

## Puku

## *Kobus vardoni*

Gelbfluss-Moorantilope (G), Puku (F), Poekoe (Af). Missionary and explorer Dr. David Livingstone, who first collected this species on the Zambezi River in Zambia about 1853, called it poku, which was presumed to be its local name. He named it *Antelope vardoni*, after British army officer Major Frank Vardon, who hunted with him in southern Africa. At one time it was called Vardon's kob.

**DESCRIPTION** Shoulder height 31-32 inches (79-81 cm). Weight 150-175 pounds (68-79 kg). The puku is a medium-sized antelope closely related to the kob. The back is straight, the tail short, the coat fairly long. Color is a bright golden yellow. Underparts are whitish, and there are whitish areas around the eyes, on the sides of the muzzle, and on the throat. No black markings on the legs. Horns (males only) are thick, short, lyrate and heavily finged. The female is similar but somewhat smaller, has a brownish crown and no horns.

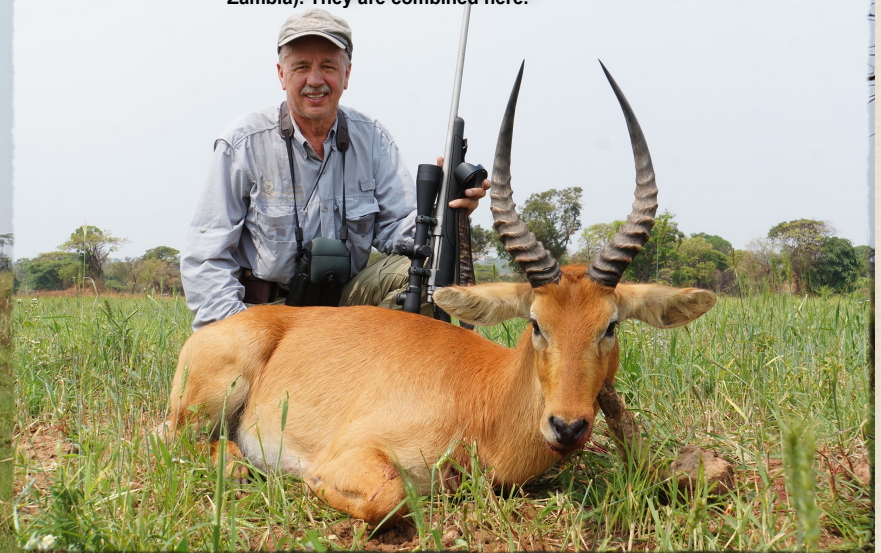
**BEHAVIOR** Similar to the kob. The puku is considered by some as intermediate between lechwes and kobs. Usually lives in small herds of up to 10, sometimes more, but after the breeding season females and young form larger herds of up to 50. Males are in small bachelor groups or are solitary. When breeding, males defend small territories in a common territorial ground or lek, similar to a kob. Diurnal. Mainly a grazer, but browses occasionally. Drinks water regularly.

**HABITAT** Open flats near rivers or swamps, never far from water.

**DISTRIBUTION** Discontinuous in northeastern Angola, Zambia, the Chobe region in Botswana, Katanga Province in Congo (K), southwestern Tanzania, and Malawi.

**REMARKS** Puku are usually not difficult to hunt; however, where heavily hunted they become wary and skittish.

**TAXONOMIC NOTES** Includes *vardoni* (the species range in Angola, western Zambia, Botswana, and Congo (K)), and *senganus* (the so-called Senga kob of southwestern Tanzania, Malawi, and the Luangwa Valley in Zambia). They are combined here.



SCI Record Book of Trophy Animals and the  
SCI Trophy Records Committee proudly presents  
this certificate to:

**Mechislav Klimovich**

for taking a Puku

with a Rifle measuring 47 5/8

On a hunt in Zambia, Nchila on 09/25/2012

Measured by Mechislav Klimovich on 11/02/2012.

Your entry currently ranks **Number 65, a Silver Medal**