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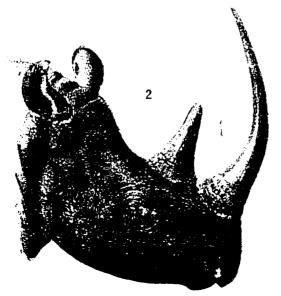
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RHINOCEROS

Rhinocerotidæ

This is the sole family included in this book of the zoological order Perissodactyl, which is now regarded as of equal value to the whole of the cloven-hoofed mammals. In this order, which comprises also the Horses and Tapirs, the number of toes is usually odd, being one or three, the middle one being the third digit, which is larger and in such forms as the Horses and Zebras is the sole remaining one. When extinct forms are taken into account, the difference between this foot formation and that of the cloven-hoofed animals is seen to be fundamental, the leg bones differing in a corresponding manner, whilst the teeth are also very dissimilar. The Rhinos as such all have, in the existing species, three toes on both fore and hind feet, but some extinct forms had four on the front feet. The teeth are very specialised, whilst the horns, in spite of being given that name, in fact consist of a closely compressed mass of agglutinated hairs and have no connection with the skeleton; indeed it is quite possible for a Rhino to wrench his horn off, leaving merely a skin wound.

There is no need to describe the outward appearance of a Rhino, which is well known to everyone, but his prehistoric appearance does not belie his lineage, which is extremely ancient; indeed, the whole tribe of odd-toed ungulates passed its zenith long ago, whereas the even-toed ungulates would appear, except for man's interference, to be still in a state of flourishing development.

Thousands of Rhino of both races are killed because of the belief that the horn in powdered form is an aphrodisiac. Strenuous efforts by the governments concerned have had some effect in curbing this trade.

SQUARE-MOUTHED RHINOCEROS

(Illus. p. 160)

Ceratotherium simum

White Rhinoceros; Burchell's Rhinoceros; Square-lipped Rhinoceros; Giant Rhinoceros; Great African Rhinoceros; le Rhinocéros blanc; das Stumpfnashorn or Breitmaulnashorn.

Vit Rhinaster (Afrikaans); Abu Garn and Um Girin (Arabic); Mirer (Dinka); Enkula (Luganda); Umhofo (Matabili); Chukuru (Sechuana).

This is the largest of all the Rhinoceroses and, after the two species of elephants, the largest living land mammal. The ordinary name of "White Rhinoceros", although apparently now irrevocably attached to this Rhino, is a complete misnomer, just as much as the term "Black Rhinoceros" for the commoner African species, both being in fact of an almost uniform dirty grey hue. Many speculations have been made as to how this name came to be applied, some holding that that animal looked white after emerging from a wallow in light-

^{1.} Square-mouthed Rhinoceros

^{2.} Black Rhinocoros

then being observed while standing in bright sunlight, whilst confusion has occurred with the Afrikaans word "wyt," meaning on to the straight, square extended gape when contrasted with the hooked upper lip of the other African rhino.

cies are alike in possessing two horns, but the differences, both superaore deeply seated, between the two are sufficiently great to warrant
ric separation. One glance, even at a distance if a good view can be
suffices to distinguish the White Rhino, which bears a massive hump at the
bac. If the neck just at the junction with the shoulders. As the animal habitually
carries its enormously long head very low, indeed often rests its chin on the ground
as though the weight were too much for it, this hump is still more obvious than
when it raises its head.

Apart from the square mouth there are a number of other differences between the two. The ears of the White Rhino are large, pointed, almost tubular and thickly haired, whereas those of the Black Rhino are smaller and practically naked. When a White Rhino moves off the tail is looped over the back and not carried erect as is the case with a Black Rhino. The base of the front horn is square in the White Rhino and rounded in the Black. The skin of the White Rhino is smoother and less folded; neither however possess the folds and tubercles of the Indian species which give the latter an "armour-plated" appearance.

The habits of the two species differ also: the White Rhino is entirely a grazer, to which purpose its teeth are specially adapted, and it inhabits open country, whereas the Black Rhino is mainly a browser and is normally found in fairly thick bush. Captain Pitman has pointed out that the droppings of the two differ accordingly; those of the White Rhino being black and resembling those of a horse when out at grass, whilst those of the Black Rhino can be described as a smaller form of elephant droppings. Both species deposit their droppings in middens (less noticeable in the White Rhino which has more wandering habits) and subsequently scatter them with their feet.

This Rhino is extremely placid and inoffensive in disposition, and instances of its apparently unprovoked attacks on human beings are probably due to its incomplete comprehension of the object with which it was dealing. Although its scent and hearing are good, its sight is very poor, and it seems to see indistinctly at distances of more than a few hundred yards. At the same time it is imbued with a spirit of curiosity and it lumbers forward to investigate any unusual happening.

The cows usually carry longer and more slender horns than the bulls; they may curve forwards or backwards and are frequently of extraordinary length. Their main use seems to be that of guiding the calf, preceding the mother, by pressure of the horn on the young one's hindquarters. The front surface is usually worn smooth by being pushed along the ground, the head being carried very low indeed.

The gestation period is eight and a half months and only one calf is born at a time; it is suckled for at least two years.

This animal is strictly protected.

Height at shoulder 5 feet 6 inches; weight probably about 2 tons (the weight of 3 tons suggested seems to be exaggerated).

C. simum simum

(Meas. tables p. 414)

Distribution: formerly open grassy plains between the Orange River and the Zambesi. Now extinct everywhere except in the White Rhino reserve in Zululand with a faint possibility of a few in the adjacent part of Portuguese East Africa.

The White Rhino was formerly one of the commonest beasts of South Africa, although it does not seem to have, at any rate in the present geological period, been found south of the Orange River or north of the Zambesi. It was discovered shortly before 1817 by Burchell in southern Botswana.

The early hunters and travellers frequently recorded having seen large numbers and also killed a great many. By the time Selous was in Africa, in 1877, its numbers were drastically reduced and by 1880 it was a rare animal. In 1892 and 1893 a family and two bulls were killed at a point 100 miles north-west of Salisbury; it was then considered to be extinct. The following year a small number were discovered in a remote part of Zululand. By 1903 some half dozen only remained. At this pathetically late juncture protection was provided for them. Inevitably, their slow breeding has resulted in only a limited increase in numbers; by 1912, still only 15 existed; today the population is believed to be slightly more than 1,000. At least 500 have been caught in Zululand and sent to different parks and reserves.

NORTHERN SQUARE-MOUTHED RHINOCEROS

C. simum cottoni

(Meas. tables p. 414)

Le Rhinocéros blanc du Soudan.

Distribution: west of the Nile, from Lake Albert to the Bahr-el-Ghazal; in Uganda and the Garamba National Park in the former Belgian Congo; has been reported from Western Kenya; formerly as far west as Southern Chad and the Central African Republic, where a very few specimens still exist near the Sudan border.

In 1900, when the prospects of saving the White Rhino seemed remote, great interest was taken in Captain St. J. Gibbons's discovery of another habitat, more than a thousand miles away in the Southern Sudan. It was already believed that this rhino might conceivably exist in that area, in view of two horns procured by Sir Samuel Baker.

The separation of the two races is based on a difference of the skull formation, teeth and skin. In view of the great distance separating the two it is remarkable how little they differ; the horns are indistinguishable.

BLACK RHINOCEROS

Diceros bicornis

(Meas. tables p. 415 — Illus. p. 160)

Common African Rhinoceros; Hook-lipped Rhinoceros; le Rhinocéros nois; das Spitznashorn or das schwarze Nashorn.

Amuku (Acholi); Zwart Rhinaster (Afrikaans); Aurarissi (Amharic); Abugern (Arabic); Mariri or Kilifori (Hausa); Amosing (Karamojong); Enkula (Luganda); Upejana (Matabili and Zulu); Muin (Masai); Munyi and Nyiee (Ndorobo); Safe Wa (Peulh); Borele and Keitloa (Sechuana); Upelepi (Sesuto); Wil (Somali); Kifaru or Faru (Swahili); Mojane (Swazi).

Distribution: formerly from Ethiopia through the eastern half of Africa to the Cape; now practically exterminated south of the Zambesi and much reduced in numbers everywhere; westwards to the Central African Republic, Chad, the Cameroons and Northern Nigeria. It had been almost exterminated in the former French territories of Africa by 1930, at which time strict protection was applied with some satisfactory results.

(Including brucii, capensis, holmwoodi, keitloa, niger, occidentalis and somaliensis.)

This species is the least rare of all the Rhinoceroses now living. When the head is visible it can be distinguished at a glance from the White Rhino by the triangular upper lip, the point of which is prehensile and used to strip off the twigs and leaves of the various shrubs on which it feeds, as it is, in sharp contrast to its square-mouthed cousin, almost exclusively a browser. Some of its favourite foods are the euphorbia and the acacia, and advantage is taken of its partiality for the former by the Wakamba tribe in East Africa who fell a euphorbia and then lie in wait for the Rhino.

It is a great pity that the alternative name "Hook-lipped Rhinoceros" is not the one in general use for this species as it is both distinctive and accurate. The common name "Black Rhino" is just as absurd as that of "White Rhino" for the other African form, both being in fact of an almost uniform shade of grey. Although of impressive size and weight, it does not attain the enormous bulk of the rarer animal, as is indicated by the statistics set out below.

Much variation occurs in the proportions and shape of the horns and it was thought that a forest race, distinguished by the horns heing longer and thinner, existed, but these variations are now held to be individual or family differences. The rear horn is nearly always flattened from side to side and hence of dagger-like formation with cutting edges fore and aft. Occasionally the front horn projects forwards, as was the case with the much-photographed cow "Gertie." One would think that forward-pointing horns would be a great hindrance when browsing. Occasionally three horns or even four are developed. Normally, the cow's horns are slenderer than those of the bull.

Rhinos are usually solitary, a cow being often accompanied by her calf who follows her for a long time, probably as much as two years, and sometimes continues to accompany her after the next calf has been born. Small parties of three or four are also to be found.

Before the opening up of East Africa rhinos habitually inhabited open country, living mainly on the low thorn plants which grow among the grasses and being diurnal by nature; where this habitat has been disturbed by farming operations the rhinos have taken to frequenting thick bush and have acquired nocturnal habits, sleeping by day and feeding and wallowing by night. It is interesting to note that where little disturbance by humans has occurred, as in the game reserves, the rhino has retained his original mode of life and can often be seen standing in the open or browsing on a low bush.

The disposition of the Black Rhino has been much misunderstood. "Vicious and unprovoked attacks" have often been reported, whilst he is also considered harmless. These discrepancies appear to be due to two factors; firstly, because the rhino has very poor sight, a good sense of smell, a very inquisitive nature, and almost invariably moves up wind, his instinct is to investigate an unknown almost invariably moves up wind, his instinct is to investigate an unknown sent and he advances towards it at a good round trot in spite of his bulk, subsequently he can only dimly apprehend what he then sees; secondly, he has a regular path to his drinking or wallowing spots from which he will not deviate for any reason and he will scatter anything in his path. Such movements can easily be described as "unprovoked charges".

The Rhino is a great wallower and in the dry season rolls in the dust; his colour in the wild is liable to vary from whitish, reddish or blackish, according to the covering on his hide derived from the particular soil in which he happens to have bathed. The wallowing parties frequently last the whole night and are accompanied by a chorus of grunts and squeals. Another vocal performance is a champanied by a chorus of grunts and squeals. Another vocal performance is a champanie when eating. In spite of their frequent mud baths they are usually infested with parasites, and the "tick birds" (a species of starling) which are their constant companions form an association of mutual benefit, the birds obtaining a living from their host, and in exchange acting as his eyes and giving him advance warning of an approaching enemy.

Another peculiarity is that practically all rhinos bear a large sore, usually near the neck

Height at shoulder 4 feet 9 inches to 5 feet 6 inches; weight (of a full grown bull) about 1½ to 1½ tons.

SOUTHERN SQUARE-MOUTHED RHINOCEROS

Method of Measurement K.

(Text p. 163)

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NORTHERN SQUARE-MOUTHED RHINOCEROS

Method of Measurement K.

(Text p. 163)

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381	221	_	_	Bahr-el-Ghazal	X	K. V. Painter	
, 38	20		_	do	X	R. G. C. Brock	

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BLACK RHINOCEROS Method of Measurement K.

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(Text p. 164)

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