

CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDY IN THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

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Dr. J. O. Brew  
Peabody Museum  
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Jo:

This is in reply to your letter of May 20th regarding possible Bushman remnants.

The reference to the group north of the Barotse swamps probably refers to the Nkoya, a backward Bantu people who depend more on hunting and gathering than on agriculture. There are, of course, true Bushmen immediately south of Barotseland, notably the Hukwe. If the Nkoya contain an element of autochthonous origin, this would be more likely Pygmy than Bushman.

There are Pygmies among the Rundi just north of Lake Tanganyika. Pygmy remnants extend southward to the swamps near Lake Mweru (ca.  $8^{\circ}\text{S}, 29^{\circ}\text{E}$ ), Lake Bangweulu (ca.  $11^{\circ}\text{S}, 30^{\circ}\text{E}$ ), and the Kafue River (ca.  $15-16^{\circ}\text{S}, 27^{\circ}\text{E}$ ). If there are any remnants west of Lake Tanganyika they would almost certainly be Pygmies rather than Bushmen.

Bushmanoid peoples almost certainly once inhabited Somaliland, and the depressed castes of hunters among the Somali and Galla (called Midgan, etc.) quite possibly preserve some Bushman genes. The so-called Boni and Sanye peoples who reside somewhat inland from the coast, respectively to the east and west of the Tana River very probably have a similar origin. These remnant peoples of the Somaliland region would be definitely worth studying from a physical anthropological point of view.

The only remnant worth studying from a cultural point of view is probably the Kindiga or Hadzapi around Lake Eyasi in northern Tanganyika. They still live an independent life of hunting and gathering and speak a click language akin to Bushman. I have heard that an British ethnologist has recently been working among them.

On the whole, I seriously doubt whether the search for Bushman remnants would prove rewarding to the Marshalls.

Sincerely,

*Pete*

George P. Murdock