

Collins Guide to the RARE MAMMALS OF THE WORLD

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***** ASIATIC ELEPHANT***Elephas maximus* (978)

HB 5.5–6.4 (inc. trunk); T 1.2–1.5m; SH 2.5–3.2m; WT up to 5000kg. The Asiatic Elephant has considerably smaller ears than the African Elephant; it also has 4 hooves (3 in the African) on the hind foot, and a single 'finger' on the tip of the trunk (2 in the African). Females are generally smaller than males and usually lack prominent tusks; male tusks rarely weigh more than 45kg (a pair) although there are records of over 70kg per tusk and over 3m length. They are found mostly in forests, but are adaptable and can occur in a wide range of habitats, at altitudes up to 3600m. They feed on grass and other vegetation, and also raid crops. In the past, Asiatic Elephants were found from Syria and Iraq eastwards across southern and Southeast Asia. In the 19th century they were still common over much of the Indian subcontinent, Sri Lanka and the eastern parts of their range. In the present century, expanding human populations and the destruction of forests in southern Asia fragmented and isolated their range until by the late 1970s a maximum of 42,000 were left; the population in Sumatra is probably the most endangered of all. They are still hunted for ivory. Listed on CITES App.I. Although frequently exhibited in zoos (and circuses) they are only rarely bred in captivity. Asiatic Elephants occur in many of the larger national parks and some forest reserves within their range. They also occur in Borneo and the Andaman Islands where they were probably introduced by man.

***** AFRICAN ELEPHANT***Loxodonta africana* (979)

HB 6–7.5m (inc trunk); T 1–1.3m; SH 3–4m; WT 900–6000kg. The largest living land animal; skin greyish-brown, but may take on colour of its surroundings as they frequently wallow in mud. Both sexes carry tusks (enlarged incisors) which grow to a maximum of 3.5m and weigh over 100kg; female tusks are much smaller than males. They once occurred in practically all habitats in Africa, from semi-desert to high montane forest up to 5000m, marshes and open savannah; they feed on a wide variety of vegetation, and also frequently raid crops. In the past they were found throughout most of Africa, except extreme deserts. By Roman times they were exterminated from most of N Africa. Throughout W Africa populations are fragmented, isolated and substantially reduced. In E Africa most of the once enormous population has been drastically reduced by ivory poaching, and only in C Africa are substantial populations believed to survive. Although extinct or critically endangered in many countries, in some areas they are still abundant enough to be a pest to agriculture. Elephant ivory is extensively traded, both legally and illegally, but is subject to special licence under CITES App.II. The African Elephant is protected in most countries where it occurs, and is in many national parks. It is only found in relatively few zoos and safari parks, and rarely bred in captivity.

***** BLACK RHINOCEROS***Diceros bicornis* (980)

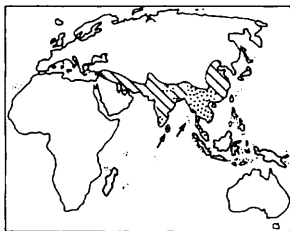
HB 3–3.75m; T 70cm; SH 1.4–1.5m; WT 100–1800kg. Dark, with a long, pointed, protruding prehensile upper lip. Two prominent horns, the longest up to 120cm (average 50cm); occasionally a smaller third horn. They occur in bush country with thick cover, grasslands, and in open forest up to 3500m altitude, where they browse on an extremely wide

variety of plants. The Black Rhino was formerly found in suitable habitat over most of Africa south of the Sahara. By the mid-1960s it still occurred throughout most of its range, but was already much rarer, being eliminated as part of tsetse fly control measures. By the mid 1970s its decline had accelerated, and poaching for its horn (sold to Asia for carving and medicinal purposes) led to its extermination in many places. By the late 1970s less than 30,000 remained in fragmented and isolated populations; since then they have continued to decline, to about 15,000 in 1980 and 9000 by 1984; seven subspecies are recognised, of which five have populations of less than 500. They are found in many national parks within their range, but even these are often poached. Listed on CITES App.I; exhibited in many zoos and breed frequently.

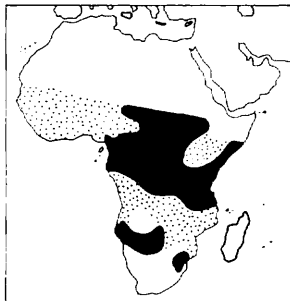
****** WHITE RHINOCEROS***Ceratotherium simum* (981)

HB 3.6–5m; T 0.9–1m; SH 16–2m; WT 2300–3600kg.

The two horns can grow to over 150cm, the front one being about three times the length of the rear. Readily distinguished from the Black Rhino by its square lip. It is found mainly in open grasslands and lightly wooded habitats where it grazes on grasses and herbage, in territories of about 2km². White Rhinos occur in two separate populations, the Southern (*C.s. simum*) and the Northern (*C.s. cottoni*). Both subspecies have much reduced ranges. In 1882 the Southern White Rhino was believed extinct, but a small population was found in Umfolozi, Zululand, and at the turn of the century about 10 or 11 are thought to have survived; by the mid 1960s, they had increased to about 500 in the Umfolozi Game Reserve, and were being translocated to other parks and reserves. By the early 1980s there were over 3000 in South Africa and 600 elsewhere in Africa, and breeding groups in zoos and safari parks. In 1900 the Northern White Rhino was found from NW Uganda to Chad, and in the Belgian Congo (Zaire), French Equatorial Africa (Congo) and Sudan. At the time of their discovery they were far more numerous than the Southern, but by 1980 numbered about 1000, and by 1985 were believed to be restricted to a single population in the Garamba NP, Zaire, of less than 20 (400 in the 1970s). A small number exists in captivity. There are probably no White Rhinos now outside protected areas or zoos.



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979 (ca 1980)



980

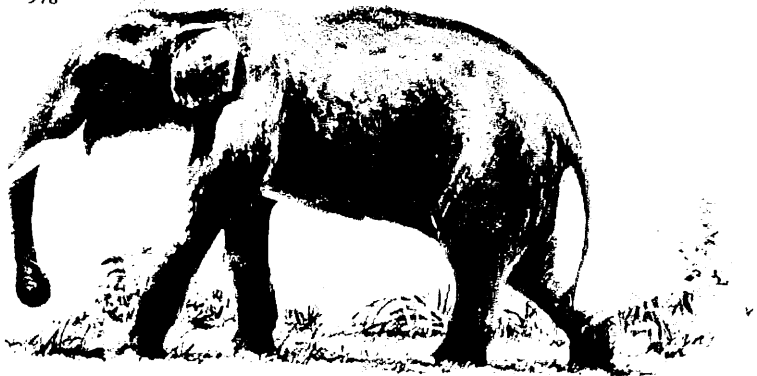
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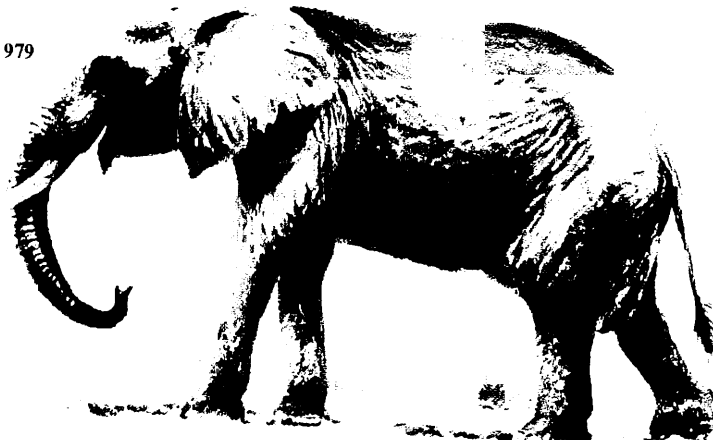
981

• (ca 1980) ▨ (ca 1800)

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981



******* SUMATRAN or ASIATIC TWO-HORNED or HAIRY RHINOCEROS***Dicerorhinus sumatrensis* (982)

HB 2.35-3.2m; SH 1.1-1.5m; WT 1000-2000kg.

A two-horned rhino with an 'armour-plated' appearance, covered in coarse hair. The horns are short, the rear one under 38cm and the front one smaller. Found mainly near water in secondary forest and often in hill country, as they climb well. They feed mainly at night on a wide range of vegetation including leaves, twigs, fruit and bamboos; during the day they often wallow in pools to avoid horseflies. At the end of the 19th century the Sumatran Rhino was still found over much of SE Asia from Assam and Bangladesh, south through Burma, Thailand and Vietnam, through the Malay Peninsula to Sumatra and Borneo. Hunting for its horn and almost all other organs (for alleged medicinal purposes) is largely responsible for its disappearance. There are now only scattered populations numbering a few hundred in total, isolated from each other. Has been kept in captivity but with none surviving. They are protected in most of their remaining range, and listed on CITES App. I.

***** GREAT INDIAN RHINOCEROS***Rhinoceros unicornis* (983)

HB 4.2cm; T 75cm; SH 2m; WT up to 2000kg.

Characteristic 'armour-plated' appearance, with large tubercles on the bare skin. The single horn may grow to 60cm, but is usually less than 20cm. Found in forests, swampy areas and in reed-beds: they are usually solitary, spending much time in wallows. They feed primarily on grasses, reeds and twigs; in some localities they feed in cultivated areas. Their former range was considerably greater than at present, though its exact extent is not known. They were certainly found throughout the foothills of the Himalayas from N Pakistan, east through India and Nepal, to Assam and Bengal. They may also have occurred in Burma, Thailand and other parts of SE Asia until the Middle Ages. By the 1900s the population was considerably reduced in India: the British authorities banned hunting in 1910 and established a series of sanctuaries. By late 1950s a total of about 400 survived, the majority in Kaziranga Sanctuary, Assam, with others in Bengal and Assam, and about 300 in Nepal. By the early 1980s the total was estimated at over 1000. The main threats to rhinos in the sanctuaries are competition from domestic stock grazing within reserves, and that surplus animals will leave the boundaries of the sanctuary. Small numbers are maintained in about 30 zoos, and an increasing proportion are captive-bred. The Great Indian Rhino is listed on CITES App. I and strictly protected throughout its range.

******* JAVAN or LESSER ONE-HORNED RHINOCEROS***Rhinoceros sondaicus* (984)

HB 1.6-1.75m; T ca. 70cm; SH ca. 1.8m; WT 1.5-2tonnes.

Like the Great Indian Rhino, the Javan is characterised by loose folds of skin, but in this species one of these continues across the midline of the back. The single horn is fairly small, normally less than 25cm, and is often only a low protuberance. Found mostly in forested, hilly areas up to an altitude of 2000m, where they browse on shrubs and bushes, often in secondary habitats. Until the middle of the 19th century, the Javan Rhino was widespread and often abundant from Bengal, east through Burma, SW China, to Vietnam and south

through Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Malaya, to Sumatra and Java. Although it once roamed over most of lowland Java, the human population, which increased from 3-4 million in 1800 to 57 million by 1958, had pushed them into a few remote areas and by the 1930s they were confined to the Ujung Kulon Reserve in western Java. By 1940 it was presumed extinct in Sumatra, but there continue to be scattered unconfirmed reports elsewhere in mainland Asia, including the Thai/Burma border. In 1950 it was still present in the Sunderbans, the Brahmaputra Valley, in the Chittagong Hills and several other localities, but by 1960 it was extinct. The present world population is around 50. It is listed on CITES App. I.

