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pp. i-xi, 1-340

Published by the
Singapore Branch
Malayan Nature Society
Printed by Singapore National Printers Pte Ltd
1974

South America, where there are four species. The name "Tapir" itself is South American. The Malayan species differs obviously from the South American species in its colouring which, seen in a zoo paddok, is most startling. The bold patches of black and white, however, serve to disrupt the outline, and although tapirs are by no means rare, they are very little seen. The young has a camouflage of a different pattern; the black body is marked with pale tawny streaks and flecks, rather like a young wild pig. Tapirs are solitary, browsing on a variety of leaves, and seem to lay up for the day and move only at night. All one usually sees are tracks, which are reasonably common on the ridges of the forested hills (fig. 59e) note that the hindfoot tracks are like that of a small rhinoceros, but the tracks of the front foot show the extra toe. It has never been recorded from Singapore.

Rhinoceros sondaicus Desmarest
Java, or 1-horned rhinoceros.
Badak raya. 爪哇犀
Shoulder height 1.5 m;-1.7 m; H&B 3.5 m.

This animal is on the point of extinction, and in fact it was declared extinct in Malaya a quarter of a century ago, until a few more were suddenly discovered. It seems to have been confined to the West Coast, and prefers swampy areas.

The number of horns is an unreliable way of identifying rhinoceroses, and its number of folds of skin across the back (as mentioned in the key) should be noted—if you are ever lucky enough to see one. The upper lip is long and prehensile, and is the organ used for plucking leaves. It is a larger species than the Sumatran Rhino, and its footprints may exceed 225 mm; in diameter.

The most famous specimen of this species is the "Pinjih Rhino" which terrorized the Pinjih valley in Perak before the British occupation in 1874. It was

eventually shot by Maxwell, as described in his book "In Malayan Forest".

Didermoceros sumatrensis (Fischer) (Fig. 51)
2-horned (Sumatran) Rhinoceros.
Badak berendam. 雙角犀
Shoulder height 1.1-1.4 m; H&B 2-2 m; T 450-500 mm; Sk 500 mm; Wt 1 ton.

Like all rhinoceroses, with a thick skin, thinly clad with hair, but the hair in this species is more abundant than usual, being noticeable on the ears, legs, and as a thick fringe on the tip of the tail; skin brown to almost black, thrown into deep folds, the one behind the shoulders being carried across the back (the one-horned species having three folds across the back). The nose bears the horns, some distance apart, and not always well developed; the feet bear three toes, each ending in a hoof-like nail. This species will ascend mountains, moving up slopes which are steep to man; and I have seen tracks at 10,000 feet in Borneo. It feeds on the leaves of young trees, and the upper lip is prehensile. Metcalf (1961) gives a list of foodplants in a useful account of this Malayan rhinoceros. He estimates that there may be 50 of the animals left.

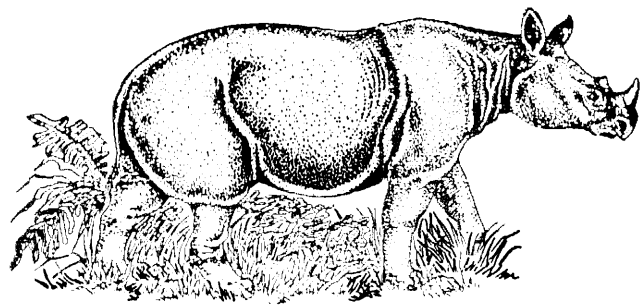

Fig. 51. Two-horned *(Sumatran)* Rhinoceros

A key to rhinoceroses of the world is given by Pocock (1945).

Both of the Malayan rhinoceroses, then, are facing extinction. Why they, more than any other animal?

The rhinoceroses, of which there are three in Asia (*R. unicornis* of India, *R. sondaicus* from Burma to Java, and *D. sumatrensis*, from Assam to Borneo) are large, long ranging, solitary animals, which by their very habits could never form a large population. The two species of *Rhinoceros* primarily inhabit grassy plains, which are quickly occupied by cultivated areas; and the rhinos, which are liable to quarrel with men, are killed off. *Didermocerus* which lives in forested mountains has a better chance of survival, but it also faces the other hazard, which is bringing about their extinction: hunting, and hunting not for "sport" but for medicine. The parts of a rhinoceros, particularly the horn, have an inflated value as traditional Chinese medicine, so that a successful hunter can afford to pay a fine of a few hundred dollars, or even a short term of imprisonment. To provide an effective deterrant it would be necessary to treat rhinoceros-killing as murder and hang the killer.

All parts of the animal are considered of value, even the dung, but the most valuable part is the horn. Fantastic stories are told of this horn, thus one account says that it is hollow and that the animal can breathe air or squirt water through it; another says that it sheds its horn each year and buries it in the ground. If this horn is carefully replaced by wooden imitations three times, the animal will continue to plant its horns there year after year. Another method of collecting was to rig up a fence of rotting wood; the animal likes to lean against fences, the fence breaks, the animal falls down, cannot get up quickly and is easily killed! Horn was used for belt-buckles and making cups, the skin of the female for making armour.

Such accounts, which appear in the chinese herbals, are clearly muddled hearsay, but the material of the horn itself was, and is, obviously used. An account of their use is given in a translation of Chinese *Materia Medica* by Read (1931). The best horn is from the freshly killed male animal; the steamed material used for cups is considered useless, and horns which have been shed (?) are considered inferior. There are two kinds, black and white, the black is superior, the tip has most virtue, and horns from female, sick, twin, or dry-skinned animals are not used.

It seems to have a wide range of uses. Gossip says that it is a powerful aphrodisiac, but the uses listed are as an antidote to poisons; to cure possession by devils; to keep away evil spirits and miasmas; to remove hallucinations, bewitching nightmares, infantile convulsions, and dysentery; to expel fear and anxiety, calm the liver and clear the vision. Continuously administered it lightens the body and makes one very robust. It is used to treat typhoid, headaches, feverish colds, carbuncles, intermittent fevers with delerium; it is an antipyretic and dissolves phlegm. The ash with water is used to treat vomiting and food poisoning, arthritis, melancholia, and loss of voice; while ground to a paste with water it is given for haematemesis, epistaxis, rectal bleeding, and heavy smallpox.

All this for a few hundred dollars an ounce! No wonder the market is flooded with imitation rhino horn. Accounts of such imitations are given by Alfred (1961) and Tom Harrisson (1962), and the latter points out that what is very often imitated is not the horn for medicinal purposes, but the rhino horn cup. The value of such a cup lies in the reaction of the horn to poisons, for European tradition has it that such a cup will fly to pieces if poison were poured into it, Chinese that the poison will effervesce.