

THE INDIAN FIELD
SHIKAR BOOK.

COMPILED BY

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of the elephant), as—Right tusk, 6 ft. 2 ins., left, 6 ft. 5 ins.; weight, 67 lbs. and 73 lbs.; girth, 1 ft. $5\frac{1}{2}$ ins., the pair weighed 140 lbs., and are thus heavier than the heaviest pair recorded by Sanderson in his *Thirteen Years among the Wild Beasts of India*, one of which was 8 ft. and 1 ft. 4.9 ins. girth, and 90 lbs. weight, and the other, which was diseased and broken, measured only 3 ft. 3 ins. and 1 ft. 8 in. girth, weighing 49 lbs., *vide* pages 62-63.

A pair in the possession of Mr. C. Daley, taken from an elephant shot in Raigarh, measured 6 ft. 7 ins., girth 17 ins., weight 65 lbs. each.

Captain G. P. Evans gives me the following measurements of a rogue elephant that had killed several people in Upper Burma: it is probably the record for Burma in recent years.—Height 9 ft. 9 ins., circumference of fore foot $58\frac{1}{2}$ ins., diameter 19 ins. Left tusk 4 ft. $8\frac{1}{2}$ ins., weight, 37 lbs., the right tusk had been eaten away by maggots. Capt. Evans' big tusker, shot in 1907, details of which have already been given, carried a pair of tusks that weighed $99\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.—right tusk, 4 ft. 6 ins. long, $16\frac{1}{2}$ ins. girth, weight $42\frac{1}{2}$ lbs: left tusk 6 ft. 4 ins. long, $16\frac{1}{4}$ ins. girth, weight 57 lbs.

THE GREAT ONE-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

Rhinoceros Unicornis or *Indicus*. Native names: *Gainra*, Hind.; *Gonda*, Beng.

Habitat.—Assam.

Period of gestation.—Seventeen or eighteen months, a single one being produced.

Description.—Skin naked, except on the tail and ears. The skin is divided into shields on the shoulders, over the neck, the centre of the body, the rump and the thighs, and is studded with convex tubercles. The colour is blackish grey throughout. The horn is well developed in both sexes. It inhabits grass jungles ; never ascends the hills, has a preference for swampy ground and wallowing. It is quiet and inoffensive, but when wounded or driven will occasionally charge home. It can trot and gallop at a fair speed. The day is passed in sleep, the feeding time being morning and evening. Its principal food is grass. It is very long lived and its flesh is excellent. It is easily killed, and a bullet from any ordinary sporting rifle will drop it dead at once. The spot to aim at, for the neck shot, is about half way along and tolerably high up. The head shot, if successful, is a certainty, the shoulder shot should not be attempted unless with a large bore rifle.

Measurements.—Average height at shoulder 5 ft. 9 ins. ; average horn measurement 14 ins. Length from nose to root of tail 10 ft. 6 ins. ; tail 2 ft. 5 ins. ; girth 9 ft. 8 ins.

Record horn measurements.—There are only two authenticated records of over twenty inches—one of 24 inches credited to Jerdon and one of a fraction

over $21\frac{1}{2}$ inches shot by Lord Curzon in the Nepal Terai. His Highness of Cooch Behar has shot and been at the shooting of a great many rhino, but his best record is about 16 inches. The horn of the huge specimen in the Indian Museum, Calcutta, is 13 inches. Mr. W. H. R. Doxat gives me the following dimensions of a specimen he got in Assam in 1903 :—Length of horn (front curve) 13 ins. ; circumference at base $21\frac{1}{2}$ ins. ; weight 3 lbs. 2 oz. ; circumference of foot 33 inches.

THE SMALLER ONE-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

Rhinoceros Sondaicus.—Native names : *Gainra*, Hind. ; *Gonda*, Beng. ; *Kunda*, Naga ; *Kyeng*, Burma.

Habitat.—The Sunderbunds, Eastern Bengal, from Assam throughout Burma and the Malay Peninsula.

Period of gestation.—Same as *R. Indicus*.

Description.—Skin nearly naked, not tubercular, the epidermis is divided by cracks into small scale-like discs. The surface of the body is divided into shields by folds, but the neck folds are only slightly developed. The horn is small and always wanting in the female. Colour, dusky grey throughout. It inhabits tree forests and has been found at considerable elevations in Burma. It is a timid and inoffensive animal.

Measurements.—Smaller than *R. Indicus*, and at the shoulder measures from 5 ft. to 5 ft. 6 ins. Mr. A. C. Green, some years ago, shot one in Assam which carried a horn of $10\frac{3}{4}$ inches; the horn of the specimen in the Calcutta Zoological Gardens is under 8 inches.

THE TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

Rhinoceros Lasiotis or *Sumatrensis*. Native name; *Kyan*, Burma.

Habitat.—Occasionally found in Assam; it ranges to Siam, and is common in Sumatra, Borneo and the Malay Peninsula.

Period of gestation.—Nine months.

Description.—This is the smallest of the Rhinoceroses and the most hairy, the greater part of the body exhibiting sparse hairs, the ears and tail being the most hairy parts. The horns are slender and curved backwards. The skin is rough and granular; the folds being less marked than in the one-horned species. In colour it varies from earthy brown to almost black. Its habits are similar to those of the other species; it inhabits forests and ascends to considerable heights. It is easily tamed even when adult.

Measurements.—The average height of adults is a little over 4 ft. and the front horns range from 20 to 30 inches. The best specimen in the British Museum is about 32 inches.