



Mature Seladang bull and cow with attendant jungle cock

Photo, Hibback

# BIG GAME OF MALAYA

*Their Types, Distribution and Habits*

BY

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There may be many disappointments as I am sure the hunting of this animal will require a high standard of jungle craft from the hunter. However, most sportsmen, I think, would not wish to acquire more than a specimen or two of this unique animal, although increased interest in this animal may result owing to the restrictions on the classification of Big Game as proposed by the new Game Laws. For the young aspirant to the grand sport of big game shooting the hunting of the tapir should prove an excellent test of his capabilities in that direction.

## CHAPTER XVI

## THE SUMATRAN RHINOCEROS

(*Rhinoceros Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*)

MALAY: Badak sumbu, Badak kerbau, Badak himpit—CHINESE  
HOKKIEN: Sai GOO—CANTONESE: Sai Ngow—KHEH: Sai Ngew.

THERE are now five species of rhinoceros living—two in Africa and three in Asia—and of these the largest is the African species and the smallest is the Asian one under review. One of the two African animals is the White or Burchell's Rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros (Diceros) simus*, and it is the third largest living terrestrial mammal of today, being exceeded in this respect by the African and Asian elephants. The adjective 'white' as applied to it is actually a misnomer as it is no whiter than its only African relative, the Black Rhinoceros. Its main features are an average height of 5 ft. 6 in., a non-prehensile upper lip signifying a grazing habit, a two-horned head—a specimen of an anterior horn measuring 62½ in. in length has been obtained from a cow of the species—and the enormous length and bulk of its body. There are records which state that a bull will sometimes stand up to 6 ft. 8 or 9 in. at the shoulder, a truly colossal size. Its counterpart, the Black Rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros (Diceros) bicornis*—which is more numerous and widely distributed in Africa, is also two-horned—the record of the front horn being 53½ in. long—but has a prehensile upper lip denoting the bough-eating habit. The average height of this animal is about the same as the White Rhinoceros, but it lacks the great length and bulk of body of the latter.

The largest of the three Asian rhinoceroses is the Great Indian Rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros unicornis*, and as its appellation

implies, it is one-horned. It is a giant of an animal and is the second largest Asian mammal living. The height at the shoulder is from 5 ft. 8 in. to 6 ft. 6 in. with a girth behind the shoulder reaching to about 11 ft. and has a weight of about 4,000 lb.—formidable figures indeed. The record horn length is 24 in. with a basal circumference of 24½ in.

The lesser Asiatic one-horned rhinoceros, or Javan Rhinoceros as it is more commonly called, *Rhinoceros sondaicus*, is at present found in Lower Burma, Siam, Indo-China, Malaya and Java. It has died out in India in the lower Bhramaputra valley where it was to be found up to about 1890, and it is less bulky in weight and appearance than *Rhinoceros unicornis* though for height it is not far inferior, a female having been recorded to be 5 ft. 6 in. at the shoulder. It is, however, more lightly built and a striking feature is its skin which is distinguished by a mosaic-like pattern similar to that of a crocodile. The horn length is not remarkable, the record being 10¾ in. long and 20 in. in circumference at the base. The similar characteristics of these two rhinoceroses are that they are large and bulky, both have a prehensile upper lip, frequent a flat or swampy habitat, are one-horned, and the folds of their skins are more conspicuous and more or less similarly placed. The last *Rhinoceros sondaicus* known to be living in Malaya was shot in Perak by Mr A. S. Vernay in January 1932 for the British Museum of Natural History, assisted by the late Mr R. R. Hartley (an Hon. Game Warden), and there are doubts if others exist today in this country although stories are still current of a few remaining in the Bernam swamps. Those animals are as likely to be the Sumatran species. The late Mr H. N. Ridley of botanical fame saw a large rhinoceros in the Tahan area of Pahang as long ago as June 1891, which he took for a specimen of *Rhinoceros sondaicus*, as it was a much bigger animal than the several *Rhinoceros sumatrensis* he had encountered during his many wanderings in Malaya. Not only is the terrain in that locality an unsuitable one for this species but indeed Mr Hubback, who had a very great knowledge of the Tahan

area, never came across this animal or its tracks there, neither does he think that it occurs east of the main range of the peninsula. If it is to be found in Pahang at all, the south-eastern part of that State would be about the most likely area in which to find it, as there, vast jungles on suitable terrain predominate. For a record of the history and geographical distribution of *Rhinoceros sondaicus*, the reader is directed to C. W. Loch's accurate and detailed account in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* (Malayan Branch), Vol. XV (1937), Part II.

The *Rhinoceros sumatrensis* is the only Asian type with two horns, averages about 4-4½ ft. in height at the shoulder and 10 ft. in length including the tail which is about a foot-and-a-half in length and curiously flattened at the tip. The body is stockily built and supported by short sturdy legs, with three toes on each foot. The back of the body is slightly concave and there is no hump. The neck is short and thick and the skull is about 20 in. long. The great bulk of so short an animal can be imagined when the weight is estimated to be in the region of 2,000 lb. It is more hairy than all the other species and this growth is most conspicuous on its legs, ears and tip of the tail where a thick fringe of it is found. The face and head are less hairy. There are three folds of the skin on the body but they are not so marked as those of the one-horned type. One fold, placed behind the shoulder, is continued across the back, another is placed just before the hind quarters and the last is on the neck. The ears are short, rounded and tubular at the base, and the eyes are small. The upper lip is prehensile-shaped, though not markedly so as in *Rhinoceros sondaicus*. The skin is rough and granular. Peacock, describing a Burmese specimen, says the colour of the body is light buff with the face, tail, outsides of legs and portions of the flanks black, and the undersides of the body, legs and lips a light flesh colour.

The record anterior horn so far obtained in Malaya is one of 15 in. in length, with the posterior one 7½ in., and the basal circumferences being 17½ and 17 in. respectively. It

was shot by C. B. Smales—late of the Survey Department, I think. In older animals these horns may be found to be broken or worn down to mere stumps. *Rowland Ward's Records* mentions two fine horn specimens measuring 32 and 27 in. in length respectively, now in the British Museum, but give no other details, and there is a doubt whether they are of the same species. As far as it is known, specimens with these exceptional horn lengths or anything like them have never been obtained from living animals in the last seventy-five years. One of 6 to 15 in. may be considered a good trophy. Sometimes the anterior horn may be found to be the shorter of the two, but this is not a normal deformity and is almost certain to be the result of an accident. Lydekker states that the horns consist of a solid mass of closely packed vertical fibres with a slight hollow at the base, and rest upon corresponding prominences on the bones of the skull from which they can readily be detached with a knife. Others have stated that the horn consists of a conglomeration of closely-packed hairs but, I think, it will be agreed that Lydekker's description is the more accurate. Malays classify the horns of rhinoceroses into four types—the *sumbu lilin*, the wax-coloured horn; *sumbu api*, the flame-coloured horn; *sumbu nila*, the blue horn; and *sumbu hitam*, the black horn. But this is more picturesque imagination than anything else for all horns are alike and it may be the degree of their glistening on the live animal that has given rise to this classification.

Various sounds are attributed to this animal. From the various descriptions they apparently range from shrill whistles and peculiar humming sounds which it emits when at peace and enjoying a wallow, to whistling screams and harsh grunts like the braying of a donkey when wounded. There are no alarm or mate calls as far as is known and when on their daily rounds the animals are mute.

Years ago the Sumatran rhinoceros was numerous in Assam (India) but now hardly exists there though, perhaps, a few may yet be found on the Indo-Burma border. In

certain suitable hilly tracts of Burma right down to Tenasserim they are found, and their presence is known in Siam, Indo-China, Sumatra and Borneo. Here in Malaya, except for a few areas, they are found in hilly country such as the main range and its higher foot-hills and as far south as the State of Johore. On the west of this range they may be found in eastern Kedah, Upper Perak, the Bubu-Bintang Hijau range and the Bernam valley west of the railway. On the east, likely areas are the south-western and southern portions of Kelantan and Trengganu, in the hilly tracts of Kuala Lipis district, Pahang, the north-western portion of Kuantan district, the Benom range, the upper Jengka valley and around Gunong Lesong of south-eastern Pahang. Johore has a number of these animals and these are most likely to be found towards the Pahang border or other hill ranges. As lately as 1 December 1938 a cow rhino with her nearly full-grown calf strayed into the vegetable plantations of Maxwell Hill Cottage near Taiping, Perak, on two successive nights. These were from the Bubu-Bintang Hijau range. Some years ago a fine specimen was shot in the Kenas area in the region of Gunong Bubu with the anterior horn measuring 12 in. in length.

According to Hubback they have been driven into mountainous country because of incessant persecution owing to their supposed high medicinal value. It would appear that the few remaining animals that are to be found in the Bernam swamps and other flat to semi-flat areas, such as the upper Jengka valley, are living in their true habitat. The fact that they are very good swimmers is further proof of this belief since in their enforced habitat of the mountains this ability to swim is an unnecessary quality, whereas in the lowlands it is certainly advantageous. They are, however, equally at home in mountainous country and can cope with the steep hillsides with ease as many rhino hunters can ruefully remember.

It is believed that this rhinoceros abounded in Malaya in the past but that their numbers have sadly decreased to a

point as to be in close danger of extermination. This is the result of it being hunted extensively up to recent years on account of the great price it fetches mainly from the Chinese. I do not believe that this illicit work has stopped, only that it is more rarely indulged in and detected in these days. Practically every part of the animal from the tail to the horn is efficacious medicinally, as believed by the Chinese. Many authorities state that its chief value is believed to be an aphrodisiac reaction through taking it in some form or other internally, but as far as the results of my inquiries go, apparently the reverse is the case. My Chinese informers told me that rhino tit-bits are eagerly sought for because, by a concoction made from them, immediate relief is given to patients suffering from high fevers. Thus the horn ground a bit against rough glass and the residuum, mixed with water and swallowed, cools a fever-racked body immediately. The dried dung boiled and its brew drunk gives the same result though not with so marked success. Similarly the dried skin ground and the powder mixed with water gives the same effect. Fresh urine taken by a bad dropsy patient has an immediate effect, so it is believed, and soon the bloated swellings will be reduced. The dried blood has been said to be useful in many illnesses but this I have not been able to substantiate.

It is, therefore, because of these supposed miraculous qualities or reactions that these remedies have such a reputation and value, and the poor rhino is nearing extermination as a consequence. Ancient customs and beliefs are so strong that much risk, trouble and expense are gladly undergone in order to obtain these bogus remedies. This only goes to emphasize the terrific struggle that our vastly efficient and efficacious modern medicines have yet to contend with in the East before these ancient beliefs are finally abandoned by their credulous supporters. The strange thing is that the horn and other parts of only the Asiatic species are of value to these people, but not those of the African species, at least not in Malaya. I know of a prosperous Chinese who bought

an African pair of horns—far larger than the Asiatic type—but has since kept them as ornaments in his house because the local quacks disqualified them on the grounds, I think, that they were not genuine because of their extraordinary size.

Nevertheless, whether for aphrodisiacal purposes or not, this rhinoceros is still in danger of its continued existence from poachers who are chiefly Malays. Their evil work is accomplished without fear of detection for all the medicinal parts of the animal are either small or could be brought out from the jungle in dried form or in small consignments. All that an eager prospective customer has to do is to advance sums of money to these poachers who quietly disappear into the blue and after some time, if they are honest and have been successful, turn up with the required parts in their pockets! The present laws, and more so the proposed new ones, will make this business a very poor paying proposition. We can hope eventually to see this rare animal survive in peace without fear of continued molestation. Driven to such a life of isolation by this constant persecution one would fancy it would take years and years before this interesting animal could be induced to take more to the open and thus be one of the chief attractions in a well-managed Park.

Its present abode is in the remoter areas where the densest jungles and roughest terrain prevail. The taint of its only enemy, man, or a lightly inflicted wound sends it headlong in flight for days at a time over hill and valley. As an instance of the great fugitive tendencies of these animals under such circumstances, a Frenchman named Bordeneuve quotes a case of a *Rhinoceros sondaicus* killed in north-eastern Laos at Trannih in the Tongkin province of French Indo-China. This animal carried a ball almost certainly fired into it in Bengal! In its newly acquired habitat described above, the Sumatran rhinoceros wanders about on its daily rounds alone and seldom is a pair seen together. In these wanderings they travel far and wide choosing any route that

pleases their fancy. Game trails and easy contours are usually spurned. In such territories, food in the shape of leaves and branchlets of certain herbs and saplings—Peacock records them breaking down and twisting saplings of 1-3 in. in diameter with their horns—shoots of plants and certain fruit are searched for and eaten. More often are saplings barged down by the animal merely walking on to them so that the leaves can be eaten. The leaves of the tree, Sial Menaung, *Pternandra spp.* Fam. *Melastomaceae*, are eaten and so are those of the herb Gegili or Gegiling (*Crotalaria spp.*?). The latter seems to be a delicious morsel as I have seen a patch of this herb entirely stripped of its leaves by a solitary rhino.

Salt-licks are visited occasionally but if disturbed there the animal is sure to discontinue further visits and to resort to others even more remote. It is usually in such places that it is killed or trapped by poachers, and so it is that many of the previously frequented licks are now no more used and that, even at the more isolated of these spas, the animal seems to be in a hurry to be over and done with the necessity of taking the occasional aperient it requires. I have seen several of these rhino-abandoned salt-licks both in remote jungles and closer by, where I have found old platforms—the work of poachers—or traces of them in neighbouring trees overlooking a much used part of the lick. The caves of limestone outcrops in deep jungle are visited to lick the lime deposits therein and if rhinos are living around such a locality evidence of well-worn trails leading to them are bound to be seen. Writing of such an area where, however, the last few or only one of the many rhinos of the past remain, Mr Hubback records:

There were endless old rhino *denai*, the main trails of game, which must have been used for generations by countless beasts. In some places the paths were worn deep into the limestone and I especially recollect one spot where a path passed between two limestone rocks with a small boulder more or less blocking the fairway. The rhinos

in using this path had to rub their bellies on the boulder which had been polished as smooth as any sea-pebble. Imagine the number of rhinoceroses which must have used that path? But all that has passed away and although the solitary old beast now left in that part of the country no doubt does his best, the polish on that little boulder was sadly dull.

Wallows are even more frequented than salt-licks and this animal really revels in them. They are to be found in rhino country in remote and undisturbed localities towards the sources of streams and low saddles on ridges. Together with salt-licks these wallows are their undoing for the poacher makes his pit-trap on the approaches to them where he lies in wait for them with his gun.

Hubback has recorded that the Sumatran rhinoceros matures slowly and has a life probably as long as that of an elephant. The number of years, therefore, depend on his belief of the average age of the latter which, if it agrees with Major Fowler's estimation, cannot be very great. There is nothing definite to go by to make a correct estimation of this animal's age and so this knowledge of it will have to remain a bit obscure. Major Fowler has, however, contributed the following information on this subject. He says that most rhinoceroses live for less than ten years in captivity, but twenty-seven selected individuals show an average life of almost twenty-two years, and individuals have been known that have lived for over forty years. Fifteen records of the Great Indian Rhinoceros, show an average life of about twenty-nine years. An individual of the smaller Javan rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros sondaicus*, lived in the London Zoo for nearly eleven years and another in the Calcutta Zoo for over fourteen years. Four records for the two-horned rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros sumatrensis*, show a life between ten and thirty-five years.

Hubback also believed that they are probably very slow breeders and Peacock states that he has never seen or heard of more than one calf at heel. It is certain calves remain with their mothers to an advanced age. He also mentions

that the period of gestation is said to be eight months. If this is true, is not this short uterine life an indication of its propensities for breeding, or, for apparently so long-lived an animal, a proof against this belief of age?

When undisturbed the animal is addicted to the practice of depositing its ordure at one spot—for any particular locality it happens to reside in at the time, I suppose—and several hunters have observed and recorded this habit. Peacock measured one of these deposits and found it to be 2 ft. high and 4 ft. across! Regular actions such as this, point to methodical habits and movements when in the security of remote jungles where it has been observed they feed in the early mornings, evenings and part of the nights and lie up during the day spending most of this rest in wallows where they may stay hours at a time.

The only possible way to get on the tracks of this scarce and elusive animal is to tour around jungle said to hold some of them and to cast round game trails and salt-licks until successful. There is not a hope of eliciting any information about rhino from Malays living near the area it is intended to hunt in, for so elastic is their conscience that they will go so far as to deny all knowledge of such a beast. Once, therefore, tracks have been located, tracking must be resorted to and the hunter had better be prepared to stay from his main camp for at least a night or two. The three-toed tracks are unmistakable but, as already stated, this animal light-heartedly disregards contours or light forest and one must be very fit even to keep up with it. Tracks of an adult measure about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. across and those of the Javan rhinoceros are larger and average 9 in. Rhino tracks may at times be mistaken for those of a young elephant on hard ground, but the absence of the larger tracks of adult elephants in the vicinity should be sufficient proof that those in view are of a rhino. I once came across what I am convinced were rhino tracks in the Jengka valley of Pahang some years ago when I was hurrying through the end of a tour as food had run out. It was because of this

that I was prevented from making a more detailed investigation of them. The tracks were seen on a root-carpeted area and at first appeared to be those of a calf elephant but as I saw no other tracks of this beast I later concluded that they were those of a large rhino. Rhinos have been known to exist in that territory and it was an area frequently disturbed by poachers in the past.

My hunting experiences of this rare beast is limited to one of ten days' duration in an area where rhinos were known to exist but in which the activities of poachers were concentrated. My exhaustive hunt included a traverse throughout the length and breadth of this large area during which all the salt-licks there were visited and examined. Not a single track, old or new, was seen and the hunt proved that the last representative of this interesting animal in the area had been killed off by some poacher or other. Actually I was persuaded to hunt in that area by the then Chief Game Warden who, I suppose, wanted to know whether any more rhino existed there. I supplied him with the information he needed at no cost to him but at the cost of my not obtaining a trophy, and as it proved, it was then my last chance of getting one.

The sex of rhino cannot be identified by the tracks or even by a view of the beast in the forest, as both sexes are similar to look at and both carry horns. However, it has been said by Mr Hubback that the behaviour of a male is different to that of a female when feeding undisturbed in the jungle and one can generally pick up certain signs which decide the question. He later told me that it was by the way the beast urinated that the sex could be distinguished. Owing, apparently, to some odd arrangement the leaves high up on bushes on either side of a rhino trail are bespattered with the urine of a male, but the female's urine is found in the form of a thin trail or pool on the tracks!

The length of horn the rhino carries may be estimated from marks left by it in or near a wallow or on the side of a

hill where the animal has probed it into the soil for some reason or other. A further indication is the size of the saplings it has twisted down for feeding. The old belief that the horn is used for grubbing up roots, is, therefore, unreliable and more so because the rhino is essentially a browser. The senses of smell and hearing are highly developed, but their sight is poor and the actual shooting of the animal is a simple matter. Any one of the rifles suitable for seladang will do and soft-nosed bullets are the best to use unless a tail shot is contemplated. Hubback once told me that this timid beast is as likely to drop to a bad shot or even a miss as to a good one placed correctly on the shoulder! However much this may be true, the shoulder shot should be preferred, and it will not be long afterwards that the animal will be found either dead or in a bad way when it can be easily disposed of.

There is no law defining shootable heads and a mature male or female may be shot if one is lucky enough to obtain a licence to do so, but on securing a trophy I doubt whether another licence will be given to the same hunter.

Apart from one or two gentlemen who obtained a specimen or two by taking advantage of a chance meeting with this animal and were suitably dealt with by law later, Mr Hubback is the only big game hunter who has great experience in the hunting of this beast in Malaya. During his sojourn of over forty years in this country he has secured several fine specimens. He did not, however, leave any written records of his hunts which I might have been permitted to incorporate in this chapter for the benefit of all. He has, instead, left us unique photographs of this shy and rarely seen beast—the only photographs ever taken of it in a wild state—which he obtained through indefatigable patience and persistent efforts in a certain remote salt-lick in northern Pahang, and these I have been generously allowed to use in this book.

In the past this animal was rarely seen even when hunted, but these photographs prove that in properly protected

areas it will visit remote salt-licks during the day, though at rare intervals.

It is not known what number of rhinoceroses have been given sanctuary in the King George V National Park, but a few must have so benefited for it is certain that all portions of the three States that make up this Park did hold these animals and have suitable country for them. On this subject, Capt. A. T. A. Ritchie's 1937 Annual Report on the work of the Game Department gives the following information:

Reports of the poaching of rhinoceros in the Park area were not substantiated; and an account received of a visit made by a plant collector to Gunong Padang was reassuring both as to the number of animals there and their present freedom from molestation; this information was very welcome since the area in question is not yet patrolled.

It is doubtful whether the Krau Game Reserve includes any; but it is known that the territory it now covers was once a sure find for these animals. No systematic search has been undertaken in these areas and neither was anything done in this direction in others, so that their existence therein remains uncertain. Unless the Game Department is adequately staffed with honest subordinates the continued existence of these interesting beasts will remain in a precarious state outside the Park and the Game Reserve alluded to. However, in spite of the strict rules in force, or the prevailing attitude of the authorities in charge of game preservation, there is, as far as I can see, no need to restrict the shooting of this animal altogether as there are several areas where sooner or later the remnants will be poached out. In any case, by the advent of development, their ultimate extermination in those areas is just a matter of time. I am very much in favour of the preservation of this rhinoceros but it will be foolish to expect it to take place in areas where the animal is isolated, where supervision cannot be adequate, and where, though *bona fide* sportsmen are not allowed to hunt the beasts, they are at the mercy of the ever-present poacher.

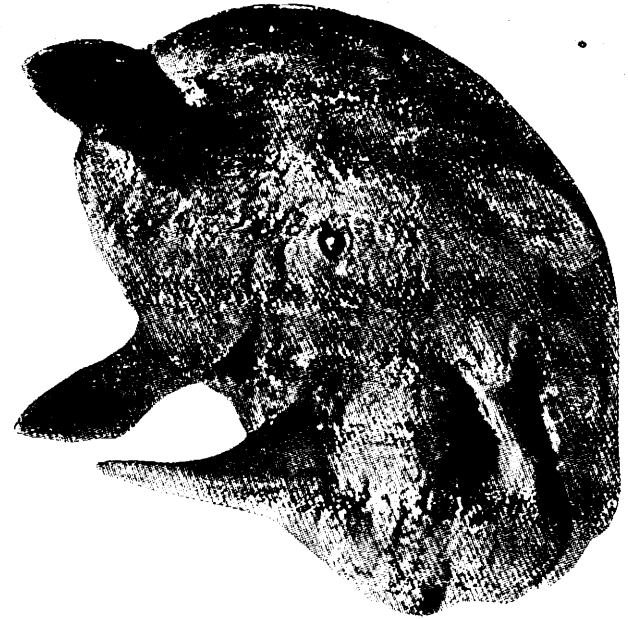


CHAPTER XVII

GENERAL VIEWS

**T**HAT the sport of hunting is a pastime ranking high in field-sports few will deny. Most of us have the inclination for it in some form or other however subdued it may be, as is shown in the enthusiasm displayed, even by those who have an abhorrence for killing, over the hunting and successful destruction of a rat in the pantry. The inherent inclination for this sport is frequently repressed by other influences. Indirect evidence of this latent desire can be identified by the intelligent observer of others. Whatever may be said against the hunting and killing of wild animals and birds, it must be admitted that it was, during the early history of man, a dire necessity and was pursued with a doggedness and cunning aided only by primitive weapons, for the vital necessity of keeping alive. Later, this necessity developed into one mingled with pleasure and the desire to keep in good health, muscle, and stamina during periods of peace and plenty. Thus throughout the ages it was indulged in by both the rich and the poor and will continue so in spite of whatever may be done or said against it by a minority of fanatics. There are several of this tribe in this confused world today, but I am happy to believe that the true field-sportsman is neither bothered about the future of hunting or hampered by their vociferous bleatings. The following, from a more able pen, is inserted herein not as any excuse for the hunter—far from it, for nothing of the sort is intended in this chapter—but as a statement of the hunter's point of view.

The general question involves a nice point in ethics, on which opinions will always be divided. For my own part, I can only plead in extenuation that in the veins of the shikari the sporting instinct—



Female



Male

Two mounted Sumatran Rhinoceros heads

Photo, Hubback



Mature male Sumatran Rhinoceros

*Photo, Hubback*

Broadside view of a Sumatran Rhinoceros

*Photo, Hubback*

the killing instinct if you will—runs so strongly that he must perforce submit to its dictates: the 'Red Gods call him out, and he must go'. It may be a brutal instinct; but it is there and will not be denied; and those good folk who, without the instinct themselves, rail against the sportsman for indulging it, can have no conception of its irresistible force. Yet in obeying it, I do not for a moment concede that a man must necessarily sacrifice all discretion, and become a mere slaughtering of animals. However ardent his love of sport may be, he can, and ought to, refrain from the killing of any inoffensive animal save a male with a trophy worth the taking. I have tried to practise what I preach, and in looking back over my sixteen years' residence amongst the game animals of Wynaad, I confess to a feeling of satisfaction in the reflection that never have I pulled trigger on a female elephant, that only once—and then by a pure accident—have I killed a cow bison, and that the very few hinds I have shot were killed solely to provide food for my followers. To the man to whom sport is a sealed book, I have no doubt the above argument will seem deplorably weak; but every shikari will agree with me that in following his natural bent he is impelled by a force he cannot control. And it should be remembered that the hunting instinct is not of man's own making. It comes as directly from his Creator as any other of the many instincts by which his complex nature is swayed. 'Nimrod was a mighty hunter before the Lord.' But though this inherent love of sport exercises over its possessor an influence too strong to be resisted, it is given to him to keep it within bounds, and to prevent compliance with a natural impulse from degenerating into mere butchery. It is not the indulgence of the hunting instinct, but its abuse, that is to be condemned. (F. W. F. Fletcher, *Sport in the Nilgiris and in Wynaad.*)

The encouragement of the pursuit of this pastime has from time to time been voiced by all and sundry who were aware of its advantages and utility in building up or reinforcing a character against the harmful vices of this world. During the Japanese occupation I have often thought how applicable as a warning Bishop Latimer's words of encouragement, spoken as early as A.D. 1549, would have been, at least in Malaya, prior to the struggle with Japan in this war.

They are quoted below for the interest they will surely give to many and not as propaganda for the increase of

The tapir is purely one of the plains' fauna, just as its ancestors were, and the highest point at which I have seen its tracks was about 400 ft. above sea-level where it was evidently on a journey over into the next valley. When restricted to certain localities where only hill forests remain I dare say their tracks may be found at much higher levels. Its daily movements have been recorded to be confined to a march of an hour or two before dawn from its night feeding grounds, after which some time is spent on desultory feeding prior to a rest just lying down or in sleep from about 10 a.m. to 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The time spent thus, of course, depends on the prevailing weather or season and may be broken by a short interval in search of a more secluded haven, more for solitude than for anything else. Thereafter, its wanderings recommence in search of the evening meal, water and a visit to a salt-lick in the night followed by further feeding and occasional short rests.

The senses of smell and hearing are apparently highly developed, but it would appear that its eyesight is poor judging from my first encounter with this animal and the hunting as described by Sir George Maxwell. As a worthy quarry from the point of view of the sportsman it is only formidable in the sense that its hunting is sure to be difficult, because of its qualities and retiring habits, and I should think its circumvention would demand the best of the hunter in stealth and skill during the approach. Otherwise there seems to be no difficulty. Hit fair and square, supplementary shots may not be necessary as the beast seems easy to kill and any of the high velocity rifles of a .318 to a .375 bore would be adequate for use against it.

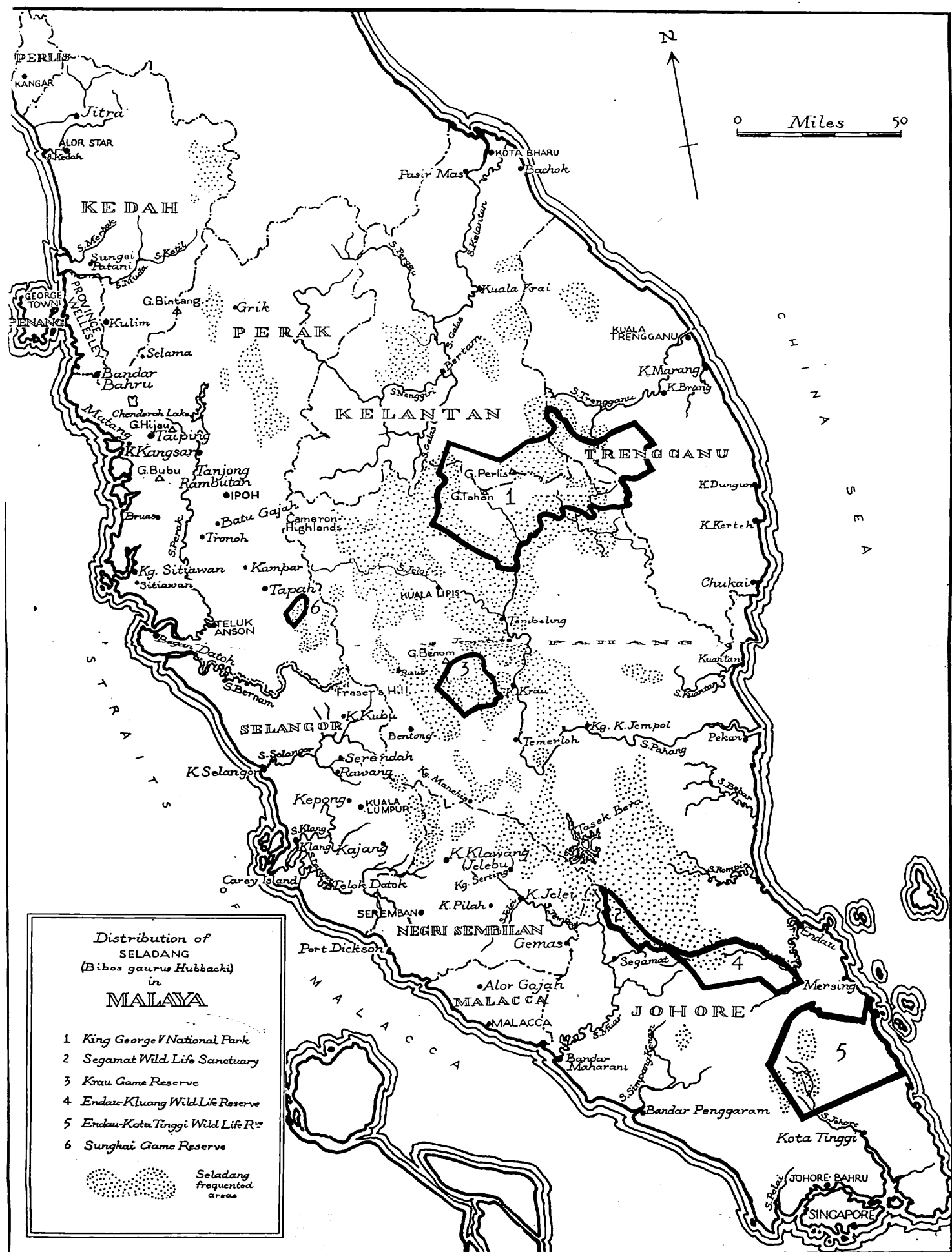
The tapir being ubiquitous in all forest-clad plains, existing paths, rentises and forest reserve boundaries, which are freely used by it in its wanderings, should be searched and, as a last resort, fresh tracks could be picked up from a salt-lick. The animal usually moves about singly or in pairs, the latter, I think, not so much for company but representing the short alliance during the mating period.

N

Pl. in. Hubback

Old male Sumatran Rhinoceros shot in Pahang  
by the late T. R. Hubback





*Distribution of  
SELADANG  
(Bibos gaurus Hubbacki)  
in  
MALAYA*

- 1 King George V National Park
- 2 Segamat Wild Life Sanctuary
- 3 Krau Game Reserve
- 4 Endau-Kluang Wild Life Reserve
- 5 Endau-Kota Tinggi Wild Life Reserve
- 6 Sungai Game Reserve

 Seladang frequented areas