

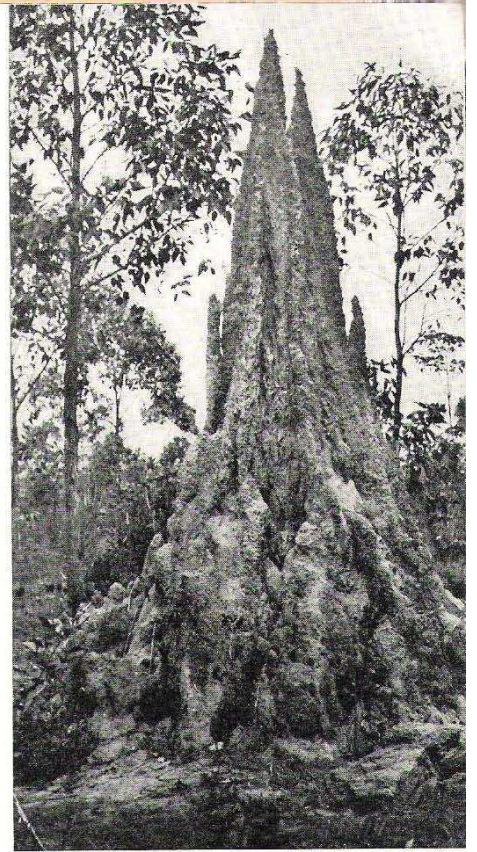


mushroom-shaped termite.

Fauna abounds in a surprising and rich variety, ranging from the smallest humming bird to the rhinoceros, the hippo, and the mighty elephant, and comprising the gorilla and the okapi, rarest of animals. This very variety makes the Belgian Congo an ideal for big game hunters.

While traveling in the Belgian Congo, one may see, in the same day, the Pygmies, dwarfs of the forest, and the Watuzi, a noble looking race of giants, masters of wide stretching pasture lands and of large herds of cattle.

First class hotels may be found everywhere and the courtesy of the local authorities is tireless.



A common Congo termite.

The Ruwenzori a 16,000 feet high mountain





stampede, spectacular and wild.



Congo elephants travel only in large packs.

Hippopotami are found in many Congo rivers.



The Mysterious Okapi

In the furthest and most mysterious depths of the immense Iturian forest lives the aristocrat of African animals. Fiercely independent, courageous and unpredictable, it has shown itself to very few men in its prehistoric domain.

A member of the giraffe family, its body reminds one of an antelope and its legs are banded like a zebra's. Its long, narrow head is a deep red, blending into black over the muzzle and into reddish grey to silver over the jowls. Its great ears are beautifully fringed with black. The animal's back is deep black, its flanks and belly red. The magnificent ebony bands on a brilliant white background, bordered here and there with brown, are met just above the knee by a stocking of immaculate snowy whiteness, with a bracelet of jet at the ankle.

No one, until he has had the chance to see this strange animal in its own habitat, can imagine the impression it makes as it walks through the virgin forest. Its curious drunken gait, its size, its strength, its extraordinary decisiveness, give it the appearance of having just emerged from a distant past.

The delicacy of the Okapi has already been mentioned, but the meticulous care with which it tends its precious coat is truly remarkable. In fact, its fastidiousness constitutes its most striking characteristic. Rain, falling drops from trees, a splash of grayish or reddish forest mud irritate it beyond all measure: these seem to be the only things it really fears and tries to avoid at all costs.

During the day and sometimes at night, the Okapi zealously bathes itself, licking the furthest spot of its fur that its long, blue tongue can reach: fifteen and a half inches long, it folds and turns like a snake and when its sinuous neck twists back parallel to its body, the Okapi's tongue can easily reach its tail.

Before dawn, it is already bathing alone in one of the thousand jungle pools, for the Okapi never runs in a herd or travels with another animal. Its toilet over, it sets off where its smell and extraordinary keen hearing tell it may be found the quietest spot for pasture, and where it seeks out its favorite foods: little pulpy flowers, young juicy shoots, perfumed herbs—every green which goes to make up a heavenly salad for a gourmet.

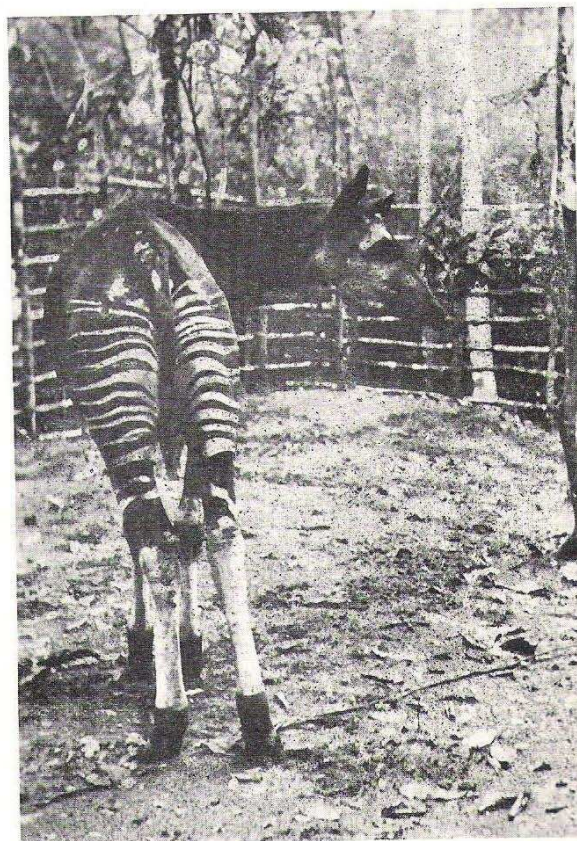
The delicate fur covers a skin of incredible thickness—almost three-tenths of an inch—a veritable suit of armor.

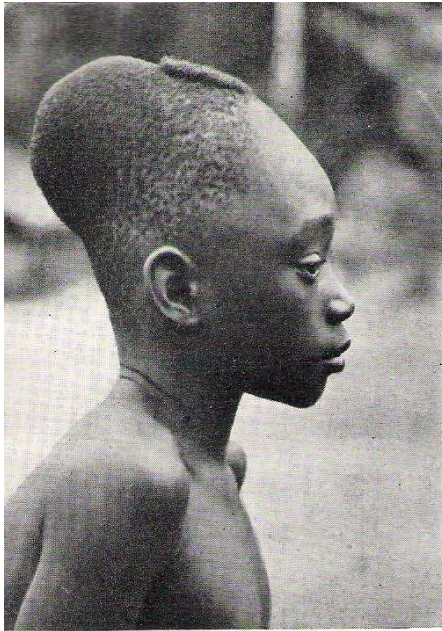
Once, a grown captured animal shook the entire length of a heavy fence with a kick of its leg and knocked down a part of it with a blow of its head. At another time, a young Okapi was led into the enclosure of a water buffalo. This heavy African animal, with its long cruel curving horns, towered over the insignificant little creature, ten times smaller and lighter than she. Then, seeming to understand that this young one had usurped the place of her

calf, she suddenly charged, head on. The brave Okapi watched that thundering attack descend upon it without budging an inch and with an air of supreme indifference. It was merely following the tradition of its elders who, in the depths of their forest, confront and vanquish the buffalo, the only animal who would dare attack an Okapi. The good-natured elephant, like the gorilla, maintains an easy neutrality, and the fierce leopard will attack a young but not an adult animal.

A curious characteristic is the animal's enormous eyes, which roll over a very large surface and whose vision is abnormally keen. When it is at rest, these eyes are tender and appealing, but the slightest noise or irritation brings something hard, icy, and strangely shocking to the expression, which has a terrifying effect upon the Negroes. At the same time it utters a weird sound: a sort of neighing and a loud grinding of teeth.

The animal can travel, from sun to sun, more mileage than a man can cover in a week. At twilight, it sets out to find a pleasant spot to spend the night in, dry, clean, a little elevated and protected from the rain. It changes its resting place every day, unless there are young ones.

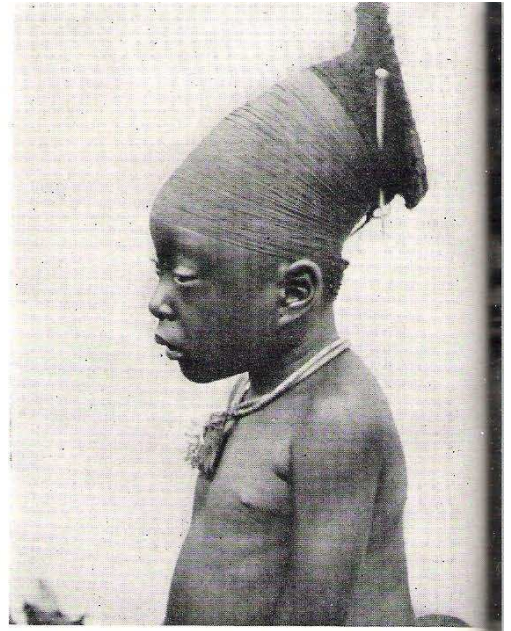




Manzebetu boy.



Azandi child.



Manzebetu girl.



Watusi
Prince.

A native ruler:
Sultan Lubanga.

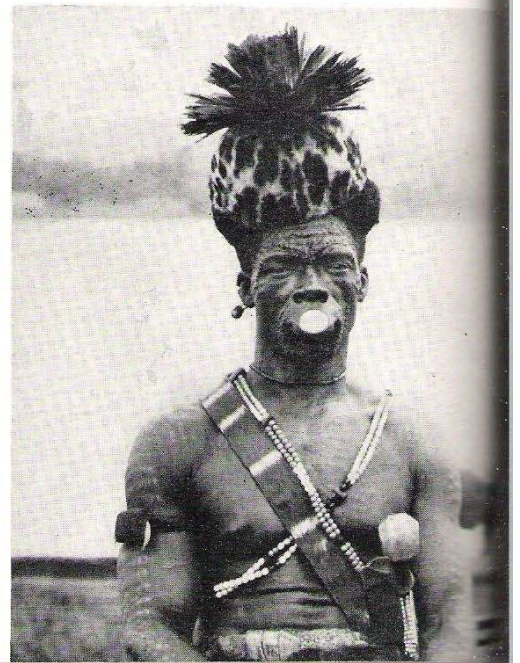
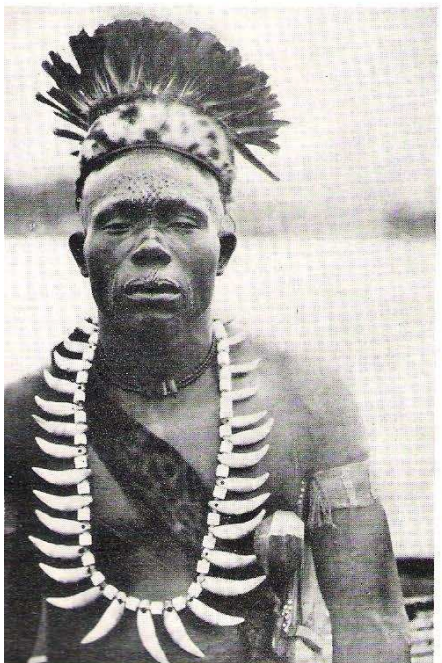
Congo...

- Don't complain about your job, you might not have any.
- A tree cannot make any noise if it has no leaves.
- When the hammer is left in inexperienced hands, it is used only to break coconuts.
- It is not enough to eat well, one must also look forward to a place to sleep in.
- All of us have a nose bent towards the ground.
- Ears may grow big but they will never be larger than the head.
- The proprietor of the chicken has the right to eat the wing.
- When two people meet in a business discussion, neither of the two can possibly place himself in the middle.
- If one takes you by the hand, you may be saved; but if one takes you by the tongue, you are in danger.



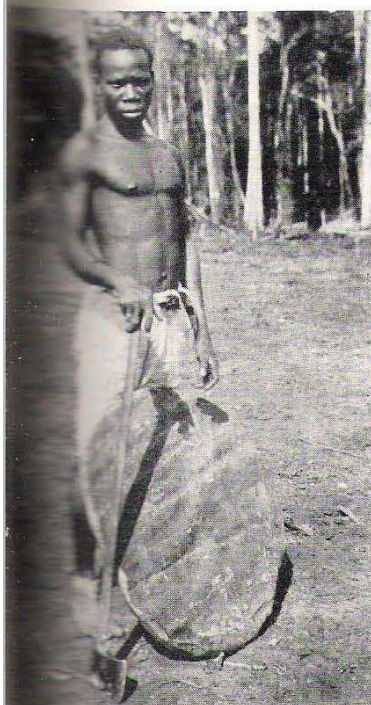
Watusi
Prince.

A chief of the
Nya Lukolela tribe.





Native children delight in parades.

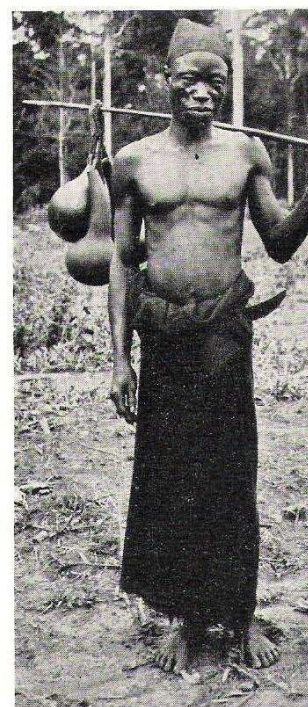


Central
Congo worker.

Uele musical instrument.

...Proverbs

- A son cannot have the same head-dress as his father for he has not the same head.
- Only when you use a tool can you earn enough to buy a new one.
- It is useless work to empty holes once they have been filled.
- When two people have a difference, a third party should not be brought in unless he is the next of kin.
- Patient hunters don't kill small birds.
- When you throw a stone, be not astonished if it makes a noise when falling.
- You should pay attention to the way people speak and not to the way they are dressed.



Calabashes.
for palm-wine

The great tam-tam

