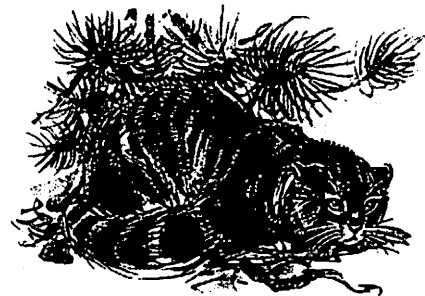


17

# MAMMALS OF THE WORLD

by Hans Hvass



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## Primates

southern part of Madagascar, often in hilly districts with open woodland. Their voice is more cat-like than that of the other lemurs.

**Black Lemur**, *Lemur macaco*, 21+21 ½ in. Unlike the other lemuroids the sexes differ in colour, the male being coal-black and the female either brown or reddish. They have long ear tufts. Black lemurs live in the forests along the north-west coast of Madagascar and on the offlying islands.

**Ruffed Lemur**, *Lemur variegatus*, 22+24 in. This is the largest of the lemurs and may be nearly as large as a fox. They live in the forests of east Madagascar. When sitting on a branch the tail may sometimes hang vertically down but at times is held up over the back like a squirrel's tail. The body is mottled black and white, with a red ruff and black feet and tail; there is also a race in which the body and ruff are red.

The *Indris* have a short tail and long legs with large hands and feet.

**Indri**, *Indri indri*, 31+1 in. This is the largest of all the lemuroids; the woolly fur is brownish-black with pale markings. *Indris* are found in the hilly country of eastern Madagascar; unlike most lemuroids they are diurnal, and feed mostly on fruits, but will also catch small birds.



Aye-aye

## Aye-ayes

This family contains only a single species.

**Aye-aye**, *Daubentonia madagascariensis*, 17+21 in. The aye-aye is about the size of a cat and has large naked ears and a big bushy tail. There are only two large rodent-like teeth in each jaw, and there is a gap between these front teeth and the remainder of the dentition. When it has bitten a hole in a bamboo or sugarcane an aye-aye fetches out the pith with the long third finger of the hand. All the fingers and toes have claws except the thumbs and big toes. Aye-ayes live in bamboo thickets in eastern and north-western Madagascar and are rather rare. They are nocturnal and go about either alone or in pairs.

## Ungulates

THE Ungulates form one of the largest groups of mammals, and they can be subdivided in a number of different ways. Some consider that they are a super-order containing five orders: the elephants, the sirenians (manatee and dugong), the hyraxes, the odd-toed ungulates and the even-toed ungulates. Others consider that only the odd-toed and the even-toed groups should be regarded as sub-orders of the Ungulates; this latter classification is adopted here.

Most of the Ungulates are large, fast-moving herbivores, well adapted for running fast over wide grassy plains when pursued by their enemies. The limbs are elongated, with the metacarpal bones of the fore limbs and the metatarsals of the hind limbs very long. The toes are sheathed with solid hoofs on which the animals walk, and the remainder of the foot does not touch the ground. The molar teeth usually have broad crowns and are well adapted for grinding and crushing the plant food so that the digestive juices can act upon as large a surface as possible. Ungulates are found wild, in all parts of the world, except in the Australasian region. They have supplied man with a large number of domestic animals.

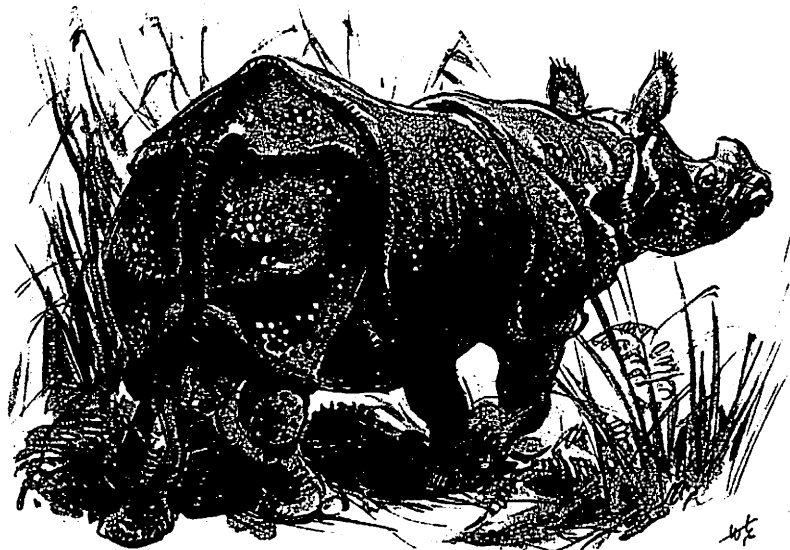
## Perissodactyls or Odd-toed Ungulates

The perissodactyls, or odd-toed ungulates, are characterized not so much by the number of the toes, but by the fact that the central axis of the foot runs through the third toe, which is much more powerful than the others; in the horses the third toe is the only one which touches the ground. Most of the animals in this group have three toes, that is, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th, the only exceptions being the tapirs which have four toes on the fore limbs. They all have very mobile lips, and also two nipples situated be-

tween the hind limbs. The sub-order consists of three families, the rhinoceroses, the tapirs and the horses. At first sight it might seem that these three families have little in common, but in fact there are many extinct species which provide transitional forms between them and show that the classification is in fact justified.

## Rhinoceroses

The large stout body with thick powerful legs, the thick, rigid and almost naked skin and the horn or horns on the snout make it easy to distinguish the rhino-



Great Indian Rhinoceros

ceroses from all other mammals. The mouth is relatively small and the eyes very small, so that rhinoceroses have poor sight. On the other hand, their hearing is good; the ear is shaped like a cornet, with hairs along the edges. The tail has a little tuft of hairs at the tip. Each limb has three toes with hooves, but without pads. The horns are made up of fine horny threads which form a compact mass. The incisor and canine teeth are more or less reduced. Rhinoceroses usually live together in pairs with their young. The period of gestation is 17-18 months and the young rhino is fed by the mother until it is almost two years old. There are five species of living rhinoceros in Africa and south-east Asia.

**Great Indian Rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros unicornis***, 120 + 23 ± 67 in. The skin, which is even thicker than that of an elephant, is much folded around and on top of the neck and on each shoulder; on the hind quarters and on each thigh there are large shields of skin separated by deep folds. The horn is longer and more pointed in the female than in the male and may reach a length of 15 in. They feed mainly on grass. The Indian rhinoceros is now found only in a narrow belt of country along the foot of the Himalayas from Nepal to Assam. The total surviving population has recently been reckoned at about 250 animals.

An Indian rhinoceros weighs about two tons.

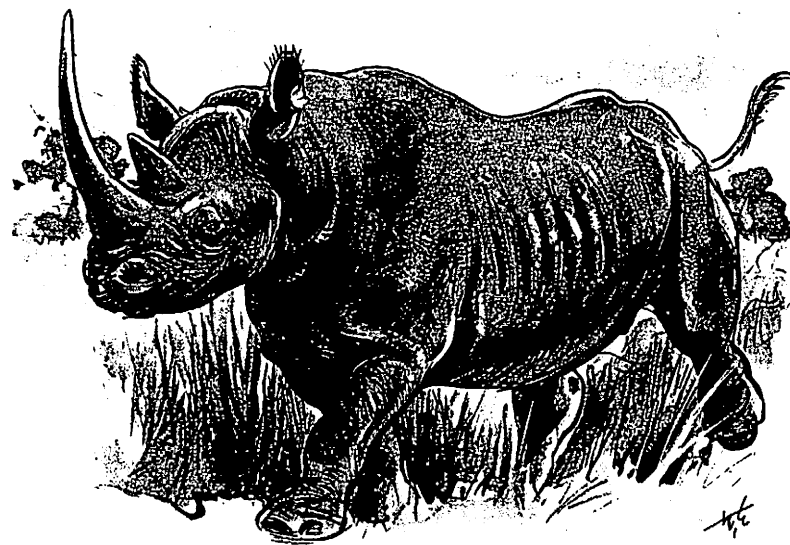
*The Javan Rhinoceros* is somewhat smaller. It lives in Malaya and Java and there are only about 30-40 of them left in protected areas.

*The Sumatran Rhinoceros* is the smallest species, and it has two horns. It is native to Burma, Malaya, Sumatra and Borneo, but was almost completely exterminated during the last war, and its present status is still in some doubt.

**Black Rhinoceros, *Diceros bicornis***, 95 + 23 ± 63 in. The front horn is the longest and may measure 28-30 in., and exceptionally even longer. The upper lip is drawn out to a point, and there are no incisor or canine teeth. Black rhinos browse on leaves and shoots in the

savannah country of Africa south of the Sahara, but have been much hunted both by Europeans and Africans.

*The White Rhinoceros* is larger and its broad upper lip, without a point, is well adapted for grazing. It has two horns and lacks both incisor and canine teeth. This is a rare animal found principally in southern Sudan and in a nature reserve in Natal. Both the black and the white rhinoceros are grey in colour. Some consider that the Boers used the name white rhinoceros because the first specimens seen had been wallowing in mud which had dried on them and given them a whitish appearance. It is more likely that the name arose through a confusion of the word *wide*, from the form of the upper lip, with *white*.



Black Rhinoceros