

article reference was made to a popular Hindu belief in Bihar regarding the sucking up of water from the earth by one of Lord Indra's elephants with a view to show the frequency of waterspout formation in that area due to meteorological conditions. This mythological belief had nothing to do with the scientific investigation of the causes of the phenomenon by Dr. Sen and myself as misrepresented by a writer⁴ in *Nature* of September 22, 1934 (p. 454).

SUNDER LAL HORA.

Zoological Survey of India,
Indian Museum, Calcutta,
March 22, 1935.

¹ Hora, S. L., "Rains of Fishes in India," *Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal* (N. S.), 1933 (1934), 29, 95-110.

² Carey, W. H., *The Good Old Days of Honorable John Company* (Calcutta 1907), 2, 361.

³ Princep, J., "Fall of Fish from the Sky," *Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, 1833, 2, 650-652.

⁴ Anon, 'Showers of Fish,' *Nature*, 1934, 134, 454.

Panthachuk (Srinagar, Kashmir) Rhyolite.

IN an issue of *Current Science*¹ a rhyolite was described from the Panjal Trap formation in the neighbourhood of Srinagar. In a subsequent issue² W. D. West, on the basis of a communication from D. N. Wadia, has thrown doubt on the validity of the discovery. He states that this particular occurrence is ordinary Panjal Trap (i.e., andesite or basalt) which has been silicified.

	Panthachuk Rock (S. G. 2.63)	Average by Daly ³	Rhyolite from Yel- lowstone National Park ⁴
SiO ₂	73.59	72.77	75.34
TiO ₂	0.35	0.29
Al ₂ O ₃	10.94	13.33	12.51
Fe ₂ O ₃	0.32	1.40	0.42
FeO	2.98	1.02	1.55
MnO	0.04	0.07	0.07
MgO	0.23	0.38	0.32
CaO	1.80	1.22	1.07
Na ₂ O	5.05	3.34	3.31
K ₂ O	3.81	4.58	4.17
H ₂ O	1.46	1.50	0.86
P ₂ O ₅	0.10
SO ₃	0.42
TOTAL	100.57		100.04

No reasons have, however, been given for this statement.

The petrographic description of the rock given in the previous note is sufficient to prove that the rock is a rhyolite and not a "silicified" trap. My friend Dr. V. S. Dubey has now kindly analysed a specimen of the rock. The results of the analysis are given above. For comparison the average of 102 analyses of rhyolites by Daly and the analysis of a rhyolite, closely approaching the Panthachuk rock in chemical composition, are also given. It is obvious that the data regarding the Panthachuk rock are capable of only one interpretation, namely, that the rock is a rhyolite. The remarks of D. N. Wadia as quoted by W. D. West have no facts to support them.

NORM OF THE PANTHACHUK ROCK.

Quartz 29.34, Orthoclase 22.80, Albite 34.58, Acmite 0.92, Na₂O, SiO₂ 1.59, Diopside 7.74, Hypersthene 1.45, Ilmenite 0.61. Total 99.03.

K. K. MATHUR.

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Benares Hindu University,
March 5, 1935.

¹ *Curr. Sci.*, 1933, 2, 126.

² *Ibid.*, 1934, 3, 234.

³ *Igneous Rocks and the Depths of the Earth*, 1933, p. 9.

⁴ J. E. Whitfield, *U. S. G. S. Monograph*, 32, p. 426.

I THINK that Prof. Mathur has misunderstood the intention of the footnote. The nature of the rock described by Prof. Mathur and Mr. S. N. Wakhloo in their letter to *Current Science* was never in question. It was quite clear from their description that it was a rhyolite. What Mr. Wadia took exception to was the impression given in the letter that acid volcanic rocks were fairly common around Srinagar, whereas according to him many of these rocks which at a first glance look like acid volcanic rocks, are really silicified basic volcanic rocks. Consequently in my footnote I used the words "in the main". Mr. Wadia is not now in India, but I am sure he did not question the nature of the particular rock described by Prof. Mathur and Mr. Wakhloo.

Although these rhyolites may be quantitatively unimportant, nevertheless their discovery is of much interest; and the analysis given by Dr. Dubey adds further interest.

W. D. WEST.