

The Rhinoceros.

(John Watt.)

RHINOCEROS
unicornis.

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RHINOCEROS, Linn.; Jerdon, Mam. Ind., 232.

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This mammalian belongs to the great order UNGULATA (or hoofed animals), in the sub-order of Perissodactyla, Family RHINOCEROTIDÆ. The horse and tapir are its nearest allies.

CHARACTERS.—The most striking peculiarity of this animal is the horn or horns on the nose (*pivoxspwsi*). It is terrestrial in its habits, and feeds on vegetables. Its limbs are adapted for progression and not for prehension. It has no collar-bones, and the digits on each foot are three in number and each terminates in a small hoof-like nail. The third or middle digit is much more developed than the others, and has its two sides similarly formed. The thigh bone bears a third trochanter. The molar and premolar teeth are similar and form a continuous series. The bones of the foreleg are well developed and remain distinct. The head is large, the eyes small, and the ears moderate. The horns grow throughout the life of the animal, but are reproduced if lost. The skin is thick, and thrown into deep folds in certain places; it is also thinly clad with hair. The Rhinoceros is, as a rule, a quiet inoffensive animal.

The classification adopted here, for the various species, is that given by Mr. W. T. Blanford in the recently published volume of *Fauna of British India*. The species of Rhinoceros are grouped into two main sections, *vis.* one-horned, and two-horned. The former is represented in India by two, the latter by one, species. In Geological formations, how ever, a larger number of forms are represented than at the present time.

Rhinoceros sondaicus, Cuv.; Fauna, Brit. Ind., I., 474.

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THE SMALLER ONE-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

Syn.—R. JAVNICUS, Cuv.; R. INRMIS, Lessow.; R. NASALIS, Gray.

Vern.—*Gondu*, BENG.; *Gainda*, HIND.; *Kunda*, *kedi*, *kweda*, NAGA; *Kajeng*, *kyjantsheng*, BURM.; *Badak*, MALAY.References.—*Blyth*, Mam. Burm., 50; *Sterndale*, Mam. Ind., 410.; *Mason*, Burma and Its People, 166, 669; *Balfour*, Cyclop. Ind., III., 406; Encycl. Brit., xx., 522.

Habitat.—The Lesser Rhinoceros is found in the Sunderbands and parts of Eastern Bengal. It occurs also abundantly in Burma and thence throughout the Malay Peninsula to Java and Borneo. Kinloch shot it also in Sikkim Tarai. It is distinguished by the fold in front of the shoulder, being continued over the back of the neck; the skin of the sides is also divided into small polygonal scales.

R. sumatrensis, Cuv.; Flora, Brit. Ind., I., 476.

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THE ASIATIC TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

Syn.—RHINOCEROS SUMATRANUS, Raffles; R. CROSSEI, Gray; R. LASIOTIS, Slater.; CERATORHINUS CROSSEI and C. SUMATCENSIS, Blyth C. SUMATRANUS, C. NIGER, C. CROSSEI, and C. BLYTHII, Gray.

Vern.—*Kyaw*, *kyaw-shaw*, BURM.; *Badak*, MALAY.References.—*Blyth*, Mam. Burma, 52; *Sterndale*, Mam. Ind., 412; *Mason*, Burma and Its People, 167, 669; *Balfour*, Cyclop. Ind., III., 406; Encycl. Brit., XX., 522.

Habitat.—This species is rare in Assam; but from that province it ranges to Siam, the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Borneo.

R. unicornis, Linn., Fauna Brit. Ind., I., 479.

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THE GREAT ONE-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

Syn.—R. INDICUS, Cuv.; R. STENOCEPHALUS, Gray.

Vern.—*Gainda*, *gargadan*, HIND.; *Karkadan*, PERS.; *Gonda*, BENG.; *Gor*, ASSAM; *Kyan-hsen*, BURM.; *Khadga*, *kadgin*, *gandaka*, SANS.

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RHINOCEROS
unicornis.

The Rhinoceros.

References.—*Blyth, Mam. Burma, 51; Sterndale, Mam. Ind., 407; Smith, Chinese Mat. Med., 185; Buchanan-Hamilton, Acc. of Kingdom of Nepal, 63; Ayeen Akbery (Gladwin's transl.), II., 96; Balfour, Cyclop. Ind., III., 406; Encycl. Brit., XX., 522.*

Habitat.—This species at the present day is almost restricted to the Assam Valley. Formerly it was extensively distributed in the Indian Peninsula. It is chiefly characterized by the fold in front of the shoulders not being continued over the back of the neck, and by the skin of the sides bearing tubercles.

From an economic point of view the various species of Rhinoceros scarcely need to be separately considered. The following facts may, therefore, be given of all three species collectively:—

Medicine.—In Indian medicine, the Rhinoceros was formerly much esteemed, and even now we find cups of Rhinoceros HORN valued in many parts of the country as tests for poisons. In Linschoten's *Voyage to the East Indies*, published in Holland in 1590, there occurs the following account of the medicinal uses of the Rhinoceros:—“Their horns are much esteemed, and used against all venime, poyson, and many other diseases; likewise his teeth, clawes, flesh, skin and blood and his very dung, and water and all whatsoever is about him, is much esteemed in India, and used for the curing of many diseases and sicknesses, which is very good and most true, as I my selfe by experiance have found; but it is to be understood, that all Rhinocerotes are not alike good, for there are some whose horns are sold for one, two or three hundred *Pardawes* the pecece, and there are others of the same colour and greatnes that are sold but for three or fours *Pardawis*, which the Indians knowe and can discerne. The cause is that some Rhinocerotes which are found in certaine places in the countrie of Bengala have this virtue, by reason of the hearbes which that place only yeeldeth and bringeth forth which in other places is not so and this estimation is not onely held of the horne, but of all other thinges in his whole bodey, as I saide before.”

The same belief in the medicinal value of the various parts of the Rhinoceros seems to have held good in India even in later days than those of Linschoten, for in the *Taleef Shereef* (translated by Playfair in 1833) we find the use of Rhinoceros' VLESH recommended in “disorders of the wind” and for the purpose of “decreasing the urine and faeces,” the smoke from the burning horn is pronounced excellent for the cure of piles and for producing easy labour, and drinking from a cup made of the horn there stated to be efficacious for the cure of piles. Dr. Hamilton also, in his manuscripts, written in Berar and quoted by Ainslie (*Mat. Ind.*, II., 480) states that the Hindu physicians, even of his time, considered the flesh of the Rhinoceros medicinal, and ordered it boiled and in combination with *ghi* in the last stages of typhus fever.

The horns of the Rhinoceros imported from India, Siam, Cochin China, and Sumatra, are much sought after in China for their supposed medicinal virtues. They receive the names *si-koh*, *si-niu-koh*, and are credited with tonic, alterative, and many other medicinal properties. The black and pointed horns are thought to be the best. Cups also are made of the horns which are believed to have the valuable property, alluded to above, of detecting poisonous draughts placed in them. Rhinoceros' HIDES also are exported to China where they are made into a kind of jelly, which is used medicinally.

Domestic Use.—Rhinoceros, hide is, in India, made into shields, sword handles, and ramrods, which are much prized by the native grandees of the regions where the animal occurs.

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MEDICINE
Horn.
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Flesh.
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Hides.
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DOMESTIC.
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