

Nandi Bear

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The Nandi bear was described as a heavy, high-shouldered animal moving through East Africa after dark. Early naturalists argued over its identity without securing the specimen that would settle it.

STATUS	Historical reports with competing animal identifications
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	Western Kenya
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Cryptids
STORY HISTORY	Published East African accounts by 1913

THE ACCOUNT

In an account published by Charles William Hobley in 1913, N. E. F. Corbett described coming upon an unfamiliar animal while fishing near the Sirgoi River. It crossed the stream into the bush, leaving him with an impression of reddish-brown hair and large ears. He admitted that vegetation and his missing spectacles limited the view. Other accounts supplied a shuffling gait, a moaning cry or strange tracks. These observations became part of the record gathered around the Nandi bear.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

Hobley's original article preserves the witnesses' words and a footprint sketch, but explicitly says the animal still eluded collectors. He also allows that railway reports and plateau reports might concern different creatures. Later writers proposed hyenas and other known animals. Reading the early text makes its uncertainty visible: it documents people trying to identify unfamiliar sightings, not the discovery of one established new species with a consistent body.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

Corbett's missing spectacles are a detail worth keeping. They do not erase his experience; they tell the reader how much of it he could actually see. A century of retelling can make a monster more definite while quietly losing the witness's own reservations.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

On Some Unidentified Beasts, pp. 48-50

C. W. Hobley / Journal of the East Africa and Uganda Natural History Society; Smithsonian Libraries digitization
https://archive.org/stream/journalof345819121914east/journalof345819121914east_djvu.txt

Nandi bear

Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nandi_bear

RETURN TO THE STORY

Nandi Bear

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<https://u225x.com/record/STR-CRYPT-017>