

De Loys' Man-beast

A team of Swiss geographers under François de Loys shot the creature seen here in the jungles of Columbia, Venezuela in 1920. De Loys stated that two of the creatures attacked his team, forcing them to defend themselves. One of the creatures fell and the other made its escape. De Loys' claimed that the animal shown was just over five feet tall. He removed the creature's skin and cleaned its skull/jaw and attempted to bring these back to Switzerland for scientific analysis. Unfortunately, the relics were lost in a boating accident.

The creature's height was originally disputed. It was then noticed, however, that it was sitting on a fuel crate. Using the known dimensions of such a crate, it was possible to confirm de Loys' claim. The creature's height and physical appearance set it apart from other primates known to science. The find was given added credibility by eyewitness accounts in 1931 of a similar creature in British Guiana. Then in 1968, the explorer Pinto Turolla reported that he saw the same type of creature in the area of Marirupa Falls, eastern Venezuela. Turolla further claimed he had a second brief sighting of the creature in 1970 on the eastern slopes of the Andes in Ecuador.

The most recent sighting of this type of creature took place in Guyana in 1987. The witness, mycologist Gary Samuels, was doing fieldwork for the New York Botanical Garden. While gathering fungi from the forest floor, he heard footsteps, and when he looked up, he was surprised



to see a five-foot-tall bipedal ape “bellowing an occasional ‘hoo’ sound.”

The authenticity of de Loys photograph is still disputed. While many authorities contend that the creature seen is nothing more than a slightly larger than average spider monkey, the evidence presented here seems to support de Loys' claim.

I really don't think the creature seen here has anything to do with sasquatch/bigfoot, other than to support the fact that there are some unclassified primates still wandering around. When I hear of “sasquatch/bigfoot” sightings in South America, Malaysia, Indonesia, New Guinea, and even the Philippines, I am inclined to think that this is the type of creature involved. Nevertheless, it would be a unique discovery if a creature such as this were presented “in the flesh.”