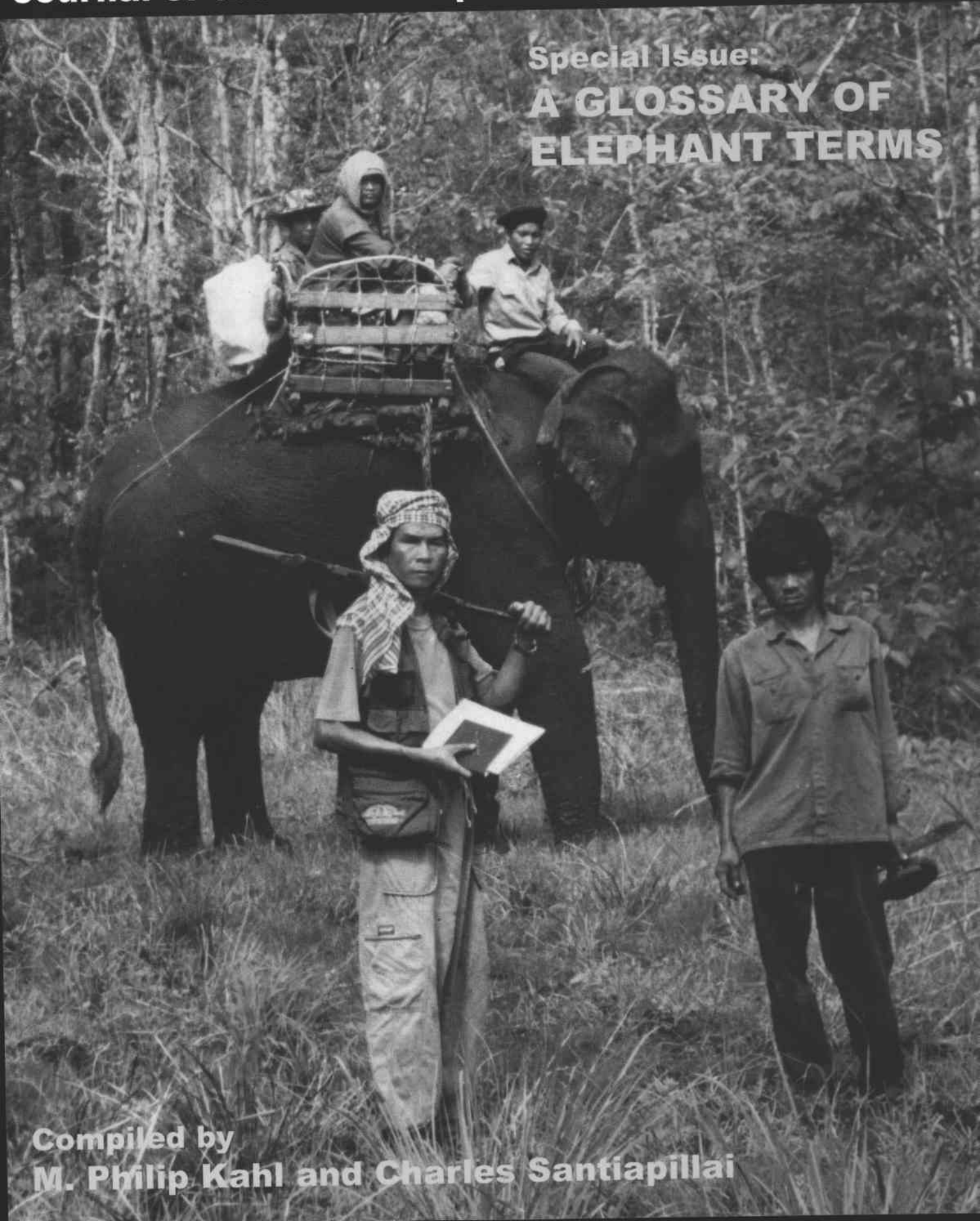


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Special Issue:
**A GLOSSARY OF
ELEPHANT TERMS**



Compiled by
M. Philip Kahl and Charles Santiapillai

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GAJAH is the official journal of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG) of the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The journal is intended as a medium for communication by members of the AsESG of important issues that concern the conservation and management of the Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) both in the wild and in captivity. **GAJAH** welcomes communications and research papers on all aspects of the Asian elephant. **GAJAH** is aimed at professionals, biologists and academics carrying out research on Asian elephant, government and non-government organizations involved in its conservation, and interested members of the general public. All articles published in **GAJAH** are deemed to reflect the individual views of the authors and not the official points of view, either of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG) or the Species Survival Commission (SSC). **GAJAH** is a non-profit publication that is supported by financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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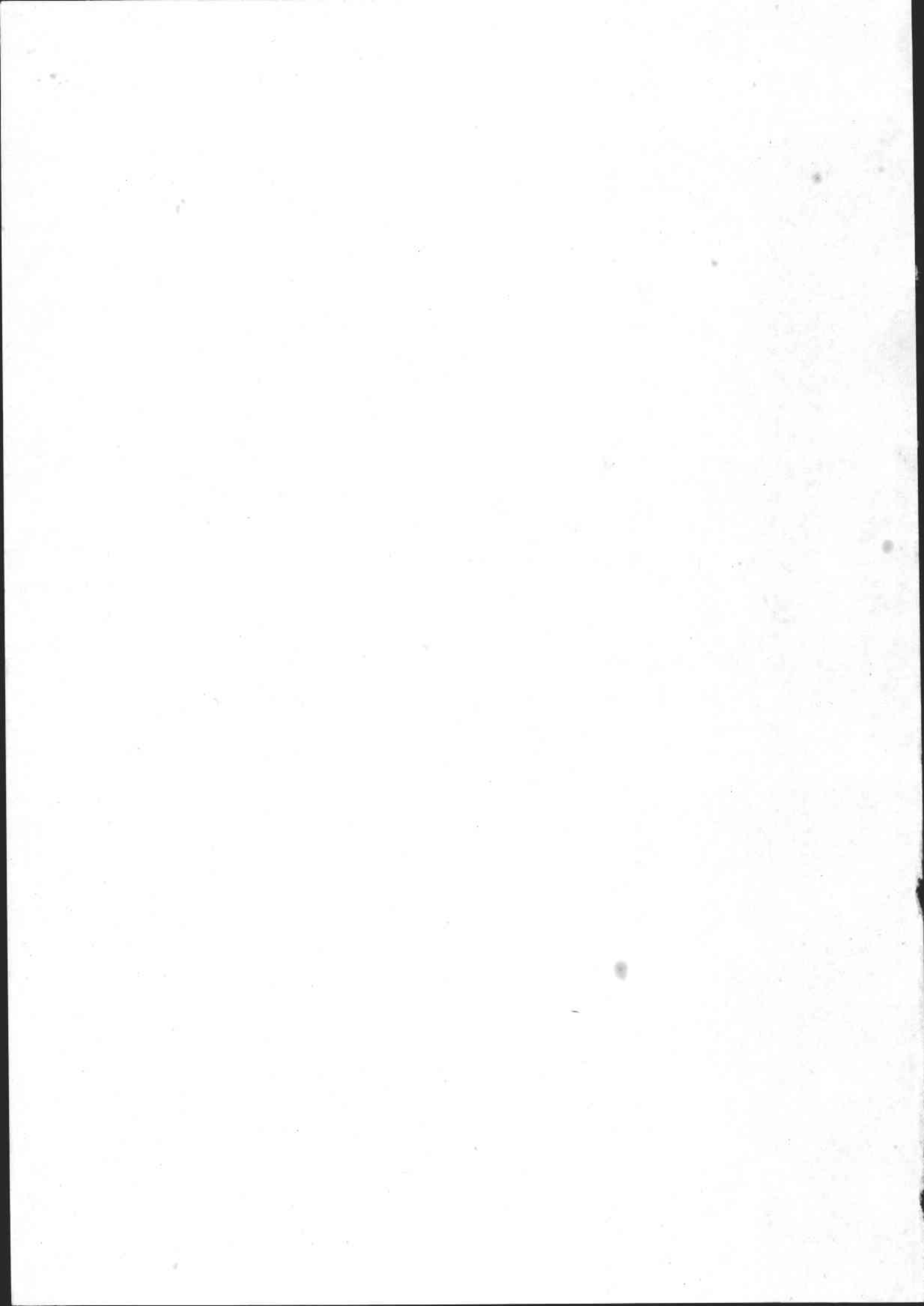
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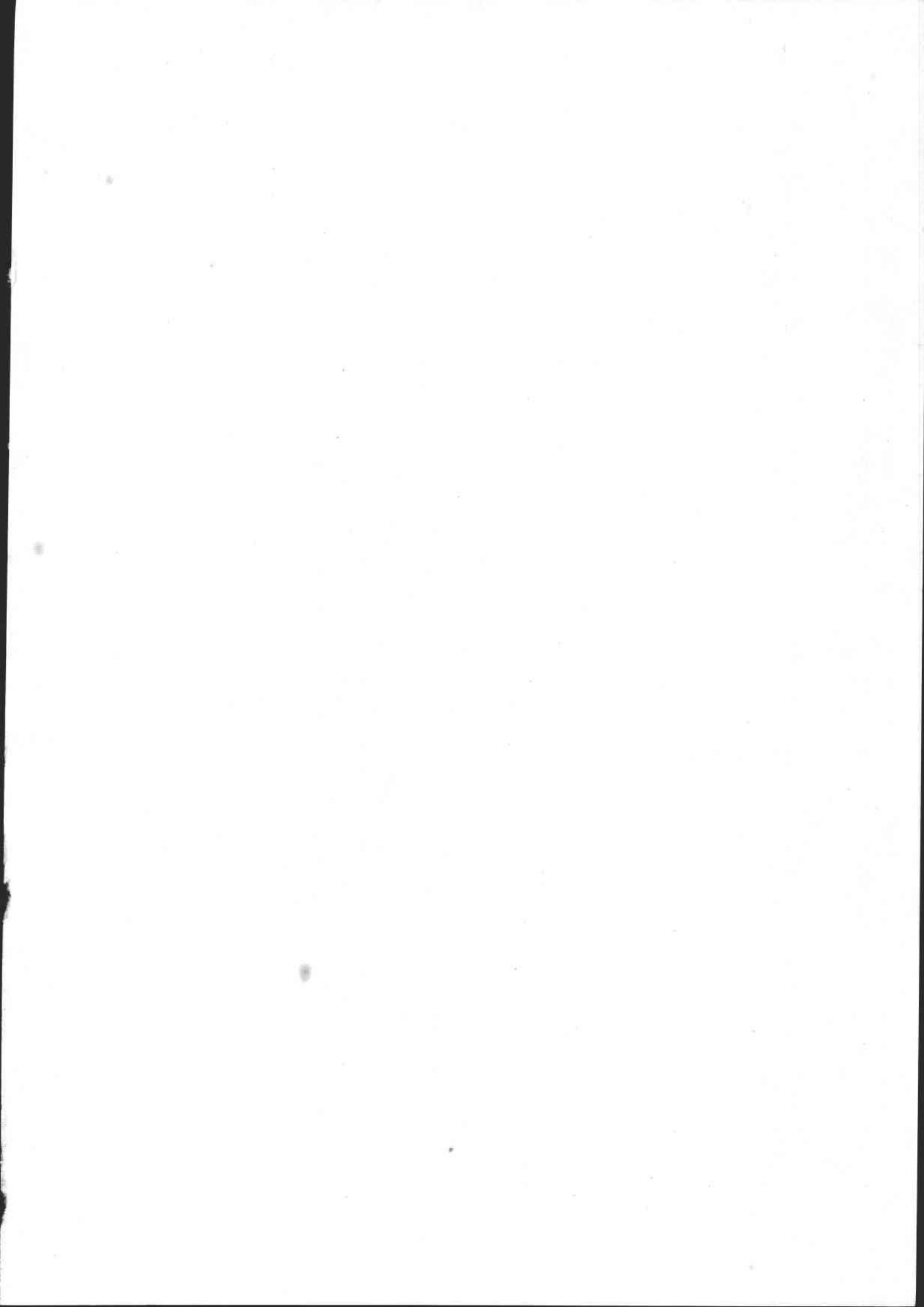
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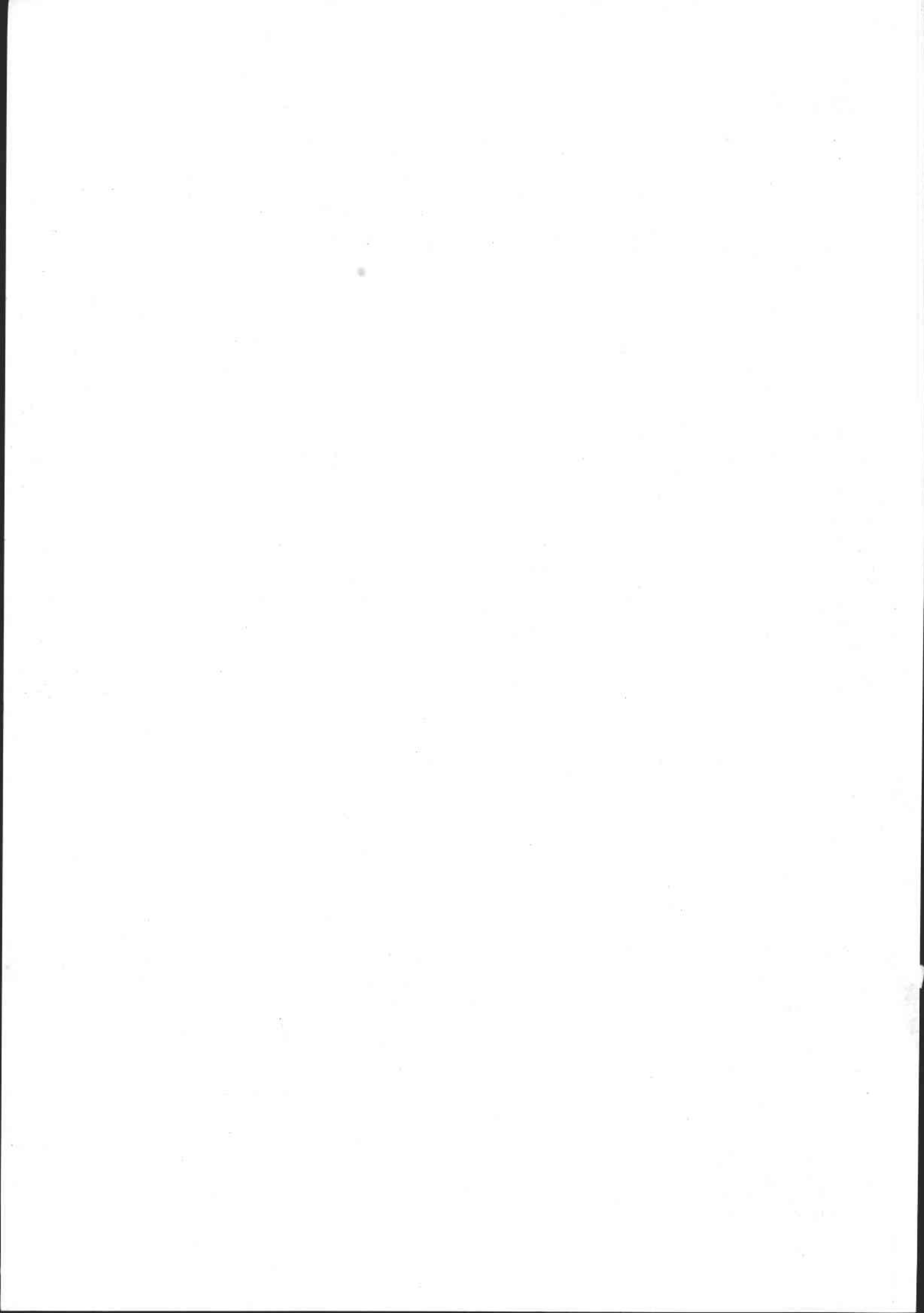
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INTRODUCTION

We hope this glossary will be useful to anyone reading about elephants, while encountering an unfamiliar term.

Words have been collected from many sources, over a number of years. Please bear in mind that such a work will always be less-than-complete....very much a work-in-progress. It is an on-going project; many definitions will need modification. We invite you, please, to contribute your comments.

We realize that any such listing will always be a subjective choice and have tried to be "inclusive" rather than "exclusive", reasoning that a term can be skipped over more easily than searched for elsewhere.

Some words apply to animals in general. In those cases, we have tried to show how they relate to elephants, specifically. And several references are given, which will lead the reader to further information. These references are not meant to be exhaustive but merely to show how a term applies to elephants.

We have surveyed many publications that contain glossaries, and selected those items that have special relevance to elephants.

Non-English terms [listed in *italics*], are found especially in older regional publications. Synonyms are listed under the heading of the most commonly used term.

An online version of this glossary will reflect periodic updates and include changes and corrections. This version is intended to be "downloaded" into your personal computers, where a specific word can then be located with the "FIND" feature.

Readers are encouraged to send any comments/corrections/suggested changes to both authors. These may be sent by e-mail to: musthbull@sedona.net & csanti@slt.lk or by post to:

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SRI LANKA

We have created the beginning. Now it is up to other elephant-workers to contribute and make it more useful to all. An online version of this glossary ["Savanna Elephant Vocalization Project/Elephant Voices" at <http://www.elephantvoices.org>] will reflect periodic updates and include changes and corrections. This version is intended to be "downloaded" into your personal computers, where a specific word can then be located with the "FIND" feature.

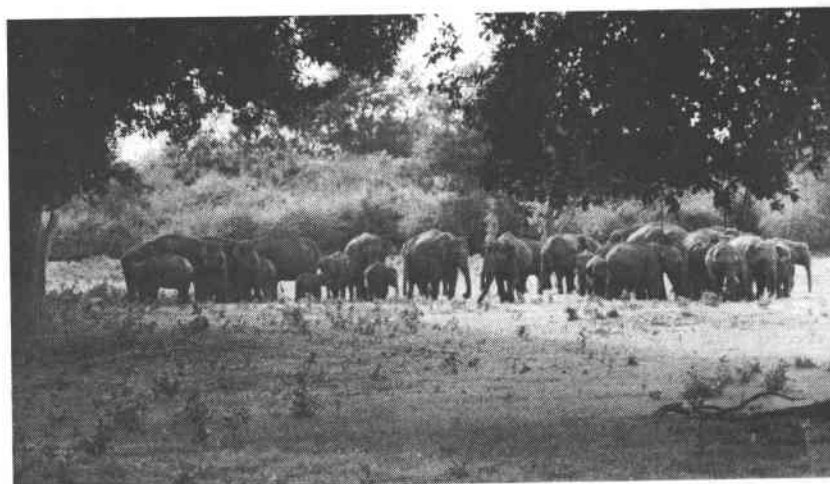
M. Philip Kahl & Charles Santiapillai
(compilers)

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- Achin** (Burmese): [also: a-chin] (Gale 1974:157; Daniel 1998:140) Afterbirth; placenta.
- Activity-pattern:** [= time-energy budget] (Weir & Davison 1965:355,359; McKay 1973:53,61; Guy 1976:288-289,292) Amount of time spent each day in various activities (e.g. foraging, walking, resting, drinking, etc.). Elephants spend a majority of their time in foraging.
- Adolescent:** [see also: **age groups**] (Ford & Beach 1951:268) Sub-adult; age-group between **puberty** and full reproductive **maturity**.
- Adult:** [see also: **age groups**] Mature individual.
- Age-groups:** [also: cohorts] (Lee 1987:279; Moss 2001:150-151) Rather imprecise grouping by age-class, roughly as follows, with some overlap:
- Infant:** [$\pm 0-1$ year] Can still pass under mother's belly.
- Calf:** [$\pm 0-4$ years] Still dependent on milk. Also a generic term for all immatures.
- Young juvenile:** [$\pm 2-5$ years] Still nursing, but can survive for some periods without milk.
- Older juvenile:** [$\pm 5-10$ years] Weaned, but still near mother; females start to look after younger siblings; males form play-groups.
- Immature:** [$\pm 0-10$ years] Not yet sexually mature.
- Adolescent:** [$\pm 10-15$ years] Sexually mature, but have not yet reproduced.
- Sub-adult:** [$\pm 15-20$ years] Females reproductively active; males reproductively "interested" but not usually successful. Not yet full-grown.
- Adult:** [$\pm 20-55$ years] Fully mature. (NB: males continue to grow throughout life.)
- Old adult:** [$\pm 55+$ years] Reproduction slowing slightly; losing molars; nearing death.
- Aggregation:** [see also: **social organization**] (Moss & Poole 1983:316,317,318; Poole & Moss 1989:112,114; Poole 1994:335) Gathering, which can be as large as 200-500; may include dozens of **family units** and a number of mature males; larger aggregations form mainly during the rainy-season in areas where food is plentiful and usually associated with peak mating activity [see also: **breeding, seasonal**]. Also sometimes seen in populations that have been heavily decimated by poaching or other disturbance.
- Agonistic behavior:** (Immelmann & Beer 1989:10; Estes 1991:263,559) Collective term for aggressive [dominant/offensive] and defensive [subordinate/submissive/fearful] behavior.
- Alidena** (Sinhalese): (Deraniyagala 1955:48; Jayewardene 1994:20,121; Cannon & Davis 1995:38) Female with no tushes.
- Aliya** (Sinhalese): [see also: **pussa, mukhna**] (Deraniyagala 1955:48; Jayewardene 1994:20,121; Spinage 1994:34; Cannon & Davis 1995:38; Katugaha 1997:67) Tuskless male; a male--without tusks--but with **tushes**; a tush elephant. Also a generic term for elephant.
- Allomother:** [see also: **auntie**] (Riedman 1982:405; Lee 1987; Buss 1990:15,110; Moss & Colbeck 1992:86) Maternal behavior by a female not the calf's mother; may include **comfort suckling**. Juvenile or adolescent female elephants that comfort, assist, and protect calves in the **family unit**, but are not the calves' mother (but may be their older sibling). Allomother and **auntie** are similar; in general the former is a more prolonged assistance with the young.
- Allometric:** (Hanks 1972a:252; Calder 1984:2; Lindeque & van Jaarsveld 1993; Lee & Moss 1995) Relative changes in proportions, of morphological body-parts or physiological measurements. Changes can occur during the evolution of the species or in the growth [ontogeny] of the individual.
- Anal-fold/anal-flap:** (Sikes 1971:frontispiece[photo]) Triangular flap of skin at base of tail, which when lowered covers the anus.
- Ani** (Tamil): [also: **anay**] (Lahiri-Choudhury 1999:455) Elephant.
- Anguli** (Sanskrit): (Edgerton 1931:114) "Finger" at the end of trunk.
- Ankus** : [also: **angusam, ankusa, ankush, angkus, choon, crook, gajbag, goad, guide, haunkus, hawkus, hendoo, hindu, hinduwa, thotty, bull-hook, hook, driving-spike**] (Tennent 1867:155,156; Carrington 1958:174; Chadwick 1992:18, 297-298; Jayewardene 1994:51-52,121; Cannon & Davis 1995:110,113 [photo],172; Lair 1997:272; Lahiri-Choudhury 1999:455) Short stick with a sharp, curved, finger-length metal hook at the tip, used to control and direct captive elephants. A hooked goad for driving elephants. Euphemistically, sometimes, called "guide".
- Artificial-insemination:** [also: **A.I.**] (Schmitt, et al. 1998; Olson 1999) Impregnation of a female with semen by artificial means. Only recently has this procedure been successful with captive elephants, using modern techniques and fresh [rather than frozen] semen.
- Asana** (Sanskrit): (Edgerton 1931:115) Withers; place where **mahout** sits.
- Askari** (KiSwahili): (Buss 1990:42,43; Smith 1992:140-141) Word meaning "soldier" or "guard"; the attendant younger bull(s), often in the company of an old, very



Manjula Wijesundara
23/02/04

Ankus (drawn by Manjula Wijesundara)