

6387

GUIDE
TO THE
GALLERIES
OF
MAMMALS
IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
OF THE
BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY).

ILLUSTRATED BY 65 WOODCUTS, 1 PLATE, AND 3 PLANS.

[NINTH EDITION.]

LONDON:
PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.
1914.

(All rights reserved.)

appearance shown in fig. 38; in the Indian species, however, the laminae have flattened parallel sides, so that the crown-surface presents numerous transverse parallel bands of enamel, as in fig. 39. The Indian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) ranges from India and Ceylon, through Burma and Malacca, to Sumatra. Of the Indian race an adult and a newly-born specimen are shown in the Fossil Mammal Gallery; while in the Central Hall is exhibited a young individual of the Malay race (*E. m. hirsutus*).

The African Elephant (*Elephas africanus*) is of larger size than the Indian, and has enormous ears, a hollow back, only 3 nails on each of the hind-feet, and the trunk ending in two equal-sized lips. The female has well-developed tusks, though not so large as those of the male. This species formerly inhabited the whole of Africa south of the Sahara, but is now driven back towards the centre of the continent. A mounted specimen from Rhodesia is exhibited in the Central Hall, and two heads of other races are shown on the wall by the Darwin statue.

Suborder PERISSODACTYLA.

[Cases 35
to 38 & II,
G, & G*.]

The Perissodactyla, or Odd-toed Ungulates, are represented at the present day by Rhinoceroses, Tapirs, and the Horse family, which have many common characters in their teeth and limb-bones. All are characterized by the middle line of the foot passing down the middle of the third toe, which is the largest, the other toes being ranged in a receding series on each side of it (figs. 40 and 41). Generally only one or three toes are present; but the Tapirs possess a fourth outer toe on their fore-feet, the third toe, however, still forming the central and main axis of the foot. The Perissodactyla are further marked by having their premolar and molar teeth in one unbroken series, the posterior premolars much resembling the true molars in shape and size. The dorsal and lumbar vertebrae together number at least twenty-two; and, as in all other Ungulates, clavicles are absent.

[Cases
35 & 36.]

The Tapirs, *Tapirida* (991-993), present almost the same osteological characters as their ancestors which are found fossil:

the check-teeth have two simple transverse crests on their crowns, very different from the complex enamel foldings of the teeth of Rhinoceroses and Horses, the nasal bones are small, and the toes four in number on the fore, and three on the hind feet. They are swamp-loving animals, excellent swimmers and divers; one species occurring in Malaya and the others in Central and South America.

Fig. 40.

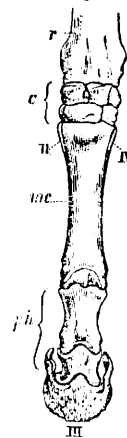
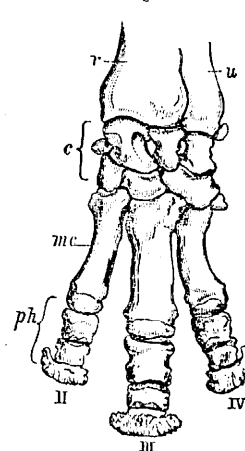


Fig. 41.



Bones of left Fore-foot of Horse (Fig. 40) and Rhinoceros (Fig. 41).

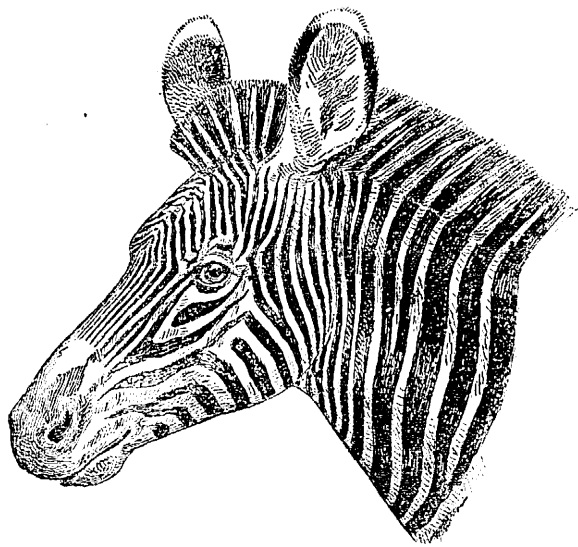
c, carpus; mc, metacarpus; ph, phalanges; r, radius; u, ulna;
II-IV, second to fourth toes.

Rhinoceroses are characterized by the thickness and solidity of their bones, by the structure of their molar teeth, and the enlargement of their nasal bones to serve as supports for the single or double horns. Incisor teeth are wanting in the adults of the African species; but in the Indian there is a pair of large ones above, and two large and two small ones below. [Cases 36, 37, & G & G*.]

The Asiatic Two-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sumatrensis*), a native of the Malay countries, is represented by a mounted specimen (1001) and skulls. The African Black Rhinoceros (*R. bicornis*), with a wide range in Africa, is distinguished from

the next species by its elongated and prehensile upper lip, smaller size, and different habits. Its horns are variable in length, the front one being generally the longer. It is represented by a mounted skin (1003) and many skulls and horns. The White Rhinoceros, *R. sinus* (1002), of South, South-east, and Central Africa, with a square upper lip, is a large species represented in the Gallery by an adult and a young mounted specimen, as well as by a head and many skulls and horns.

Fig. 42.

Head of Grévy's Zebra (*Equus grevyi*).

The great Indian Rhinoceros, *R. unicornis* (999), is a one-horned species from North-eastern India, which is represented by a full-grown male in the Lower Gallery, and by the head of an animal obtained by H.M. the King, shown near the entrance to the Upper Gallery.

In the Horses, Asses, and Zebras (*Equidae*) each foot has only a single complete toe (fig. 40); the cheek-teeth are large,

quadrangular, and complex, the enamel-foldings being numerous as compared with the simpler ones of Rhinoceroses and Tapirs. The wild species inhabit the plains of Asia and Africa.

The cases numbered 38 and 37, with the central case H, contain specimens of several members of the family, as, for instance, the true Zebra, *Equus zebra* (1024); Grévy's Zebra, *E. grevyi* (1025); some of the local races of the Bonte Quagga or Burchell's Zebra, *E. burchelli* (1018), distinguished by the different arrangement of the stripes on the body; and a specimen of the true Quagga, *E. quagga* (1017), now extinct. Two varieties of the African Wild Ass, *Equus asinus* (1014, 1015), the ancestral form of the domesticated breeds, are also exhibited. In the same case are shown specimens of the Kiang of Tibet, *Equus kiang* (1013), and of the wild Mongolian Horse, *E. caballus przewalskii* (1016).

Suborder ARTIODACTYLA.

The Artiodactyla, or Even-toed Ungulates, are so called because their feet always possess an even number of toes, two or four, the centre line of the foot passing down between the toes which correspond to the third and fourth of the complete or typical five-toed mammal's foot. These two toes are always equal, and larger than the second and fifth, if those are present, the first being absent. The metacarpal and metatarsal bones of the third and fourth digits are generally united, and form a "cannon-bone." The premolars and molars are distinct in shape, the former being single- and the latter two-lobed. The dorsal and lumbar vertebræ together invariably number nineteen. [Cases 40 to 46 and West Corridor.]

Artiodactyla, which are extraordinarily numerous both in genera, species, and individuals, are divided into four chief groups or sections, namely: (1) Pecora, or Oxen, Sheep, Antelopes, Giraffes and Deer; (2) Tylopoda, or Camels and Llamas; (3) Tragulina, or Chevrotains; and (4) Suina, or Hippopotamuses, Peccaries, and Pigs.

In the first three of these the molars consist of two pairs of