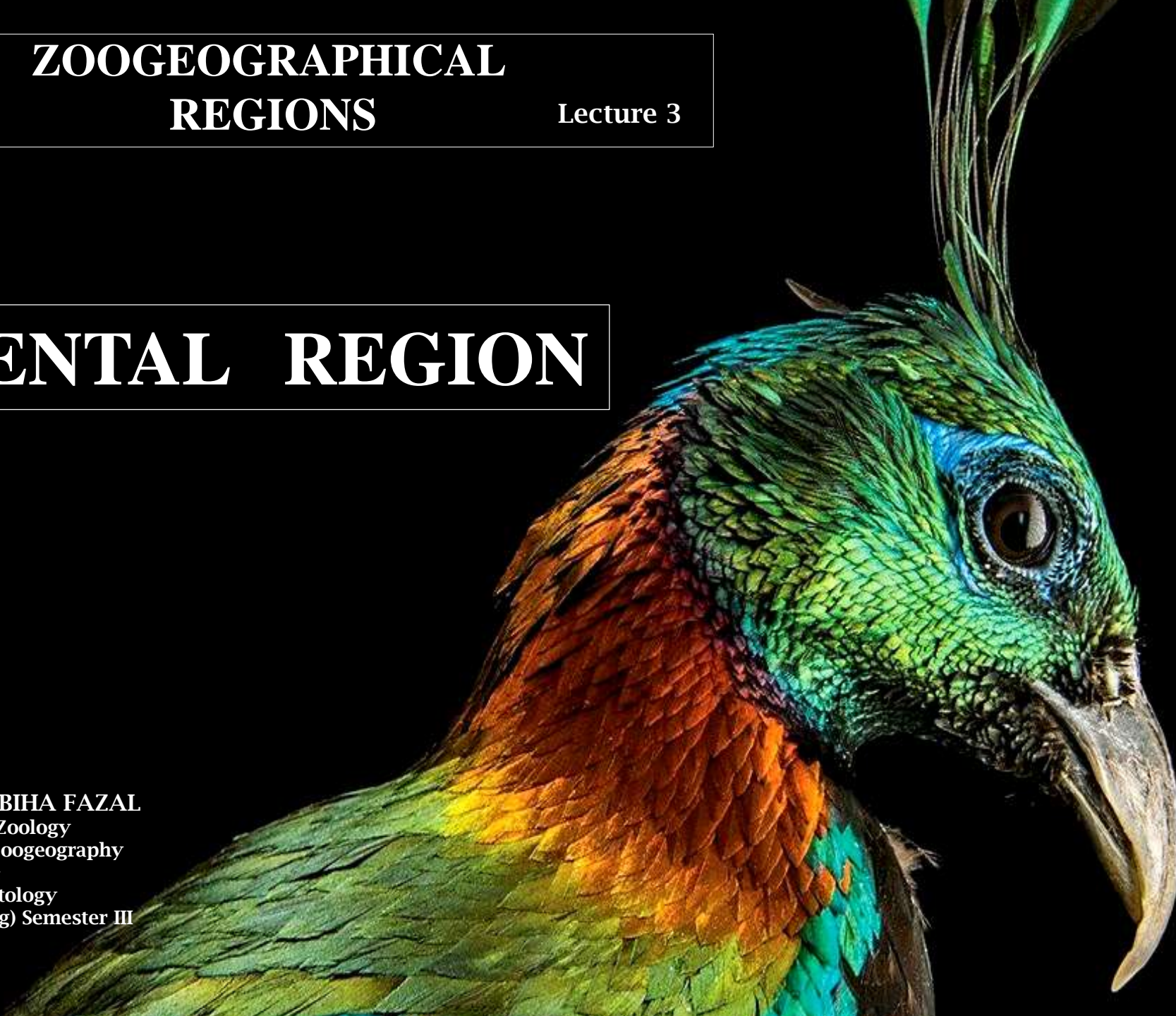


ZOOGEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS

Lecture 3

ORIENTAL REGION

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Subject: Zoology
Course Title: Zoogeography
&
Paleontology
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ORIENTAL REGION

EXTENT:

It includes tropical parts of Asia such as:

- Pakistan
- India
- Bangladesh
- Sri Lanka
- Burma
- Malaysia
- Indonesia
- Indo-China
- Philippines
- Southern China

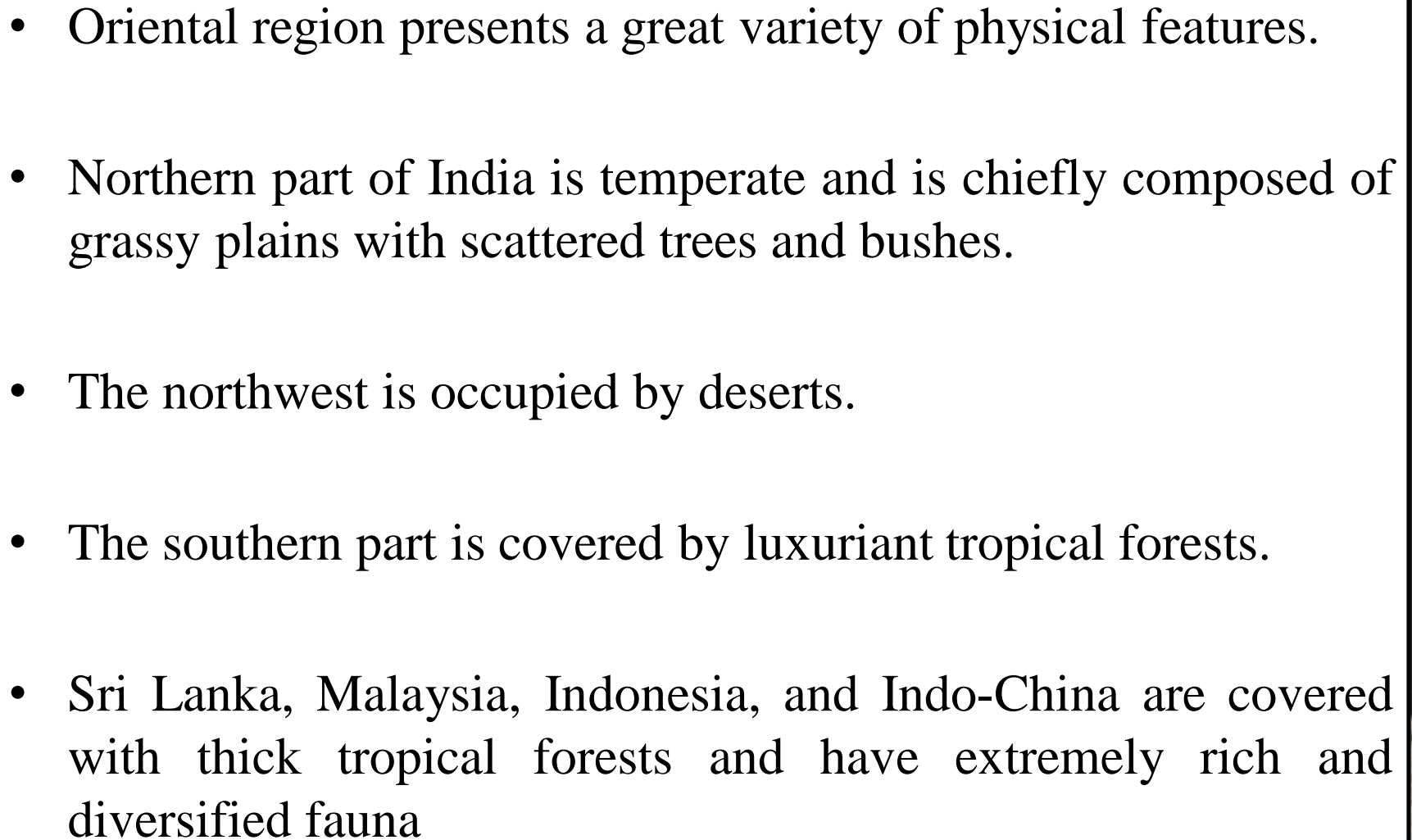
ORIENTAL REGION

Scale 1 inch=1,000 miles



PHYSICAL FEATURES

- Oriental region is separated from Palaearctic region by Himalayas in the north.
- It is bounded by Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean on all other sides.
- There is no physical boundary in the south east corner where the islands of Malayan Archipelago string out up to Australia

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- Oriental region presents a great variety of physical features.
 - Northern part of India is temperate and is chiefly composed of grassy plains with scattered trees and bushes.
 - The northwest is occupied by deserts.
 - The southern part is covered by luxuriant tropical forests.
 - Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Indo-China are covered with thick tropical forests and have extremely rich and diversified fauna

CLIMATE

- The climate of Oriental region is mainly tropical.
- The temperature of southern part is almost constant and never rises above 30°C.
- In the northern part, in autumn and winter, the temperature lies between 10°- 20°C, rising in spring and summer.

ZOOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- In Oriental region, the terrestrial vertebrates are represented by 153 families.
- Of which **10** are **unique** to this region:
 - 4 mammalian families
 - 1 avian family
 - 5 reptilian families

4 UNIQUE MAMMAIAN FAMILIES

- Halobatidae (Gibbons)
- Tarsidae (Tarsiers)
- Tupaiidae (Tree shrews)
- Galeopithecidae (Flying lemurs)



Tree shrew



Gibbon



Flying lemur



Tarsier

ONE UNIQUE AVIAN FAMILY

- Eurylaemidae (Broad bills)



5 UNIQUE REPTILIAN FAMILIES

- Elachistodontidae (Egg-eating snakes)
- Uropeltidae (Shield tail snakes)
- Lanthanotidae (Monitor Lizard of Borneo)
- Gavialidae (Gavials)
- Platysternidae (Big-headed tortoises)



Shield tail snake



Monitor Lizard of Borneo

**Big-headed
tortoises**



Gavials

**Egg-eating
snake**



COMMON MAMMALIAN FAUNA

- Among **mammals**, Orangutans, monkeys, Indian elephants and rhinoceros, Malaysian tapirs, pandas, four horned antelopes, bears, anteaters and spring dormice are confined to this region

COMMON AVIAN FAUNA

- There are 66 families of birds. Of these 53 are widely distributed.
- Only **one** avian family is **endemic** (Broad bills).
- The common birds of the Oriental region are orioles, bulbuls, thrushes, blue birds, pigeons, bee-eaters, cuckoos, weaver birds, kingfishers, pheasants, etc.
- The magnificent **Peacock** and jungle fowl are **native** to this region.

COMMON REPTILIAN FAUNA

- Reptiles are well represented in this region.
- There is a large number of poisonous snakes such as vipers, kraits, cobras, as well as pythons.
- Lizard are represented by a number of species of geckos, skinks, as well as varanus.
- Crocodiles are wide spread. **Gavials** (the long-nosed crocodiles) are confined to India and Malaya.
- Freshwater turtle, the big-headed turtle is confined to this region.

COMMON AMPHIBIAN FAUNA

- Amphibians are less distinctive .
- Common frog and toads range widely.
- Urodeles, the tailed amphibians are very rare.

COMMON FISH FAUNA

- Freshwater fish fauna is very rich.
- Primitive groups of fishes are absent.
- Carps and catfishes are dominant.

AFFINITIES

- The Oriental fauna resembles that of the Ethiopian region but it is neither so rich in endemic families nor it exhibits wide variety.
- Oriental region shares hedgehogs, porcupines, civets, hyenas, pigs, etc., with both Palaearctic and Ethiopian region.
- 25% of its families are shared with Africa.

- The families **shared** with Ethiopian region include lorises, Old World monkeys, pangolins, bamboo rats, elephants, rhinoceros and chevrotains (Mouse deer).
- There are some striking **differences** between the fauna of the two regions.
- Unlike the Ethiopian region, the Oriental region has moles, bears, tapirs and deers in its fauna. In contrast, it is without jerboas, coneys (Rock rabbits) and wild horses.