

Royal  
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South Australia

1878-1978

by C. E. Rix

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was dead within 3 months despite efforts to save it. It was stated that "its wildness militated against the success of a necessary operation".

A pair of South American Tapirs, *Tapirus terrestris*, were obtained by exchange with the San Diego Zoo, U.S.A. in 1969. These settled in satisfactorily and in July 1973 produced a youngster. It only survived for only about 18 hours however, and its mother died in the following December.

In 1976 a female was obtained on loan from the Melbourne Zoo and after some preliminary skirmishes she has settled in with the male.

### Family RHINOCEROTINAE (Rhinoceroses)

In 1886 the Director, R. E. Minchin, while on a trip to Ceylon, Malaya, and Siam in search of live specimens for the Gardens, purchased, in Singapore, an "Indian" Rhinoceros which was believed to be *Rhinoceros unicornis* and this specimen was a show piece among the exhibits until it died in 1907, after 21 years in the Zoo (see photo p. 12). A post mortem examination showed that it had died of old age and that its teeth were so worn that it could not properly masticate its food. For the previous 18 months to 2 years it had been kept alive by feeding it bran mashes and similar foods.

The body was handed over to the S.A. Museum which had it skinned and mounted for exhibition in that institution. In 1948 a visiting American professor, Dr. Harold C. Coolidge, saw the exhibit and recognised it as being a Javan Rhinoceros, *R. sondaicus*, and not the Indian species.

The Javan Rhino is smaller than the Indian and usually it is only the male that is horned (single). It is now extremely rare and the specimen which is referred to above was the last of the species to be exhibited in a zoo. It is a great pity that it was not recognised in its true identity during its life.

The Black Rhinoceros, *Diceros bicornis*, of Africa was first introduced into the Garden in 1929 when a young pair was purchased by a member of the Council while on a visit to East Africa. Unfortunately they survived only a few weeks before both died from enteritis, a disease which was said to be very prevalent among new arrivals in zoos, particularly those from Africa.

In 1948 a young male specimen captured at Sinya, Tanganyika in January 1947 was presented by Mr. Edward Hallstrom. This animal made history by travelling by air from Sydney to Adelaide. It was believed to be about 2½ years old when it arrived in 1948 and is still on exhibition. All costs of capture and delivery to Adelaide were borne by Mr. Hallstrom. It is still alive and well. (Died 31 Aug. 82)

### ORDER ARTIODACTYLA (Even-toed Ungulates)

#### Family SUIDAE

Two Indian Wild Boars, *Sus indicus*, were obtained from Ceylon in 1886 and, in the following year, the stock list gave the number as four—all from Ceylon. The

Habitat Africa - from Cape to Somalilana & Sudan.

Gest. or Hatch Period "15 mths." ("Zoo Life" Vol. V/89)

Diet.....

\* RHINOCHROS; BLACK.

\* Rhinoceros (Diceros) bicornis

Order Perrissodactyla

Family

Rhinocerotidae

Average Age in Captivity.....

Sickness Treatment Folio.....

W 47713A

Synonyms.....  
Hook-lipped Rhino.

255/649

Date	Remarks	Indiv's Index Letter	Sex	Age on Arr. if known	Price	Length of Life in Zoo	Births	Deaths	In	Out
1947 25/11/47 Jan., 1929. 30/10/63	"Sinya" One conat. by E.J.L. n allstrom Esq Note "A" 2 calves (m.1yr.old; f.2 yr.) purch in Melbourne by A.C.Minchin. F.died in Melbourne. M.died in Adelaide, 4/2/29. "Peritonitis & enteritis" (by Census.	A P.M.)	m (2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> yr.)	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> yr.	£950 Dr. (Melb.)				1	✓
23 June 81	To Taronga Zoo, on 'breeding' Com	A	M				30/10/63 Census.			1

Note: Arrived by flight (air)

11 pm. Parafield Airport with  
1 Cheetah, 2 spotted hyenas  
and 2 Giant tortoises.

Habitat \_\_\_\_\_

Gest. or Hatch Period \_\_\_\_\_

**Diet** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Synonyms** \_\_\_\_\_

## BLACK RHINOCELOS

## Diceros bicornis

Order PERISSODACTyla

### Average Age in Captivity

## Sickness Treatment Folio

During the year the Director, Mr. R. E. Minchin, made a visit to Siam (Thailand), Singapore and Ceylon (Sri Lanka) in search of new exhibits and returned with a wide variety of mammals, birds and reptiles. In addition to the purchases by the Director there were substantial gifts from His Majesty the King of Siam and from the Botanic Gardens, Singapore.

Among the purchases made by Mr. Minchin was one of which the value was not realised until long after the animal was dead. This was a rhinoceros but there was apparently some doubt as to which species it was at the time. Although it was the custom to use both vernacular and scientific name for the various species in the annual stock lists this animal was listed as "Rhinoceros, *Rhinocerotida*, Malay Pen." each year up to and including 1903. In 1904 it was described as an Indian Rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros unicornis* from India and it was not until 1948, forty-one years after it had died and had been preserved in the South Australian Museum, that its true identity as a Sumatran Rhino, *Rhinoceros sondaicus*, was recognised. (See photo).

During the 1886 annual meeting further doubts were expressed concerning the liberation of Blackbirds (*Turdus merula*) it being stated that they were becoming very numerous and were very destructive to cherries.

In February 1887 Director Minchin was sent abroad again, this time to Europe, for additional exhibits. Some important events were to be celebrated in South Australia in the ensuing twelve months. Queen Victoria's Jubilee and the Jubilee International Exhibition were expected to bring many visitors to Adelaide and the Society wished to stock the Gardens with attractive exhibits. The European visit added a number of interesting specimens of both mammals and birds. As a result the collection exceeded "by some hundreds that of any similar Institution in the Southern Hemisphere". And this only four years after the zoo had been opened!

Sumatran Rhinoceros, 1901

