

## PAROLE INDIANE IN INGLESE . I: GORAL \*

1. « An Indian antelope (*Cemas goral*) » è la definizione fornita — accanto alla variante grafica *gooral* — dall'*OED* IV 301c per questo zoonimo (analoga indicazione presso lo *SOED* 813c e il *COD* 461a, quest'ultimo però con la precisazione « of genus *Naemorhedus* »).

In più cfr.: *HJ* 387b s.v. *goorul*: « the Himalayan chamois; *Nemorhoedus Goral* of [T. C.] Jerdon [*The Mammals of India* (London 1874)]. *Cemas Goral* of [W. T.] Blanford ([*The Fauna of British India*:] *Mammalia* [London 1888-1891], 516) »; *CED* 318c: « the Himalayan goat antelope ».

Ulteriori specificazioni e caratteristiche attinenti all'animale si trovano altresì in, e.g.: *RHD* 610b: « a goat antelope, *Nemorhedus goral*, of the mountainous regions of southeastern Asia, having small horns shorter than the distance between them at their bases »; *GID* I 568a: « Either of two goatlike antelopes, *Naemorhedus goral* or *N. cranbrookii*, of mountainous regions of eastern Asia, having short, ridged, backward-curved horns in both sexes »; *WT* I 980b<sup>1</sup>: « any of several goat antelopes (genus *Naemorhedus*) occurring from the southern Himalayas to northern parts of China and being closely related to the Rocky Mountain goat »; nonché, più dettagliatamente e diffusamente, in *The Encyclopedia Americana* (Internat. ed.) 13 (Danbury, Ct., 1979) 84b-85a: « a small, shaggy-haired, goat-like mammal native to eastern Asia, where it mostly inhabits grassy hills and rocky mountainsides, usually at elevations of 3,000 to 9,000 feet (900-2,700 meters). Gorals stand about 28 inches (71 cm) high

### \*Abbreviazioni:

- CED* = E. KLEIN, *A Comprehensive Etymological Dictionary of the English Language*, Unabridged, one-volume ed., rist., Amsterdam 1971.  
*COD* = *The Concise Oxford English Dictionary*<sup>8</sup>, Oxford 1976.  
*GID* = *The Grolier International Dictionary*, I-II, Danbury (Ct.) 1979.  
*HJ* = H. YULE-A. C. BURNELL, *Hobson Jobson: A Glossary of Colloquial Anglo-Indian Words and Phrases*, new ed. by W. CROOKE, London 1903.  
*OED* = *The Oxford English Dictionary*, I-XII, rist., Oxford 1961.  
*OEDS* = *A Supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary*, I-IV, Oxford, rispettivam. 1972, 1976, 1982, 1986.  
*RHD* = *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language*, The Unabridged Ed., New York 1966.  
*SOED* = *The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*<sup>3</sup>, rist. con correz., Oxford 1959.  
*WT* = *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language*, Unabridged, I-II, Springfield (Mass.) 1981.

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<sup>1</sup> Il lemma manca tuttavia nel *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*, Springfield (Mass.) 1983.



at the shoulders and weigh from 50 to 70 pounds (22.5-32 kg). They are closely related to the Rocky Mountain goat, the chamois and the serow<sup>[2]</sup>.

There are several varieties of gorals, classified by various zoologists as races of a single species (*Naemorhedus goral*) or into as many as five separate species. On the basis of color pattern and length of tail, four types can be distinguished: the gray Himalayan goral of Kashmir, the brown goral of Nepal and Sikkim, Bailey's goral (with a large white patch on each side of the chest) of Tibet, and the Burmese goral (with a black stripe on the lower foreleg) of Burma, eastern Tibet, and southern China.

Gorals are agile and are good climbers. They are most active in the early morning and late evening, when they graze in small, usually family groups of four to eight animals. A single kid (or rarely two) is born in the spring after a gestation period of about six months » (B. C. Mahendra), e in *The New Encyclopædia Britannica*<sup>15</sup>, IV (Chicago 1977) 633a: « a small Asiatic goatlike mammal of the family Bovidae having slightly backward curving cylindrical horns and a coarse brownish-gray coat. It is a ruminant (cud chewer) related to the chamois (*q.v.*) and serow but distinguished from them by peculiarities in skull form, as well as by smaller size, shorter horns, and the absence of face glands. Gorals range from the Himalayas to eastern Siberia »<sup>3</sup>.

2. La documentazione relativa presentata dall'*OED* IV è poi la seguente: « 1834 *Penny Cyclopædia of the society for the diffusion of useful knowledge* II.89/2 The Goral (*A[ntilope] goral*) ... first described by General Hardwicke in the "Linneæan Transactions". 1876 [A. A.] Kinloch *Large Game Shooting in Thibet [and the Northwest]* Ser.II.21 The Gooral, like the Serow, belongs to the Chamois family ... I have several times seen ... Gooral in the Sewalik hills. 1894 [*The*] *Westm[inster] Gaz[ette]* 23 Jan. 3/3 There were other kinds of big game, as musk and barking deer, and goral — an animal not unlike the chamois. 1894 [*The*] *Royal Nat[ural] Hist[ory]* (ed. [R.] Lyddeker [*recte*: Lydekker]) II.257 The goral (*Cemas goral*) of the Himalaya. *Ibid.* 258 Nearly allied to the gorals are the ... serows, or goat-antelopes [*Nemorhædus*]»; a ciò va aggiunto, dall'*OEDS* I 1268a — dov'è menzionata anche la grafia *goorul*: « 1864 J. A. Grant [*A*] *Walk across Africa* iii.35 Goorul or chamois of the Himalayas. 1925 G. Burrard [et al.] *Big Game Hunting [in the Himalayas and Tibet]* 101 I have always liked gooral meat. 1932 *Discovery* Nov. 344/2 On the wooded crags [in N. Burma] 2,000 feet above the river, there were *gooral*, but it needed dogs to drive them out from cover ».

3. Quanto all'origine (passata sotto silenzio nell'*OED* e nello *SOED*) — a parte il generico « native name » addotto dal *COD*, e un paio di precarie e vaghe proposte: « ? < [= "derived from, through intermediate stages not shown"] Skt *gaura* [*sic*<sup>4</sup>], *gaur*<sup>5</sup> » (*RHD*), ovvero: « perh[aps] fr[om] a modern Indic word derived fr. Skt *gaura* *gaur* — more at GAUR » (*WT* I) —, il termine in questione<sup>6</sup> è stato a più

<sup>2</sup> Dell'origine del quale ho trattato in « Paideia », 29 (1974), 179-180.

<sup>3</sup> Vd. pure il *Lessico universale italiano*, IX, Roma 1972, 264a con foto a fronte.

<sup>4</sup> Sul quale vd. M. MAYRHOFER, *Kurzgefaßtes etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindischen* Lfg. 5, Heidelberg 1955, 350 s.v. *gaurāh*<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> « A large species of ox, *Bos gaurus*, found wild in various parts of India »: *OED* IV 83b.

<sup>6</sup> Peraltro non elencato in: W. W. SKEAT, *An Etymological Dictionary of the English Language*<sup>2</sup>, rist., Oxford 1958; E. PARTRIDGE, *Origins — A Short Etymological Dictionary of Modern English*<sup>4</sup>, London 1966; C. T. ONIONS, *The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*, rist. con correz., Oxford 1969.

riprese ricondotto a hindī/hindūstānī «*gūral, goral*»<sup>7</sup>: in realtà *voces nihili, non* registrate nei rispettivi lessici<sup>8</sup>.

L'esatta spiegazione va quindi ricercata altrove.

4. Difatti, in considerazione dell'area abitata dal quadrupede — specialmente le pendici himalayane — e in particolar modo delle *u l t e r i o r i* grafie (*non* citate dall'*OED* IV né dall'*OEDS* I s.v. *goral*) con cui è pure trādito il suo nome, ossia *ghoral* e *ghorul*<sup>9</sup> — rispettivamente secondo l'informazione dell'*OED* XI 249b s.v. *thar*<sup>10</sup>: « 1833 B. H. Hodgson in *Proc[eedings of the] Zool[ogical] Soc[iety of London]* 10 Sept. 105 As compared with the Ghōrāl, *Antilope Goral*, [— —] the Thâr is a massive beast, twice the size, and has suborbital sinuses, and a mane along the back of the neck and shoulders »<sup>11</sup>, e di *HJ*: « The flesh was good and tasted like that of the *ghorul*, so abundant in the hilly belt towards India » (W. Gerard Lloyd, *A Narrative of a Journey from Caunpoor to the Boorendo Pass in the Himalaya Mountains* II [London 1840] 112)<sup>12</sup> —, risulta evidente che la fonte è da individuarsi nel nepālī *ghoral* « the Himalayan wild goat », accanto a cui — sempre nel dominio linguistico neo-indiano lungo la fascia della catena himalayana — vanno annoverati ad es. lahndā *gōrar* « male ravine-deer », pahārī occid. *koī ghōrād* « a kind of deer », kumaunī *ghorar* « wild goat », ecc. (e si noti anche *gord* « a kind of deer » in kanaurī)<sup>13</sup>.

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#### Addendum (ottobre 1989)

L'origine di *goral* è ancora sottaciuta nella recentissima 2ª ed. dell'*OED* (eds. J. A. SIMPSON-E. S. C. WEINER), VI 1989, 689a. Qui viene adesso inclusa la variante grafica *gural*, ma persistentemente mancano (oltre a *gurel*: vd. n. 12) *ghoral* e *ghorul* a cui si è dato invece rilievo al § 4 (con n. 11)!

<sup>7</sup> Così in *HJ*, *CED* e *GID* I (quest'ultimo con il complemento: « possibly from Sanskrit *gaura*, *gaur*. See [\**gwou-* in Appendix [II 1520a = "Ox, bull, cow", ad 5: "Suffixed form \**gwōu-ro-* in Sanskrit *gaura*, wild ox: GAUR, GORAL"] »).

<sup>8</sup> E.g.: *The Student's Practical Dictionary containing Hindustani Words with English Meanings*, Allahabad 1929; *Ferozsons' Urdu-English Dictionary*, Lahore s. d.; J. T. PLATTS, *A Dictionary of Urdu, Classical Hindī, and English*, Oxford 1930; V. M. BESKROVNYI-V. E. KRASNOEMBSKIJ, *Urdu-russkij slovar*, Moskva 1951; R. C. PATHAK, *Bhargava's Standard Illustrated Dictionary of the Hindi Language*, rist., Varanasi 1971; K. PRASĀD-R. SAHĀYA-M. ŚRĪVĀSTAVA, *Bṛhat Hindī Koṣh*, Varānāsī 1973; M. CHATURVEDI-B. N. TIWARI, *A Practical Hindī-English Dictionary*, New Delhi 1979. — Cfr. appunto la traduzione di *goral* ad es. in: *Comprehensive English-Hindī Dictionary*, I, Varanasi 1969, 725b; R. VIRA, *A Comprehensive English-Hindī Dictionary of Governmental & Educational Words & Phrases*, New Delhi 1976, 705a.

<sup>9</sup> Per *gh-* a petto di *g-* vd. e.g. G. SUBBA RAO, *Indian Words in English*, rist. con correz., Oxford 1969, (41-)42 ad 8.

<sup>10</sup> « A wild goat of the genus *Hemitragus* found in mountainous regions of southern Asia or Arabia, esp. *H. jemlahicus*, which has long brown fur and is native to the Himalayas »: *OEDS* IV 714b, con sostituzione di definizione.

<sup>11</sup> Cfr. anche l'*OED* IX 502c. s.v. *serow*: « 1848 tr[anslation of W.] Hoffmeister's *Travels in Ceylon*, etc. [i.e.: and *Continental India*] viii.295 Two species of antelopes (*Antilope Ghoral* and *A. Thar*), one called "Ghoral", and the other "Surow" ».

<sup>12</sup> Da osservare ivi, per di più, la grafia *gurel*: « On Tuesday we went to a new part of the hill to shoot "gurel", a kind of deer, which across a khud ["a term chiefly employed in the Himālaya, *khadd*, meaning a precipitous hill-side, also a deep valley": *ibid.* 418b], looks remarkably small and more like a hare than a deer » (MARCHIONESS OF DUFFERIN AND AVA, *Our Viceregal Life in India*, London 1890, 235).

<sup>13</sup> R. L. TURNER, *A Comparative Dictionary of the Indo-Aryan Languages — Addenda and Corrigenda*, London 1985, 32b ad nr. 4523a \**ghōraḍa-* « a kind of deer or wild goat », e parzialmente già *A Comparative and Etymological Dictionary of the Nepālī Language*, rist. con correz., London 1965, 161a.