

We had ample opportunity of closely observing the cow with her two calves, for they remained in the same spot for some fifteen minutes. The calves were about three years old, and were of identically the same height and shape. They roamed together round the mother as she continued to graze, and we were able to observe them facing us, side view and rear view. As there was no other rhino in the place at that time, there can be little doubt that it was in fact a case of twin calves.

Most unfortunately it had been raining slightly all day, and so I had come out for once without a camera. In order to obtain more witnesses, if that were necessary, we called up several villagers who were fishing and herding their cattle nearby, just outside the Sanctuary. They came along, looked and confirmed without hesitation what we had noted—that here was a cow rhino with twin calves.

Eventually the mother rhino became a little nervous at the sight of so many of us, and walked away into the tall elephant-grass. The two calves followed close at heel and disappeared from view. I advised the Forest Guard to keep a careful look-out for further appearances of this unique family party.

Several cases have been recorded of twins being born to an Indian elephant; but as far as I am aware no case has hitherto been reported of the Indian rhino, or of any rhino of either Asiatic or African origin, having twin calves. The above occurrence, therefore, must be the first ever to be observed and recorded.

OATING P.O.,
ASSAM (INDIA).
July 28, 1955.

E. P. GEE

6. A SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE ON THE STATUS OF RHINOCEROS IN THE UNION OF BURMA—1955

THE SMALLER ONE-HORNED OR JAVAN RHINOCEROS.

Rhinoceros sondaicus.

Extract from a letter dated 2nd September 1954, from the Deputy Commissioner, Tavoy (U Kyaw Thant):

'On my recent tour to the newly occupied area which was under insurgent domination for some time, I came across a piece of rhino hide and a tip of rhino horn about a couple of inches in length cut from the horn. According to the person who was in possession of these things, a single-horned rhino was seen at Taungnyo range (a local name for the Tenasserim Yoma) in Natkyizin village tract by Mon insurgents. Natkyizin village tract is in the northern part of Tavoy District bordering the Amhurst District. This was some time in January 1954, and the animal had to be stalked for about half a day before it was shot. According to this person the horn was about 9 inches in length and about 3 inches in diameter at its base. It is said there was only this one rhino when it was seen.'

It is possible that this rhino is the same animal as mentioned in the Annual Report on Game Preservation in Burma for the year ending 31st March 1940. Below is the relevant extract.

'In the Man-Aung and Yechaung Reserves of Ataran Division recent tracks of two rhinoceros were seen and a search by the local beat officer in the adjoining area of Tavoy Division produced another track.'

THE SUMATRAN TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS, *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*.

Extract from a letter dated the 18th May 1955 from the Divisional Forest Officer, Minbu Forest Division (U Su):

'It has very recently been reported to me that there are some rhino in this division. Very recently some villagers from Nga-pe area had seen a rhino in the Pa-aing Reserve while collecting canes for their use, and also stated that some tracks were frequently seen in the Mon West Reserve and Kyetmauktaung area. From the reports it seems that there are not less than 3 to 5 rhinoceros in this division, probably *Rhinoceros sumatrensis*. I think they must have been wandering across from the Arakan Yoma.'

Mr. J. N. Martin, Superintending Engineer, who has been supervising the construction of the Padaung-Taungup motor road over the Arakan Yoma was informed by local trackers that there are rhinos in the Nga-pe area, three days' march from Yebawgyi-Mile 70. This coincides with the report received by U Su. Nga-pe area is near An Pass, and is lower down the area marked some 50 miles SSE. of Myohaung in Lieut.-General Philip Christison's map (*JBNHS*, Vol. 45 (4), pp. 605—1945).

According to Mr. Martin's informants, rhino tracks are no longer seen in the area about half-way between Sandoway and Prome.

25, INYA MYAING ROAD,
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RANGOON, BURMA.
July 4, 1955.

TUN YIN

7. WILD BOARS BEING USED AS BLOOD HOUNDS

I wonder whether the readers of this journal have ever known a case of wild boars being used as blood hounds.

There is a place called Badnor in Rajasthan where the Thakur Sahib of this place used to keep a couple of tame wild boars some years ago. These wild boars were so trained that whenever a panther was wounded and required following up, these boars used to be let loose on him. They would at once pick up the blood trail, and on encountering the wounded panther would hold him at bay until the shikaries came and despatched the panther.

On enquiry I was informed that these boars while young were first taught to lick the blood of a goat and later to follow its trail laid for the purpose.