

A
NEW AND ACCURATE
S Y S T E M
OF
NATURAL HISTORY.
IN SIX VOLUMES.

CONTAINING,

I. The History of QUADRUPEDES, including amphibious Animals, Frogs, and Lizards.	IV. The History of INSECTS.
II. The History of BIRDS, with the Method of bringing up those of the singing Kind.	V. The History of WATERS, EARTHS, STONES, FOSSILS, and MINERALS, including the Observations of <i>Linnæus</i> on these Subjects.
III. The History of FISHES and SERPENTS, including Sea Turtles, Crustaceous and Shell Fishes. To which is added, the whole Art of Float and Fly Fishing, the best Rules for the Choice of Tackle, and a Description of natural and artificial Baits.	VI. The History of VEGETABLES, as well Foreign as Indigenous, including an Account of the Roots, Barks, Woods, Leaves, Flowers, Fruits, Seeds, Resins, Gums, and concreted Juices; together with the Method of cultivating those planted in Gardens.

With Observations on their
VIRTUES, PROPERTIES, AND MEDICINAL USES.

By R. BROOKES, M. D.
Author of the GENERAL PRACTICE OF PHYSIC, &c.

THE SECOND EDITION, CORRECTED.

L O N D O N,
Printed for T. C A R N A N and F. N E W B E R Y, jun.
at Number 65, in St. Paul's Church-Yard.
MDCCLXXII.

Elephant.

85.

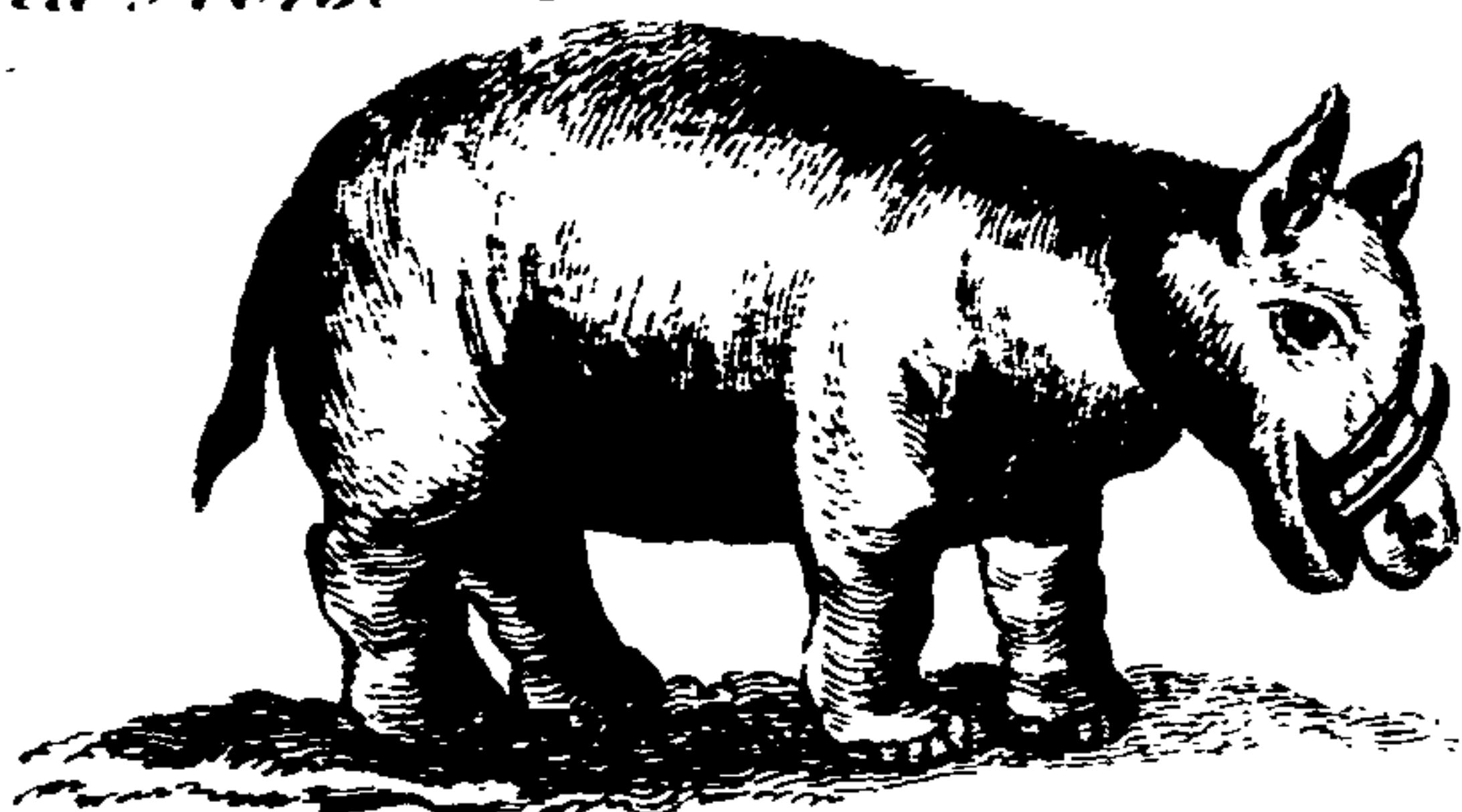


Rhinoceros.

94.



Sea Horse 94



bone was round; and not flat as usual, but was much shorter than the upper jaw, and it was two feet two inches long. The chin terminated in a point two inches long, and had three angles, two above, and one below. There were also four teeth in this jaw, and the two longest were placed before. This Elephant was dissected by the members of the *Royal Academy at Paris*, and was very young; they have given us a very long description of all the parts, from which I have only selected those things that seemed to be most peculiar to this animal, and in which it differs from all others.

The only part of an Elephant used in medicine is the tooth, known all over *England* by the name of ivory; however, it has much the same virtues as hartshorn, and may be prepared in the same manner. Some pretend it will cure the jaundice, kill worms, ease pain, strengthen the stomach, and abate the fits of an epilepsy; but without any just foundation,

When they are wild they always go in herds, the largest foremost: and when they are to cross a river, they lift up the young ones with their two tusks, and twist their trunk round the middle. There are different methods of taking wild Elephants, one of which is to dig a deep pit, and cover it with boughs and grass, that an Elephant may fall into it as he goes along. Another is to decoy them by means of a tame female Elephant into a narrow place made so strong with posts and rails, that they cannot get out of it; and then employ two tame male Elephants to bring them to reason. Two of these get a wild one between them, and beat him with their trunks till they have made him quite tame. If after this he refuses to do as he is bid, the keepers make signs to the tame ones, a second time who immediately correct him and oblige the poor animal at last to obey.

The RHINOCEROS has a body pretty near as large as an Elephant, but he has legs much shorter, and he has a horn on his snout or nose, which sufficiently distinguishes him from all other animals. The head is of a long make, having a hollow between the forehead and

and the horn; and the snout seems designed to turn up the earth, in order to find out the roots of plants. It is very pliable, and ends in a point, which it can turn upwards, downwards, or sideways. The nostrils are placed on each side of it, and the lower lip is almost square, and flattish forwards, with the two corners appearing on the sides of a lively flesh colour. The eyes are small, and placed pretty forward on each side of the head, and it has large ears in proportion, which stand erect on the top of the head. The whole animal is covered with a thick rough chapped skin of an ash colour, with plaits and folds in all such parts as are necessary to allow the creature motion, falling one over another backwards. But these plaits may be better seen in the figure than described by words. It has no knobs all over its body, as expressed in some figures, except on the hinder quarters which receive its weight when the animal first lies down, and there the knobs of the skin are very large.

The tail has a few black hairs at its end, and there are also a few scattered hairs on the ears; but on the other parts there are none. The back is hollow, and the belly sinks down pretty much. The feet are round behind, and the hoofs are forward, which are divided into three parts on each foot; but they have two little hoofs on the hinder part of the foot as we see in Cows, Deer, and Sheep.

I have lately seen a Rhinoceros here in *London*, whose horn was very short, but seemed to be worn against the boards of the trough in which he stood. In every thing else however he agreed with the above description; and some authors of credit affirm, that these horns sometimes grow to the length of three feet. It is uncertain whether the Rhinoceros is a ruminating animal or not; but the negative is most probable.

The horn is different from all other animals we are acquainted with, and is not hollow on the inside but solid. He rolls himself in the dirt like a Hog, and the old ones are so strong they will toss up a large bull, as was seen in the amphitheatre at *Rome*.

The above species of Rhinoceroses are chiefly to be met with in the *East Indies*; but there is another kind with two horns, which are natives of *Africa*, and may be seen in plenty at the *Cape of Good Hope*. The colour of the skin of these is of a dark brown, approaching nearly to black, and without hair. The skin is all covered with scars and scratches like those of an Elephant, and is so tough and thick that it is hard to be pierced even with a pointed knife. The snout resembles that of a Hog, but is more pointed at the end. The horn on the nose is of a greyish brown, and is a little crooked, and turns up towards the head. It is shaped like a plough share, and is of different sizes according to the age of the animal; but never exceeds two feet. He has another on his forehead in a right line with that on the nose, which is of a yellowish colour, and a palm in length when the Rhinoceros is young, and never exceeds six inches when he is old. This second horn hinders the animal from doing all the mischief he otherwise might, because it serves in some measure to break the stroke of the other.

The legs are much shorter in proportion to that of the Elephant, and the eyes are so small that he can see nothing but what is directly before him, for this reason when he pursues his prey, he always runs in a right line, overturning whatever lies in his way, for scarce any thing will stop his progress, or make him turn aside. With the horn on his nose he roots up trees, and lifts up the stones which oppose its passage, casting them at a great distance behind him. When he is in a rage he makes furrows in the ground, and throws a great deal of earth over his head. He grunts like a Hog, and may be heard at a great distance when he is in pursuit of his prey.

He very rarely attacks mankind unless provoked, or meets a person with a red garment. When he attacks a man he lays hold of the middle of his body, and throws him over his head with such force that he is almost always killed with the fall; this done he comes and licks him, and his tongue is so rough and hard that it brings off the flesh from the bones. He likewise serves other animals in the same manner after he

has killed them. When he is seen running along it is pretty easy to avoid him, because he cannot turn about very readily, so that when he is about eight or ten feet distant, a man needs only go one side and then he will be out of his sight. This Mr. *Kolben* affirms from his own experience, and adds that he has escaped in this manner several times.

This animal does not feed upon grass, but upon shrubs, thistles, and roots; however, those that are tame will feed upon hay, fruits, pulse, and almost every thing else that is given them, except flesh and fish. One of their keepers has affirmed, that they will eat sixty pounds of hay in a day, and twenty of bread, and that they will drink fourteen buckets of water. They are very fond of the smoke of tobacco, and take a great pleasure in having it blown into their nostrils. In those countries where they breed they will devour the boughs of trees though they are never so full of thorns; and though sometimes these draw blood, that does not cause them to leave off. In *Abyssinia* they not only eat the flesh of these animals, but they use them to work in the same manner as they do Elephants in other countries. They are there fond of marshes, and rank grass, which they will eat like Oxen. Some say they are very fond of the water, and will dive like Ducks, and others that they will travel one hundred and fifty miles in a day, which does not seem very probable, their unwieldy form.

The horn of a female Rhinoceros that was at *Paris*, was nine inches long, and the space between the horn and the ears measured fourteen inches; and from the horn to the end of the muzzle was nine inches. The horn was of a whitish colour below, but towards the end was of a blackish brown, or of the same colour with the skin. It was not exactly round, but very thick, hard, and crooked, turning towards the back. That of the male Rhinoceros is more long and thick than that of the female, being sometimes two feet long from the root, and about a foot in diameter. It is as hard as iron, and sharper than that of the female. However the horns are not always of the same

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colour, for they are sometimes black, sometimes ash-coloured, and sometimes white; and likewise their size differs according to their age. *Middleton* relates, that when he was at *Bombay*, he saw several of these horns that were longer than those he had seen elsewhere. One of these was composed of three little horns which proceeded from the same root, the longest of which was eighteen inches, the second twelve, and the third eight, but these were brought from other countries.

The flesh of this animal is eaten by the *Dutch* at the *Cape of Good Hope*, and is in high esteem. It has been usually said, that the horn of a Rhinoceros will fall in pieces when poison is poured therein. At the *Cape* they have cups made of the horn, which are mounted in gold or silver. When wine is poured therein it will rise, ferment, and seem to boil, but when mixed with poison it cleaves in two; which experiment has been seen by thousands of people, if we may give credit to *Helber* who pretends to have seen this with his own eyes. The inhabitants of these parts will not believe those who affirm that a Rhinoceros has but one horn; likewise there are many people in other parts, that cannot be persuaded there is a race of these animals with two.

There is little said by authors of the medicinal virtues of the parts of a Rhinoceros; only that the horn is a great antidote against poison, but this opinion seems to be settled on no solid foundation.

The animal called **TAPIIERETE** by *Marcgrave*, and which is to be found in *Brazil*, has a hoof not unlike that of a Rhinoceros, or an Elephant, but then he has only three toes before, and a little one on the heel. in other things he very much resembles the above animals; and the same may be said of the **Capy-Bara** of the same author. 'Tis uncertain whether the **Musk Animal** ruminates or not; however his toes on the hind part of the feet are larger and longer than in other cloven footed animals.

The **HIPPOPOTAMUS**, or **SEA HORSE**, by some called a **SEA ELEPHANT**, is an animal which