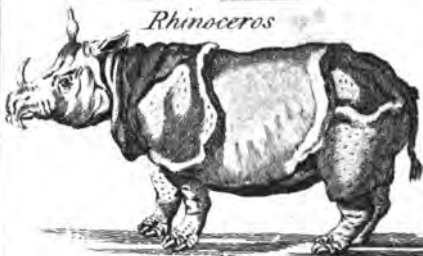


THE
NATURAL HISTORY
OF
BEASTS,
COMPILED FROM THE BEST AUTHORITIES,
AND
ILLUSTRATED BY A GREAT VARIETY OF
COPPER PLATES,
COMPRISING NEAR
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY FIGURES.

Accurately drawn from Nature, and beautifully engraved.

LONDON:

Printed for E. NEWBERRY, at the Corner of St. Paul's
Church Yard. 1793.

Peccary*Rhinoceros**Hippopotame*

THE RHINOCEROS.

THIS animal inhabits Bengal, China, Sumatra, Angola, Æthiopia, and the country as low as the Cape. Next to the elephant, it is the most powerful of animals. It is generally about twelve feet long, from the tip of the nose to the insertion of the tail; and from six to seven feet high. Its head is furnished with a single horn, placed near the end of the nose, which is generally from three feet to three feet and a half long. The upper lip is long, hanging over the lower, and ending in a point. It is very pliable, and serves to collect its food, and deliver it into the mouth; the nostrils are placed transversely; the ears are large, erect, and pointed; the eyes small, and without lustre; the skin is almost naked, rough, and knotty, and lying upon the neck and body in vast folds. The skin, which is of a dirty brown colour, is so hard and thick, as to resist a musket ball: the belly hangs low; the legs are short, strong, and thick; and the hoofs divided into three parts, each pointing forward. It delights in shady forests, and the neighbourhood of rivers and marshy places; like the hog, it loves to wallow in the mire, and is said, by that means, to give shelter in the folds of its skin to scorpions, centipes, and other insects. It is a solitary, quiet, and inoffensive animal, but swift and furious when it is enraged.

The tiger will more willingly attack any other enemy of the forest than this formidable creature.

creature. It is defended on every side by a thick horny hide, which cannot be pierced by the claws of the lion or the tiger, and it is armed before with a weapon that even the elephant does not choose to oppose.

In 1792, a rhinoceros was shewn at the Lyceum in the Strand, London. It was of a gentle disposition, and suffered itself to be handled by all visitors, never attempting to do any mischief, except when hungry or when abused; in such cases, its fury could only be appeased by giving it something to eat. When it was angry, it would jump with violence against the walls of its room, but seldom attempted to attack its keeper, and was obedient to his threats.

The rhinoceros brings forth at about three years old, and will live till it is about twenty. Its flesh is eaten, and Kolben says, it is very good. Cups are made of its horn, and many medicinal virtues are ascribed to it, when taken in powder, but seemingly without foundation. There are some varieties in this animal found in Africa with a double horn.

The rhinoceros is the unicorn mentioned in Holy Writ.

THE HIPPOPOTAME, OR SEA-HORSE.

THE hippopotame is as large and as formidable as the rhinoceros, and, in bulk, is second only to the elephant. The length of the male has been found to be seventeen feet from the extremity of the snout to the insertion of the tail;