

the twigs and foliage of herbs and shrubs and grinding them with their heavily cross-ridged cheek teeth. A characteristic of the Tapir skull, compared with that of the Horse, is seen in the nasal bones, so short as to appear like small triangles.

The living Tapirs are found in only two parts of the world—southeastern Asia, where *Tapirus indicus* becomes continually more scarce, and Central and South America. In most American species the skin appears comparatively hairless. But one species, *Tapirus pinchaque*, of the high Andes, has the coat as densely hairy as that of a cow. The word Tapir is derived from one of the Indian dialects of Brazil.

The Malay Tapir, *Tapirus indicus*, is the only species showing a color pattern; the American species are uniformly slate-colored. The Malay Tapir, on the contrary, is colored dirty white over the whole of the back behind the shoulders and on the sides, while the head, shoulders, forelimbs, and hind limbs from the thighs to the toes are blackish, as are the chest and belly. The height at the shoulder is about 3½ feet; the weight may

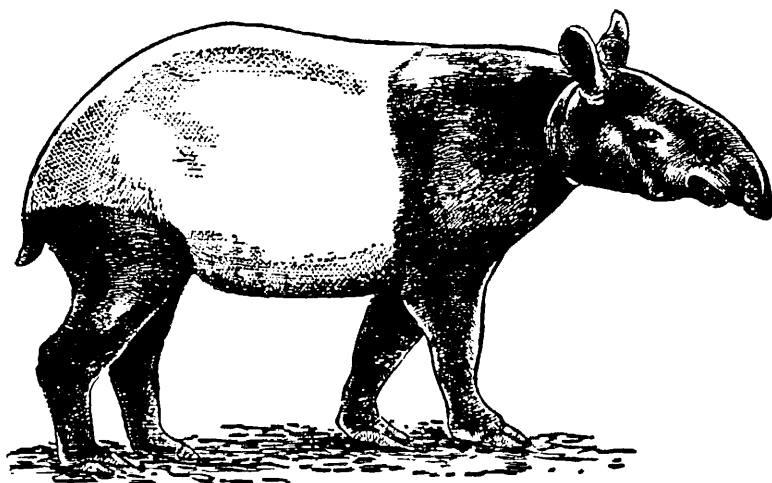


FIG. 77. Malay Tapir, *Tapirus indicus*.

reach 520 pounds, which was the weight of a ten-year-old male that died in the Bronx Zoo. The young at birth have a spotted and striped pattern of yellow-brown mixed with blackish brown, but they change to a mature coloring in the first year. One or two are born at a time. Tapirs are rather solitary animals living in swampy, often very wet forest. The range includes the Malay Peninsula as far north as Tenasserim.

THE RHINOCEROSSES (FAMILY RHINOCEROTIDÆ)

These huge, ungainly creatures with their armor-plated hides, their massive legs, their odd-looking heads, their ears placed far back and their eyes far forward, and the bosses or horns on their noses, are sufficiently well known to need little further description.

The skin plates, very thick and relatively inflexible, work against one another along suture-like contact lines where there is much thinner, pliable connecting skin. The horns on the nose are not made of bone. They are special structures derived from the fusing or cementing together of hairs. Three broad, hoof-like toes, of which the middle one is the largest, are present on both front and hind feet. There are two nipples under the belly. Only one calf is born. The senses of smell and hearing are very acute in Rhinoceroses; sight is reputed to be weak. When attacking an enemy, Rhinos are said to bite severely with their incisor teeth, as well as to strike with the horn.

Fables have it that the Rhinoceros is the deadly enemy of the Elephant. In *The Arabian Nights*, the Rhinoceros, after stabbing its horn into the underparts of the elephant, carried that animal about on its head until blinded by the juices running down from the elephant's body.

There are still several living species of Rhinoceroses. The African two-horned Rhinos are placed in the genus *Diceros*. The three species of Asia, the Great One-horned Rhinoceros,

the Two-horned or Sumatran Rhinoceros, and the One-horned Rhinoceros are contained in *Rhinoceros*.

Relatively enormous prices have been paid by Chinese for all parts of Rhinoceroses, but especially for the horn and the dried blood for use as charms and medicines. This demand has led to such destructive and continuous hunting of these animals that they are verging upon extinction.

The Asiatic or Sumatran Two-horned Rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros sumatrensis*, is at once recognized by the two horns.

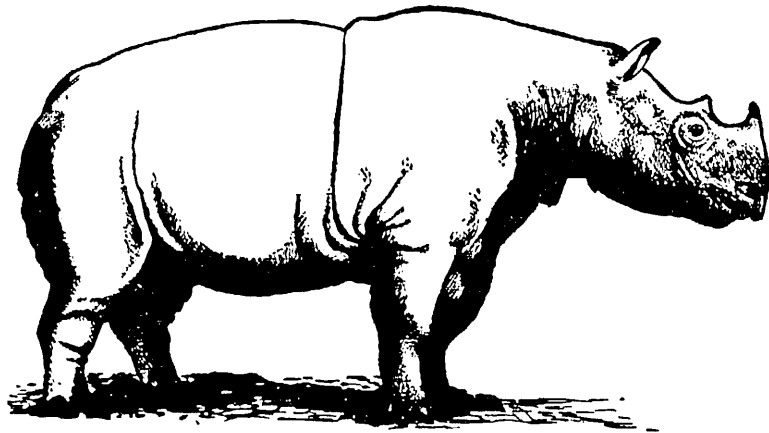


FIG. 78. Sumatran Rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros sumatrensis*.

The smallest and most hairy of the living Rhinos, it has the skin granular, somewhat thinner, and the skin folds less distinct than either *unicornis* or *sondaicus*. The front horn in the female is about 5 inches high, and broad at the base; the rear horn is little more than a large boss or tubercle, 2 inches high, placed between the eyes. Males, however, may have very long horns. The front one normally is 15 to 20 inches, and very rarely reaches 2½ feet along the curve; the hind one is about 7 inches. The black hair fringing the ears, though usually short, may reach a length of 5 inches. The height at the shoulder scarcely ever

exceeds 4½ feet and is often less; the weight is about 1 ton. The maximum width of the forefoot in big specimens is about 9 inches; the central toe-nail occupies 3½ inches of this.

This Rhinoceros is reputed to be much stronger and more agile than *sondaicus*. The period of gestation is reputed to last only about 7 months, a statement which requires checking, considering that that of *unicornis* is known to be nearly three times as long.

The species is found through the Malay Peninsula, to Siam and Assam up to 6000 feet. It is present on Sumatra and Borneo but not on Java. The form found in southwest Burma has been distinguished by the name *lasiotis* (broad-eared). It likes moist shaded hilly country, the steeper the better, and is generally solitary, or a bull and cow may be together. It frequently makes wallows in the stream beds. When enjoying its wallows, it makes a low humming or buzzing sound. The food consists of twigs and branches and a species of bamboo. In the dry season it may eat figs and mangos or other fruits also; thus, it is a good distributor of mango seeds. Formerly it was found in the lowlands as well as among the hills, but is now almost as scarce as *R. sondaicus*.

The Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros unicornis*, rapidly becoming extinct, enters our area only at the eastern end of its range near the southern foot of the Himalayas and eastward into Assam. Formerly it occurred over much of peninsular India. The skin of the sides is covered with rivet-like flattish tubercles, particularly on the fore and hind quarters. The heavy skin fold in front of the shoulder does not extend over the neck to meet the one on the other side, as in *R. sondaicus*. The horn is sharply conical and often about 6 inches high. Unusually large horns measuring 24 inches around the curve have been recorded.

This Rhinoceros is a denizen of the vast areas of grass, growing from 8 to 20 feet high, that cover much of the uncultivated parts of the alluvial plains of northern India, including

the Brahmaputra Valley. It is mainly nocturnal and prefers damp or swampy ground where it makes mud wallows. The animal lives solitary or in very small groups. The height at the shoulder is about 5½ feet, the weight 2 tons. The animal is reputed to attain an age of 50 years. The gestation period is about 19 months. The new-born calf weighs from 75 to 120 pounds and stands about 2 feet at the shoulders.

The Javan or Lesser One-horned Rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros sondaicus*, has the head smaller and the horn shorter than in

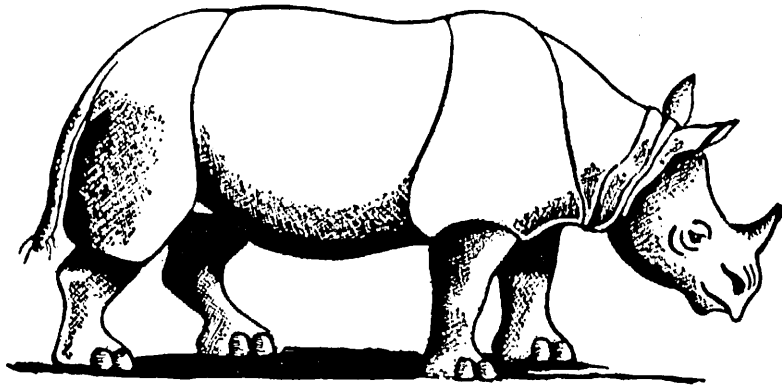


FIG. 79. Javan Rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros sondaicus*.

R. unicornis. Although almost as tall, it is more lightly built. Its skin armor is lighter, and the rivet-like tubercles of *unicornis* are represented by many-sided scale-like disks. The folds of skin between the neck and shoulders on either side unite over the back. The horn is usually absent in females. In males it may reach a length along the curve of more than 10 inches.

The original range of this Rhino includes Assam, Burma, and Indo-China, south through the Malay Peninsula to Sumatra and Java. By 1939, it had been reduced to scattered remnants in northern Indo-China, Siam, Tenasserim, the Malay Peninsula, south Sumatra, and west Java. The remains of a specimen found in the Thaton district of Burma was reported in 1943.

GLOSSARY

amphibious	Able to live on land and in the water.
anomalous	Irregular, unbecomable.
anteorbital	Before the orbit (eye).
anthropoid	The group of monkeys most resembling man; man-like.
arboreal	Tree-living, tree-climbing.
archaic	Of an earlier or primitive age; antiquated.
asymmetric, -al	With parts not arranged correspondingly.
bandicoot	A long-snouted marsupial of the family Peramelidæ.
canine teeth	Eye teeth or dog teeth, usually longer than other teeth and sharp-pointed.
carnassial teeth	The shearing cheek teeth of carnivores.
conch	External ear.
coniferous	Pertaining to cone-bearing trees.
cusps	Points on the crowns of teeth.
dasyures	Carnivorous marsupials.
dentine	The hard, bone-like tissue of teeth.
deciduous	Relating to seasonal loss of leaves (botany); teeth that are replaced by others (zoology).
diastema	A gap between teeth.
dimorphism	Occurrence of two distinct forms of structure, size, coloring, etc., in a single species.
distal	Farthest away from the body. The hand is attached to the distal part of the forearm.
distichous	In two rows, as the webs of a feather.
diurnal	Active during daylight hours.
embryonic	Relating to an embryo or unborn young.
enamel	A hard substance which forms a thin layer capping or partly covering the teeth of most mammals.
endemic	Having their habitat in a specific district (biology).
environment	The sum total of the surroundings affecting the life of an organism.