkeys. He was greatly influenced by the

The Natural History of Hidden Animals

many popular science fiction writers of the time, especially Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Lost World*.

His higher education was at the Université Libre, Brussels. His doctoral thesis was written on the classification of the hitherto unclassifiable teeth of the aardvark (*Orycteropus afer*), a unique mammal of Africa.

He then spent some years writing about the history of science, publishing numerous scientific articles in the Belgian *Bulletin of the Royal Museum of Natural History*. When the Second World War began he was called up for military service. Eventually captured by the Germans, he escaped four times and subsequently in the chaos after the war made his living as a professional jazz singer, something he had always excelled at, and a popular science writer.

In 1947, he resettled to Le Véginet outside Paris where he made his living as a jazz musician, a comedian, and again as a science writer.

The latent interest in his first love was dramatically sparked into active life again by a sympathetic article in the *Saturday Evening Post* on January 3, 1948, by a famous and well-respected biologist, Ivan T. Sanderson, entitled *There Could be Dinosaurs*.

From 1948 to the end of his life, Heuvelmans relentlessly researched, travelled and collected documentation on 'his hidden world', a collection that grew to a monumental size and which Heuvelmans gave to the Museum of Natural History, Lausanne, Switzerland before his death.

Although Heuvelmans was working on a massive twenty-four volume encyclopaedia of cryptozoology right up until the year before his death, when he became unwell, it was far from finished and it would be a monumental multi-handed task to complete and publish it. Undoubtedly, the original publication in 1955 of *On the Track of Unknown Animals* in French, all 700 pages of it in two volumes initially, and subsequently in many other major languages, particularly English, is the major statement on cryptozoology and the work of its inventor. It is a portmanteau of the field which no one else has even come close to. In this book he made all of his important statements and theories available to everyone.



Editor's Introduction

Ironically, at the time the world became either vastly enthusiastic about the book, its contents and its author or very sceptical, even resorting to ridicule, not that it offended or affected Heuvelmans in the slightest.

However, during his lifetime, particularly in the last ten years of his life, Heuvelmans and we have witnessed a tidal change in the attitude of scientists who believed everything on land and in the sea was already known and classified. The examples of these awkward discoveries are numerous and accelerating on a daily basis.

In 1986, Dr Heuvelmans published a checklist of apparently unknown animals with which cryptozoology should be concerned. He enumerated one hundred and fifty examples, which exceeds considerably the individual cases described in *On the Track of Unknown Animals*. I was very pleased and satisfied to read in the *Quarterly Review of Biology* (Vol. 80, 2005), the bastion of high level science, a favourable review of his book *The Kraken and the Colossal Octopus: In the Wake of Sea-Monsters*. In early years it would never have been allowed into the office of the review editor of that august journal, leave alone get a sympathetic review in its pages.

Reading *On the Track of Unknown Animals* and looking at its body of research one can, to some small extent, appreciate the enthusiasm, audacity, aggressiveness and innovative spirit of the young Heuvelmans. It was a brave stand in the scientific world of the 1950s that dismissed such things as heterodoxy or thinking outside the well-established 'box'.

It took a great many years, but Heuvelmans was accepted in the end and changed scientific research for the better. The work, with age, has changed from new wine to a full-bodied one.

In the last few years of Dr Heuvelmans' life the number of discoveries of 'unknown creatures' became so numerous that only the most 'spectacular' were reported by the world's media. Since his death in 2001, that process has even escalated and will continue to do so. The earth and the sea had not given up all of their 'secrets' by the end of the nineteenth century to be neatly classified. Now everyone realises and accepts this fact.

Sadly, the great man is no more. He died in his bed after being bedridden for a year, alone with his dog at Visnet, which was his Centre for Cryptozoology, on the morning of August 24, 2001 without any suffering, at the age of 84 years.



The Natural History of Hidden Animals

Heuvelmans had converted to Buddhism in his midlife and was buried in the robes of a Buddhist monk during a private funeral at Le Vesinet on August 27. It was his last wish.

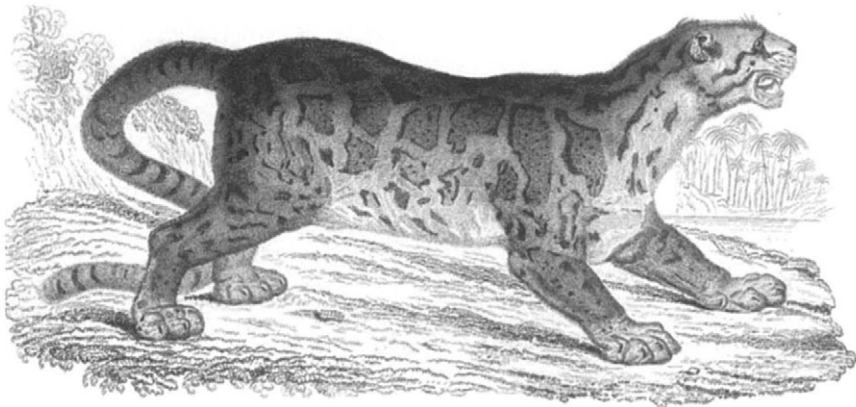
And yet, everywhere across the world, on snowy heights and in torrid jungles, in luxuriant forests and barren deserts, on the sunny seas or in their depths, along tropical rivers and on the shores of secluded lakes or immense swamps, but also in museums, libraries, laboratories and zoos, there is Bernard Heuvelmans or his contemporaries, pursuing for more than forty years his investigations, examining the pieces of evidence placed at his disposal, questioning native eyewitnesses and prestigious scientists, studying the vestiges of the past like the strangest animals of our time, always on the track of unknown animals.

Peter Gwynvay Hopkins
London, March 2007

Postscript

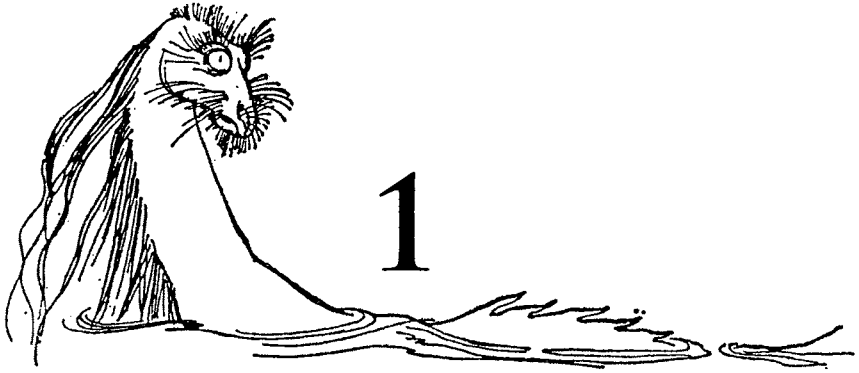
No sooner had I completed writing this editor's introduction on March 15, 2007, than there appeared on the lunchtime television news pictures of a most extraordinary large and stunningly beautiful member of the Pantherinae subfamily, the Bornean Clouded Leopard, which the World Wildlife Fund had just then identified as being a distinct species. I was amazed; Dr Heuvelmans would have been extremely excited and very pleased, but not surprised.

P.G.H.



Bornean Clouded Leopard.





WHY CRYPTOZOOLOGY?

‘It is said that a foreign scientist is working on a natural history of apocryphal animals. If the title is well justified by the author, he will produce an unusual work indeed.’

(Revue Britannique, June 1835)

Throughout the world there has always been interest in mysterious animals - even mysterious men - many of which have become the stuff of legend, and concerning which it is not really known whether they exist or not. This has not changed since ancient times. In those long-ago days, stories were told of dragons, giants and satyrs. Today, we talk about the monster of Loch Ness, the bigfoot of California and the abominable snowman.

In the eyes of the public at large, one thing is sure: it is a fact that the existence of these ‘monsters’, as they usually are called, is not based on any irrefutable material evidence. Many doubt that such creatures have ever really been seen. In any event, none has ever been captured, for otherwise that would have become known.

The Natural History of Hidden Animals

So much for what is generally believed and, indeed, endlessly and thoughtlessly repeated. The reality, however, is quite different, and is far more complex and nuanced.

LARGE NEW ANIMALS ARE STILL BEING DISCOVERED

Presently, some 5,000 new animal species are being reported and described each year. And, contrary to what one might think, these are not always minuscule insects or tiny abyssal mollusks.

In 1975, the largest of the peccaries, or wild hogs of the New World, an animal which had been believed extinct, was discovered alive and well in Paraguay. The following year, there was fished up off Hawaii a shark more than four meters long, and belonging to an entirely new genus; it was given the nickname 'megamouth'.



'Megamouth'.



Why Cryptozoology?

In the course of the past twelve years alone, not only have there been discovered a fistful of birds - all capable of flight, and thus highly visible - but three large reptiles have turned up as well (two giant geckos, one in Iran and the other in New Zealand, and the largest of all the lizards of Arabia, a varan of Yemen). In the realm of mammals *of an appreciable size*, not less than six marsupials were discovered during the same period (an opossum in Colombia, a rock wallaby in Queensland, Australia, a flying opossum, a dasyure and a wallaby in New Guinea, as well as the largest tree-dwelling kangaroo of that vast island), a second warthog of the African deserts, two gazelles, from India and Arabia respectively, a large antelope in Vietnam, resembling an oryx, a muntjac or 'barking deer' of Borneo, and a Malagasy mongoose. Moreover, China alone has given us another muntjac, a pika, i.e., a sort of short-eared rabbit, as well as a civet, to say nothing of a hitherto unknown variety of giant panda. This latter has markings of white and light brown, in contrast to its illustrious brother, which, like the magpie, is plain black and white, and the symbol of fauna threatened with extinction. There has even been discovered a new beaked whale in Peruvian waters, as well as an orca, or killer whale in the Antarctic - altogether, not exactly a skimpy list! But - a fact which has most astonished naturalists - our zoological catalogue has been enriched by not less than eight new species of primates - the order to which man himself belongs: a tarsier, a lemur and a sifaka or propithecus, two marmosets and a lion tamarin, a saimiri or squirrel monkey, and a cercopithecus. Nonetheless, George Gaylord Simpson, the pope of American paleontology, was to declare in 1984, shortly before his death, that it was virtually unthinkable that *even one single* new form of this sort could possibly be discovered.

But the reality is otherwise: let us make the calculation - some forty rather spectacular new species described in twelve years, which comes out to more than three per year! In fact, not a year passes without some surprising discovery being made in the world of rather forthcoming and unwary animals.

CERTAIN MARINE MONSTERS HAVE ALREADY DROPPED THEIR MASKS

From time to time, in the abundant zoological harvest gathered each year, there happens to be unmasked one of these 'monsters' which have figured so largely in story and legend, sometimes since time immemorial.

