The occurrence of the chimpanzee on the west bank of the Congo River¹
By Ernst Schwarz

The occurrence of the chimpanzee south of the Congo River was suggested some time ago by T.A. Barns but there are no materials to document it. The Congo-Museum recently acquired several specimens from the region of the middle Lopori; and an additional specimen has been stored for several years in the British Museum (²). The occurrence of chimpanzee south of the Congo River as far as the Lukolela region and also in the region of Lomela on the upper Lomela River was noted by Mister GHESQUIÈRE.

Pan satyrus paniscus subsp. n.

Locality: 30 km south of Befalé, south of the upper Maringa River.

Type: Congo-Mus. Nr. 9338, aged female. J. GHESQUIÈRE coll., skin and skull.

Skin. Very black, thick coat, with long hairs. No crest, no bald parts. Sideburns covering the face from the zygomatic arch to just below the eyes. All the naked parts are deeply black. Small ears.

Skull. With strongly enlarged forehead and a short, rounded and steep occipital region. Supraorbital torus very weak and not protruding, with a profile somewhat parallel to the Frankfort horizontal plane. The profile of the face is less concave than satyrus but typical of the western type, i.e. more concave on the available female specimens than among males of schweinfurthi (sic).

Mass of the type. Length of the skin from the upper lip to the anus 882 mm.


This is clearly a dwarf. It shows all the characteristics of Pan s. satyrus from the right bank of the lower Congo River together with all the characteristics of young individuals: reduced growth, enlarged forehead, reduced supraorbital torus, round occipital region, without any crest or depression. It is interesting to note that its characteristics seem to relate it to P. s. satyrus and not to P. s. schweinfurthi (sic) from the upper Congo River.

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² B.M. 95.4.1.1., aged female; Bogandanga, middle Lopori. Rev. A. Cole coll., only skull Paratype