

cabbages. On one of my teal-shooting excursions I met with a Sea-Leopard (*Stenorynchus leptonyx*, Gray). The beast is very like the common British seal in appearance. It is spotted yellowish white and dark grey on the back, the under surface being of a general yellowish colour.

The one in question was small, not more than five feet long. It was asleep, lying almost on its back on the grass in a little bay. The poor beast showed no fight at all, and never snarled or showed its teeth. I killed it with a stone and my hunting knife, and sent it on board to be made into a skeleton.

The Sea-Leopard seems still pretty abundant on the coasts. I saw one much larger in Royal Sound, and Von Willemoes Suhm killed another. The sealers said they intended to visit Swain's Island, a small outlier, to kill a herd of 400 of these seals reported to be in a rookery there.

Farther along the coast, on the same day, I encountered a small herd of Sea-Elephants consisting of four females and two males. One male was much larger than the other, and the four cows were reclining beside him, the younger and less powerful male lying apart from the rest. All were resting on a thick bed of seaweed cast up by the tide on a beach of large pebbles.

The male was 12 feet long and enormously heavy and fat. The females were about eight feet in length. All were of a light fawn colour, except one female, which was shedding her coat, and was covered over with patches of reddish hair. Though I fired my gun at some teal close by, the Elephants were little disturbed. The males just raised their heads and then went to sleep again; the females took no notice.

I went up close to the older male and excited him in the hope of seeing him raise his trunk-like snout, and he was roused again later on, but this had not the effect of making him move from his ground or frightening him at all; but on one of the ship's cutters, for which I had sent a petition to the ship, coming into the bay full of men in order to kill specimens of the Elephants and take them on board, the Elephants became immediately alarmed, as if accustomed only to expect danger from boat parties.

I had forgotten that the Tristan da Cunha people had told me that they always shot the male Sea-Elephant and lanced the cows, and I thought the beast could be stunned by blows on the snout like Fur-Seals, so Lieutenant Channer, who had been out shooting with me, went up to the big male and began hammering him on the snout with a stick heavily loaded with lead, but without any effect beyond enraging the beast to the utmost. The animal was not stunned by the blows, because the skull of the Sea-Elephant is protected above by a high