

AN INTRODUCTION TO SOME MALAYAN MAMMALS AND REPTILES



(MALAY BEAR)

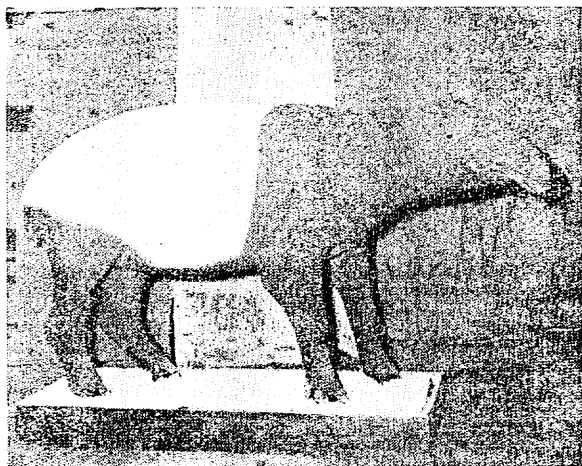
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and
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1959

THE ODD-TOED UNGULATES — ORDER PERISSODACTYLA.

TAPIR.



TAPIR (*Tapirus indicus*)

In this Order only the Tapirs and Rhinoceroses are found in Malaya.

The Malay Tapir with its elongated nostrils and upper lip forming a short trunk and its distinctive black and white colour pattern, is a most peculiar creature. It has four toes on the front feet and three on the rear. The colour of the animal though perhaps appearing somewhat peculiar when seeing it outside the jungle, is in fact ideal camouflage

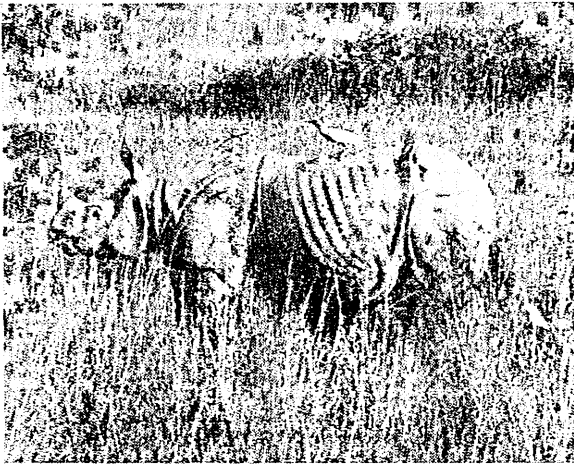
when it is in its natural environment. The young are coloured dark brown and have fawny spots and stripes. This is again a form of camouflage, for the baby Tapir blends perfectly with the fallen leaves. Tapirs are solitary animals and are seldom seen although they are quite common. They are totally protected by law.

RHINOCEROS.

Five species of Rhinoceros still survive in the world today, two in Africa and three in Asia. In Asia are found the Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, the Javan or Lesser One-horned Rhinoceros and the Sumatran Rhinoceros. Only the latter two occur in Malaya. The Sumatran Rhinoceros is rare but nevertheless fairly well established in remote almost inaccessible hilly jungle. This animal



A RHINOCEROS WALLOW



GREAT INDIAN ONE-HORNED RHINOCEROS
(*R. unicornis*)
Indian Rhino with accompanying cattle egrets in
Kazirampa, Aossar.

has two horns and is smaller than its counterpart in Malaya. As it is an excellent swimmer it is believed that the hilly country where it has no necessity to be able to swim is not its natural habitat but rather one forced upon it by circumstances, in this case merciless persecution by poachers for its horn which is extremely valuable. The Javan Rhinoceros has never been recorded anywhere in Malaya in the last hundred years except in the States of Perak and Selangor. Two animals were killed in Province Wellesley some 150 years ago. This species which stands about 5½ feet high has only one horn and dwells in or near swampy jungle. They love to wallow and have a number of wallows which they visit. It was believed that this animal became extinct in Malaya some 30 years ago but there is now evidence to the contrary. Both Rhinoceroses are totally protected by law.

REPTILES — ORDER REPTALIA.

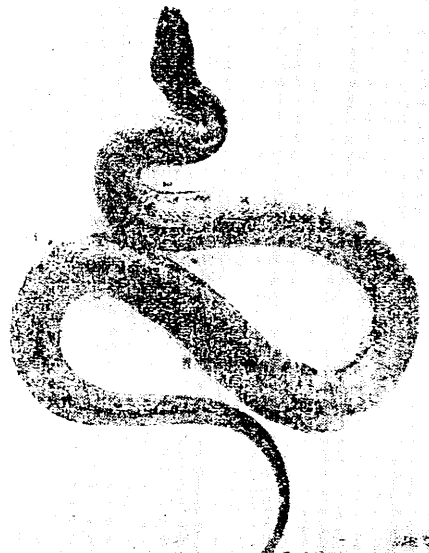
MALAYAN SNAKES.

There are many kinds of snakes in Malaya, and they can be divided into three groups: the Land snakes, the Sea snakes, and the Fresh and Tidal Water snakes.

The Land Snakes.

These are the most numerous of the three groups. They are divided into the 'Poisonous snakes' and the 'Harmless snakes.'

The Poisonous snakes include the Cobras, the Kraits, the Pit-vipers and the Coral snakes.



PUFF-FACED WATER SNAKE (*Homalopsis buccata*)