

OPUSCULA SELECTA  
NEERLANDICORUM  
DE ARTE MEDICA

FASCICULUS DECIMUS

QUEM

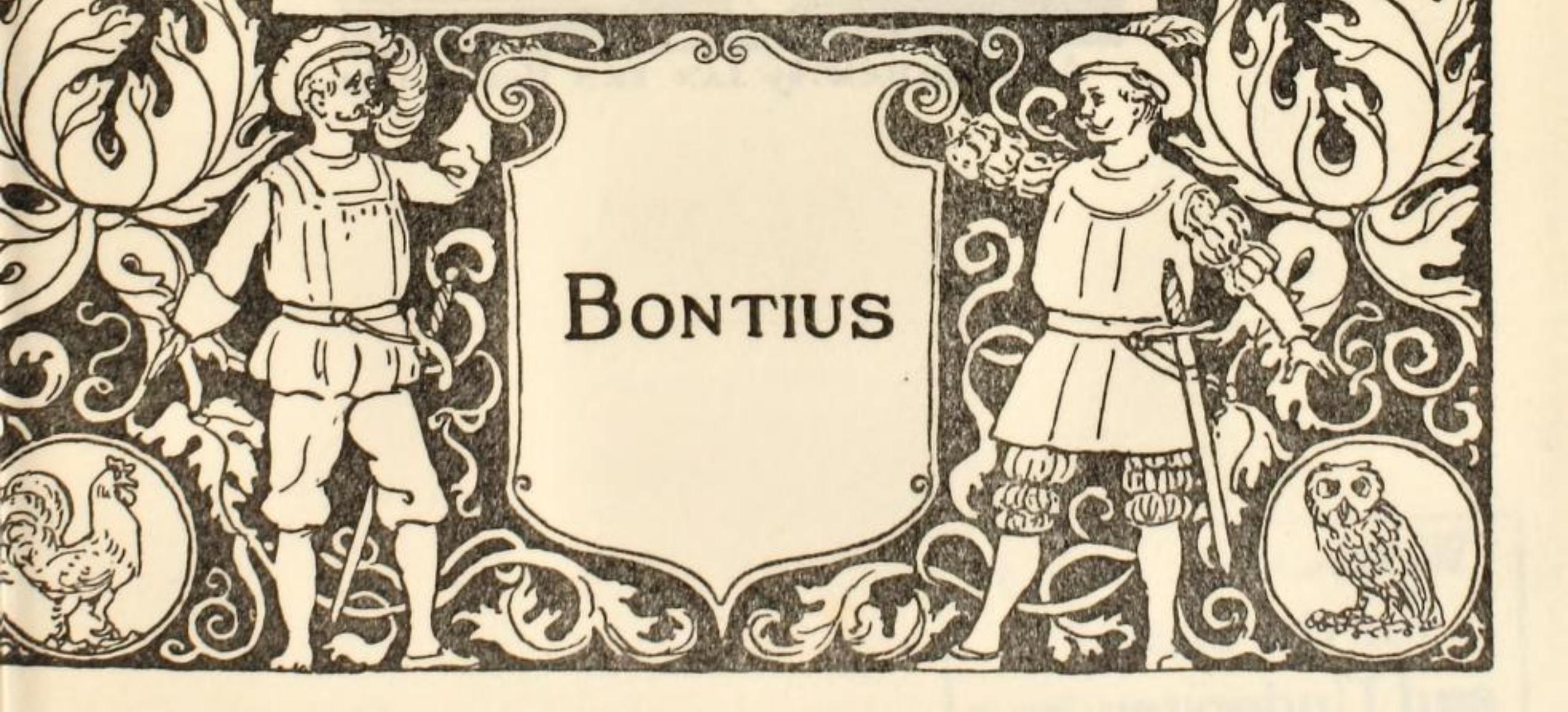
CURATORES MISCELLANeorum  
QUAE VOCANTUR

NEDERLANDSCH TIJDSCHRIFT  
VOOR GENEESKUNDE

COLLEGERUNT ET EDIDERUNT

Amstelodami  
SUMPTIBUS SOCIETATIS.

MCMXXXI



BONTIUS

ONDER DE  
TROPISCHE  
GENEESKUNDE  
VAN  
BONTIUS

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BONTIUS  
ON TROPICAL MEDICINE

Nam fit ex terra quadam argillae instar glutinosa, quam colligentes Indi, ollis in eam rem ex argilla, longe fortiori quam in nostra patria, confectis indunt, ac aquam addentes eam curiose baculis circumagitant, dein fornacibus in hunc usum effectis imponunt, ac per ignem exsiccata omni aqua, dein terra hac calcinata lateribus praedictarum ollarum, demptis sordibus quae in fundo haerent, tutiam lateribus affixam abradunt, quam arcis inclusam venalem ferunt per totam Indianam, ejus enim usus est in depilatoriis apud hasce gentes, praesertim foeminis, dum se in balneis, vel fluviis lavant.

In Persiae autem Provincia Kirmon dicta hujus terrae argillaceae ex qua tutia coquitur, à Persis ac Armeniis mercatoribus qui negotiandi causa huc advehuntur, magnam copiam reperiri non semel audivi, qui etiam ut lucrum ex Tuty, quam Persica lingua Tutyah vocant uberius faciant, eam distribuunt in lapidem Tutyah ac in pulverem ejus magis vilem, quam seorsim volentibus tum divendunt.

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#### IN CAPUT XIV.

#### DE EBORE UBI QUAEDAM SCITU NON INJUCUNDA DE RHINOCEROTE.

Fol. 49.

*Paragrapho 10.* Author fatetur se Rhinocerotem nunquam vidiisse; ast ego eum non tantum centies caveae inclusum vidi; sed & in sylvis vagantem. Cuite è nigra est cinericea, instar Elephantinae rugosa admodum, cum profundis plicaturis circa latera ac in dorso: crassam admodum habet pellem, ut quae ictui Japonicae machaerae facile resistat. Neque enim haec bestia (ut apud nos pingitur) scutis munita est; sed hae plicaturaे hos clypeos mentiuntur neque una pars durior est altera. Rostro est porcino; sed ante acutiore neque tam obtuso, in cuius extremitate cornu istud extat unde nomen sortita est bellua, (aliud altero majus pro aetate Rhinocerotis.) Colore etiam cornu variat, modo nigrum, modo cinericeum, modo album est. Magnitude autem corporis mediocris statura, Elephantem proxime accedit mediocrem, nisi quod pedibus sit longe humilioribus & propterea tam conspicuum etiam non est animal. Caeterum innoxium est, nisi laces- situm neque crudivorum est ut Tygris; sed herbis vescitur ac virgultis, iisque perquam spinosis, nam linguam (ut infra dicetur) habet asper- rimam: sed si irritetur hominem simul, ac equum, tanquam pulicem

prosternit, quem dein lambendo necat, dum asperitate linguae cute ac carne usque ad ossa hominem denudat. Carnibus ejus Mauri vescuntur: sed nervosa plane est, ac ferratos *Plauti* dentes postulat. Ut porro ferocitatis hujus exemplum habeatis attendite. Vir mihi notissimus ac familiaris retulit, se duobus aliis comitatum in sylvas exspatiatum equitem ivisse, ac reperisse Rhinocerotem femellam cum catulo suo in luto se volutantem; nam hoc animal aequa, ac sues & apri coeno mirifice gaudet, bellua ipsis visis assurgit ac lento passu recedens pullum suum prae se rostro trudens agebat. Unde unus ex tribus temerarie satis feram insequitur, ac exerta quam ferebat machaera Japonicā belluae nates ac tergum ferit, nullo sequente sanguinis fluxu, veruntamen dissecta aliqua ex parte cute, striae latae ac albae apparebant, quod patienter bestia ferebat, donec sylvae appropinquans, catulum suum virgultis ac carectis oculuisset; tum vero retro conversa ac horrendum grunniens, equitem nostrum invadit: sed bonis avibus equus perterritus retro saliit, sed Rhinoceros tamen femoralia equitis mordicus apprehendit, & quia è serico materia levissima confecta erant discerpsit, ac noster se in fugam, quantum potest, dat insequente eum acriter Rhinocerote: ipso perveniente ad derelictos socios, qui impetum belluae declinantes, post duas ingentes arbores, vix duos pedes latos à se invicem distantes, se stiterant: sed bestia furore correpta, priore equite relicto in duos pedites, nam equos ligatis pedibus pastum demiserant: sed seu ingenito ipsi stupore, seu furore impedita viam inter duas istas arbores omni vi quaerebat, quas quidem horribiliter tremere faciebat: sed vim ejus crassities ipsarum insignis impediebat, tantisper donec ipsis daretur tempus sclopeta sue expediendi ac sese colligendi è metu, tum belluam iteratis ictibus in fronte feriunt per cerebrum, quam collapsam mox Mauri servi, qui lignatum in sylvis abierant ac ab equite periculi admoniti erant, securibus ac dolonibus & lanceis interfecere, sociis non parum maledictis in equitem se invehentibus, non sine reliquiis ingentis terroris, ac sic fortissimae belluae ferociam evasere: nam hoc animal si sclopeto laesum, aliquando per sylvas fugit, quicquid obvium est cum summo fragore, ac horrore audientium prosternit, etiam satis crassas arbores, sed haec de Rhinocerote sufficient. Quicquid porro de Elephanti docilitate dicitur verum est: ac desino si prius *Plinii*, ac *Aelianii* errores detexero, qui inflexiles pedes, & crura sine flexuris Elephantes habere scribunt, quod adeo falsum est: nam praeterquam quod hominibus tantum

circa crura, ac femora articulationes sint, Elephantibus praeterea flexurae in medio tibiarum sint. Proboscide porro (ut bene *Plautus*) tanquam manu utitur in cibo capiendo, ac ea tanquam manu in os ingerit.

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#### IN CAPUT XVI.

##### DE AGALLOCHO SEU LIGNO ALOËS, CALAMBAC INDIS DICTO. Fol. 64.

Lignum aloës praeterquam quod in Insula Sumatra, directo in conspectu Javae sita, nascatur: etiam frequens oritur, ac optimum in Champac vicina Chinae regno regione, & in Cochin china. Ac quod cortice nudatum hinc in patriam feratur, non ideo evenit, quod sine cortice crescat: sed quod seape quasi uno trunco etiam diversae species virgultorum ac stirpium temporis diuturnitate coalescant, haud secus quam in benjuifera arbore fieri diximus: nam hoc mirum nobis videri non debet, cum sciamus per artificium etiam diversae speciei arbores alienae speciei inseri. Caeterum hoc modo incolae lignum aloës, ab aliis virgultis ac ligno separant. Truncos aloës caesos deponunt in ripis fluviorum in coeno ac luto, ut diversi generis lignum carie consumtum se à ligno calamba seu aloës separet, unde cortice calamba consumpto, qui tam oleosus non est, quam ipsum lignum, quod praeterea minus teredinibus ac putredini obnoxium est, tale quale in officinis in patria, ad nos quoque defertur. Lignum hoc porro Aloës gustu plane aromaticum est ac subamarum, unde forsan aloës nomen mutuatum est. Pulvis ejus ad scrup. 1. pondus sumptus cholerae medetur, quam mordexi incolae vocant, ac omnibus intestinorum affectibus frigides, ac ventriculi medetur egregie. Tum tineas, ac ascarides puerorum efficaciter necat. Chinensibus porro ac omnibus Mauris ethnicis in sacrificiis pro suffumigio est.

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#### IN CAPUT XVII.

##### DE SANDALO. Fol. 68.

*Paragrapho tertio* auctor noster refert, pallidum ac flavum santalum plurimum in Tymor insula nasci, de quo hoc porro memorabile hic

It is made of a glutinous earth like clay, which the Indians who gather it, put into earthen pots made on purpose, much stronger than those in our country; and adding water to it, stir the whole carefully with a stick. Then they place them in furnaces till the water is evaporated. Afterwards, removing the drags which remain at the bottom, they pick off from the sides of the pots the calcined earth or tutty, which they carefully preserve for sale. It is used in India as a cosmetic for destroying hair, more especially by the women, when they bathe.

The argillaceous earth, of which tutty is made, is found in great quantity in the province of Persia called Kirmon, as I have often been told by Persian and Armenian merchants, who came here to negotiate business, who, that they may make more profit of tutty or tutyath, in the Persian language, divide it into the stone and a cheaper powder, which they sell separately, as the purchasers incline.

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#### ON CHAPTER XIV.

##### OF IVORY, AND THE RHINOCEROS.

In the 10th paragraph the author confesses that he never had seen the rhinoceros: but I have not only seen them an hundred times in his den, but also wandering through the woods. His skin is of a dark ash-colour like the elephantinum, very rough with deep plaits on the sides and back. It is so thick as to be impenetrable by a Japan dagger. This beast is not armed with shields (as it is commonly painted); but these plaits counterfeit them: nor is one part of the skin harder than any other. Its snout resembles a hog's, but is more acute: in the extremity of which is the horn, which has procured it the denomination of bellua (an other and older name, than that of rhinoceros). The colour of the horn is various, as black, white, or sometimes ash-coloured. The size of its body is nearly the same with that of the elephant, only its legs are shorter; and, on that account, it is not so conspicuous. It is a harmless animal, unless provoked, and not carnivorous like the tyger: but eats herbs and twigs, and these, too, very prickly; for it has a very hard tongue. But if it be exasperated, it will toss up a man and horse like a fly, whom it will kill with licking, while by the roughness of its tongue it lays bare the bones. The Moors eat

the flesh of it; but it is very hard, and requires the iron teeth of [Plautinus] (the sponger from the plays of *Plautus*). I shall give you an instance of its ferocity. A person of my acquaintance told me, that one day when he had gone out on horseback, with two men in his company, they found a female rhinoceros rolling herself in the mud, with her whelp; for this animal delights much in dirt, as well as the sow and boar. The beast, upon seeing them, arose, and retreating slowly pushed the young one before her with her snout; when one of the company rashly pursued her, and, with a dagger, struck her on the back. No blood issued forth; but a little of the skin being cut off, there appeared broad white streaks, which the creature suffered patiently, till approaching a neighbouring wood, she hid her whelp among the brakes. Then turning round, and grunting horridly, it made towards the rider; but by good chance the horse, being frightened, leaped back. The rhinoceros, however, snatched the horse's trappings with its mouth, which being of silk it tore; the rider in the meantime flying at full speed, and the rhinoceros pursuing. The persecuted horseman now regained his associates, who, to evade the shock of the furious animal, had posted themselves behind two huge trees, which were scarcely two feet asunder. The impetuous rhinoceros, relinquishing its former object, attacked the companions who were on foot (for they had set their horses a grazing with legs tied). But whether led by its natural stupidity, or impelled by fury, it sought to push its way betwixt the trees, which it made shake in a terrible manner. Their extraordinary thickness, however, resisted its violence, till the men, recovering their terror, presented their muskets, and with repeated charges shot the wild beast through the head. Then the Moorish slaves who had come to gather fuel, and been apprised of the event by the rider, effectually killed it with axes, swords and spears; while the company, still quaking at their recent danger, inveighed against the temerity of the assailant. Thus happily they escaped the ferocious animal, which, (when hit by a bullet,) scouring the forests in its agony, spreads ruin and consternation around. But this may suffice of the rhinoceros. All is true which we are told of the docility of the elephant; and nothing remains but to remark an error of *Pliny* and *Aelian*, who have said that the legs of the elephant are destitute of joints, and inflexible. For while men have articulations only at the knees and haunches, the elephant has them also at the middle of the legs. Moreover (as *Plautus* well observes)

its proboscis serves instead of a hand both in taking its food, and conveying it to its mouth.

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### On CHAPTER XVI.

#### OF AGALLOCHUM, OR ALOES-WOOD, CALLED BY THE INDIANS CALAMBAC.

Aloes-wood is produced not only in the island Sumatra, situate opposite to Java, but grows plentifully, and of the best kind, in Champac, a country bordering on China, and likewise in Cochinchina. And although it is imported thence into Holland without any bark upon it, such, however, is not its native state; but is a consequence of the frequent coalition of stems of various kinds of wood into one tree, as we have observed to be the case in the benzoin. Nor will this circumstance appear extraordinary when we reflect, that trees of different kinds are united together by the art of ingrafting. The inhabitants separate the aloes-wood from the rest in the following manner. When the aloes are cut down, they lay the trunks of them in the slime and mud on the sides of rivers, that the other kinds of wood, become rotten, may separate from the calamba, or aloes. By this preparation the bark is consumed, being not so oily as the wood, which therefore is less obnoxious to worms and putrefaction, and is brought to us in the same state as to the shops in our country. The aloes wood is of an aromatic and bitterish taste; whence, probably, it has received its name. A scruple of it in powder cures the cholera, which the natives call mordexi; and excellently heals all cold disorders of the stomach and intestines. It also effectually destroys the tineae, and ascarides in children. And lastly, it is used at sacrifices, as incense by the Chinese and all the heathen Moors.

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### On CHAPTER XVII.

#### OF SAUNDERS.

In the third paragraph, our author informs us, that a great deal of the pale and yellow saunders grows in the island Tymor. Of the

IACOBI BONTII.

HISTORIAE NATURALIS & MEDICAE.

LIBER QUINTUS.

DE QUADRUPEDIBUS, AVIBUS, & PISCIBUS,

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Quae nova fertilibus progignat Semina Terris,  
Et quidquid pandat divite Iava sinu:  
Et queis vicinum natitetur Piscibus Aequor:  
Quae vacuum pennis Aera pulset Avis:  
Et quis squamiferis proserpat in orbibus Anguis:  
Densa Feras umbra quas quoque Silva tegat.  
Hesperidum & pulcros vis contemplarier Hortos?  
Me lege, & electo Codice doctus abi.

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C A P U T I.

DE ABADA, SIVE RHINOCEROTE.

*Garcias ab Orta*, Medicus Proregis Goënsis, Lib. I. Aromatum, cap. 68, confitetur, se nunquam conspexisse Rhinocerotem. Ego eum vel millies vidi, tam cavea inclusum, quam aliquando in silvis ad pasturam euntem: Quantum igitur in me est, hoc animal ad vivum hic describam, ut pictorum error eluceat, qui illud scutatum, & squamis obsitum, ob oculos ponunt. Cuta est è nigro cinericea, qualis color etiam conspicitur in Elephantis, & Bubalis Indicis: glabro est corpore, vel paucissimis pilis obsito: cutis porro rugosa plane est, & plicis superinducta, quae scuta & clypeos istos mentiuntur, quos ipsi pictores affingunt, sed revera pellis eorum, ut aliorum animalium, non est discreta, sed continua; Corium autem tam crassum est, ut machaera Iaponica illud vix dissecare quis valeat. Rostro est Suillo, non tamen tam obtuso, sed acutiore, & super foraminibus narum, id tam famosum Cornu conspicitur, unde lingua Graeca etiam haec Bellua nomen sortitur.

Colore id Cornu plerumque est nigro, saepe cinericeo, aliquando, licet rarius, albo, quod etiam multo carius, quam reliqua, venditur.

Magnitudine Rhinoceros & corporis mole facile Elephantem aequat, sed pedibus brevioribus non tam conspicuum animal ostendunt. Quoad naturam Rhinoceratis, innoxium est, nisi lacescitum; sed tum crudelissimum est, non solum in ipsis qui eum offendunt, sed in quaeque obvia, arbores totas prosternendo cum ingenti fragore: quod scite *Martialis* expressit lib. 1. Epigramm. 22, hisce versibus:

Sollicitant pavidi dum Rhinocerota magistri,  
Seque diu magnae colligit ira ferae,  
Desperabantur promissi praelia Martis,  
Sed tamen is rediit cognitus ante furor;  
Namque gravem gemino Cornu sic extulit Ursum,  
lactat ut impositas Taurus in astra pilas.

Idem *Martialis* id. eod. lib. Epigr. 9, adhuc clarius enarrat, hisce versibus, quibus (prout tum crudelia tempora erant) *Domitiano* adulatur:

Praestitit exhibitus tota tibi, Caesar, arena,  
Quae non promisit praelia Rhinoceros,  
O! quam terribiles exarsit pronus in iras!  
Quantus erat cornu, cui pila taurus erat!

Ubi porro hominem prostravit, asperrima sua lingua illum lingendo enecat, tum cutem & subjectam carnem abradit usque ad ossa; hinc etiam spinis ac vepribus libentissime vescitur;

Lingua vivum occidit lambendo Rhinocerotis,  
Aulica falsidici sic quoque lingua necat.

Animal hoc, crudivorum non est, ut Tigris, de cuius amicitia cum Rhinocerote proxime agemus: Caeterum de irritatae bestiae furore aliquid addam, quod nuperrime accidit Secretario Nostrae Civitatis *Theodoro Iemmingio*, qui cum nuper duobus aliis comitatus eques in silvam exiisset exspatiatum, in paludoso loco in Rhinocerotem cum catulo suo incidit (nam hoc animal non secus coeno, quam Porci & Apri, libenter volutatur) qui illis visis surrexit, ac tarde recedens pree se

agebat catulum suum silvam versus, qui cum lasciviens aliquando restaret, mater ipsum rostro protrudebat. Interea quidam ex eorum consortio p[re]te temeritate, equo insidens, belluam insequitur, & exerta machaera, quam gerebat, Iapenica, posteriores partes Rhinocerotis ferit, sed ictibus non penetrantibus, propter cutis crassitiem, aliquot striae albae in tergo & natibus bestiae apparebant. Quod patientissime Bellua ferebat, quo[us]que Catulum suum inter vepres & salicta, occulisset, tum enim repente conversa in equitem nostrum, cum immani grunnitu, & stridore, ejus caligis mordicus apprehensis, eas mordicus discerpsit, materia levi, utpote Bombycina, sequenti, alioqui plane actum de eo fuisset: sed equus forte prudentior aliquanto suo rectore, retro saliit, & in fugam convertitur, insequente ipsos omni vi Rhinocerote, prosterundo cum horribili fragore arbores, & quicquid obvium ipsi impedimento esset. Dum noster eques devenit in eum locum, ubi socios reliquerat, quibus visis, Rhinoceros, eo derelicto, alios impedit, qui furorem belluae declinantes, post duas ingentes arbores se abscondiderant, vix duos pedes intermedia rima à se invicem distantes, & sive hoc felici eorum fato, seu stupore huic animali ingenito, evenerit, bestia solummodo per istam rimam summo conatu sibi viam quaerebat, & arbores, non secus ac arundines, tremere faciebat; sed tamen crassities earum, frontis ipsius impetum infringebat. Interim dabatur eis locus Sclopeta sua explodendi (quae propter latrones Iavanos, ibi tum temporis vagantes, unicuique gerere mos erat) & belluam adactis aliquot ictibus per cerebrum ferendi, & sic bestiam immanem prostravere, suppetias ferentibus Mauris servis, qui istuc à dominis suis lignatum missi erant, qui animal hoc porro dolonibus, & securibus contrucidavere: Sed hoc erat vere excitare Crabrones. Porro, ut cum *Plinio* finiam, is refert lib. natural. histor. 8, cap. 20, haec verba: *Pompeius* primum Rhinocerotem Romae in spectaculis suis & ludis exhibuit, dicitque porro longitudine fere Elephanto esse parem: Sed crura ipsi longe esse breviora, inde quoque non tam conspicuum est animal, quam *Elephas*, qui altis pedibus, & cruribus insistit.

Quidquid de *Elephantum* docilitate dicitur, verum est: ac desino, si prius *Plinii* & *Aelianii* errores detexero, qui inflexibles pedes, & crura sine flexuris *Elephantes* habere scribunt, quod adeo falsum est: nam praeterquam quod homines tantum circa crura ac femora articulationes habeant, *Elephantibus* praeterea flexurae in medio tibiarum sunt. Proboscide porro (ut bene *Plautus*) tanquam manu utuntur

in cibo capiendo, & ea in os ingerunt. In lava, quod sciam, non producuntur, sed quidem multi & magni in Sumatra, quae nobis è regione in conspectu jacet.

Annotatio. Quia autem graphice depinxit Autor celebrem hunc Rhinocerotem, & non nisi cranii à trunko avulsi iconem exhibuit. Operae pretium duxi totius animalis picturam acquirere, ut posthac simul errandi occasio auferatur. Quapropter elegantem & genuinam hanc belluae effigiem ad vivum in Indiis depictam favore praestantissimi Viri, *Ioannis Wtenbogaert*, in Amstelodamo Hollandiae Quaestoris, hic offero. Caeterum non indignum quoque notatu, quod in dissectione capit is in cerebro repertus sit lapis, ann. 1630, huc ex lava allatus: Visu non imbellis, tactu admodum glaber, durus, ponderosus, uncias circa duas pendens; pollicem fere longus, gibbosus, renisque Porcelli figurae aemulus, utraque extremitate obtusus, exterius coloris coracini, interius ex spadiceo undulatus: de cuius usu altum mihi silentium, donec qualitates penitus per experientiam revelatae fuerint.

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## C A P U T II

### DE TIGRIDE

Quoniam Tigris in patria nostra, magis fama, ac scriptis veterum innotuit, quam visu, & quia multa de hac ferocissima Bestia, veritati minus consona feruntur, ego propter viciniam, quae nobis, quamvis invitis, cum hac fera intercedit, eam paulo exactius describam. Primum itaque quod *Plinius* disertis verbis ait lib. 8. Natur. Histor. cap. 18, quod Tigris sit animal tremendae velocitatis, manifestus in eo est error: nam è contra bestia tardigrada est, & propter eam causam magis homines appetit, quam carnem Bubalorum, Cervorum, & Aprorum, & reliquorum animalium, quae hic passim in Sylvis, ut ferae, vagantur. Tum Tauros, & Vitulos feros reticeo, quorum in Insula lava ingens est copia; nam haec animalia, nisi ex insidiis imitantur, facile ferociam hujus ferae effugiunt perniciitate sua, quapropter quicquid horum venatur Tigris, ex insidiis hoc facit, dum latens inter vepreta, & salicta, in praetereuntes bestias saltu transverso irruit. Quod si aberraverit, semel rugiens recedit, & circumit Sylvae aliquot spatium, ubi rursus eas bestias praeterituras observat: Unguis praeterea praedam semper ferme in cervice ferit, ac unico ictu, quodvis valentissimum, & robustissi-

to bring it to their mouth. They are not found in Java, as far as I know, but in large numbers in Sumatra, which is right opposite.

Remark. Since the writer has described the notorious rhinoceros and only gives a picture of its skull, torn from the body, I thought it worth while to obtain a drawing of the entire animal, in order to exclude all errors. Therefore I show you here the nice and true picture of the beast, drawn in India, after the living model, by courtesy of the excellent gentleman *Johannes Uuttenbogaert*, chancellor of Holland in Amsterdam. Furthermore it may be mentioned that, when dissecting a head, which was brought hither from Java in the year 1630, it was found to contain a stone. It was good-looking, smooth to the touch, hard, and about 2 ounces in weight, about the length of an inch, lumpy, like the kidney of a swine in shape, with obtuse ends, the outside black, inside with brown waves. I must be silent on its use however, till I have gained experience on its properties.

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## CHAPTER II.

### ON THE TIGER.

I will describe this animal somewhat extensively, since I have an intimate — albeit unwilling — acquaintance with it, and since this very savage beast in our country is chiefly known by hearsay and the writings of classic authors, which for the greater part are untrue.

In the first place it is not true, when *Pliny* says (Nat. Hist. Book 8, chapt. 18) that the tiger is extraordinarily fast, on the contrary, it is a very slow animal, therefore it is longing more for men than for buffaloes, deer, boars and other wild animals, that roam in our woods. I will be silent on the wild steers and calves, that are found in abundance in the island of Java. For those animals escape easily by virtue of their speed, unless they are attacked from ambush. Therefore, when hunting such an animal, the tiger always uses an ambush and hides between thorny brushes and willows and from there leaps upon the passing beasts. When he misses, he retires roaring and takes cover in another place in the woods, again stalking the passing beasts. Furthermore he fastens his claws to his prey's neck, and fells the animal with a single stroke, no matter how strong it is, and after

## JACOBUS BONTIUS.

### NATURAL AND MEDICAL HISTORY.

#### BOOK THE FIFTH.

##### ON QUADRUPEDS, BIRDS AND FISHES.

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Tell me what strange herbs Java produces on her fertile fields and what is spread on her rich bosom; and what are the fishes swimming in her neighbouring sea; and what are the birds, that fly in the free air; and which snakes crawl along with scaly coils. And what are the wild animals hidden in the deep shadows of the woods. Do you want to behold the wonderful garden of the Hesperids?

Read me and, after reading, you will be wiser.

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#### CHAPTER I.

##### ON THE ABADA OR RHINOCEROS.

*Garcias ab Orta*, physician of the vice-roy of Goa, confesses in Book I, On the fragrant herbs, Chapter 68, that he never saw a rhinoceros. But I saw the animal a thousand times, caged, or grazing in the woods. As far as I am able, I will describe this animal, as I saw it, in order to make clear the error of the artists, who picture it with a shield and with scales. Its skin is grey black, similar to the colour of the elefant and the Indian buffalo. Its body is smooth or covered with a few hairs, its skin is wrinkled and covered with folds, giving the impression of the shields, as pictured by the artists. But the skin does not consist of different pieces, but it is a whole, as is also the case in other animals. The skin however is so thick, that it hardly can be cut by a Japanese sabre. The animal has a pig's snout, not so obtuse however, but more pointed, and above the nostrils is the famous horn, which has earned it the name of *Bellua* (monster) in Greek. Usually this horn

s black, often grey, and sometimes, but seldom, white, those are sold for a much higher price than the other horns.

Its size and weight equals easily that of the elefant, but since it has short legs, this is not so striking.

Concerning the nature of the Rhinoceros, it does no harm when not roused, but then it is very malicious, not only threatening those who attack it, but all what is in its way, uprooting entire trees with much noise. *Martialis* expresses this nicely in Book I, Epigram 22, in those verses:

While the anxious attendants teased the rhinoceros and the wrath of the terrible animal arose, there seemed to be no chance of the promised fight. But his well-known fury returned. For twice it threw the heavy bear with its horn, as does the steer the dolls of straw.

Still clearer *Martialis* says the same in the same book. Epigr. 9, with the following verses, in which he flatters *Domitianus* (revealing the cruel customs of his time).

Visible for you, Caesar, in the entire arena the rhinoceros gave unpromised battle. O! Frightful was his wrath, when, with lowered head, he tossed the steer and played ball with him.

When the animal has thrown a man to the ground, it kills him by licking him with its extraordinary rough tongue, which removes skin and flesh and leaves the bones bare. Furthermore it likes thistles, thorns and thorny brushes as food.

The rhinoceros' tongue destroys a living being by licking; so at the court does the tongue of the slanderer.

This animal is no carnivour, as is the tiger; on the friendship of which two beasts we will soon discourse. But I will add something on the wrath of this animal, when roused, which happened to our Secretary of State, *Theodoor Jemming*. Some time ago this gentleman, when roaming on horseback in the woods with two others, found in a marshy spot a rhinoceros with its young (for this animal likes the mud as do pigs and boars). After the animal had sighted him,

it rose, and drove its young towards the wood, slowly receding. When the young stopped in its wantonness, the mother pushed it forward with its snout. In the mean time one of the company, seated on horseback, followed the animals recklessly, and after having drawn the Japanese sabre he carried, he slapped with it the hindquarters of the rhinoceros, but since the strokes did not penetrate the thick skin, only some white stripes appeared on the back and buttocks of the animal. The monster suffered this very patiently, till it had hidden its young between thorny shrubs and willows, then it turned suddenly on our horseman, caught his boots under frightful roaring and growling, and rent the same to pieces, the light material, to wit bombazine, giving easily way, otherwise he should have suffered the same fate. But luckily the horse had more brains than its rider, leaped back and took to flight, followed by the rhinoceros, who destroyed trees with loud cracking and all what impaired its course. When the rider arrived at the place, where he left his companions, the rhinoceros, seeing them, left him and attacked the others, who hid behind two enormous trees, hardly two feet apart, to evade the wrath of the animal. And may be their stars were lucky, or it was due to the native stupidity of the animal, but he tried with awful force to find a way between the two trees, which vibrated like reed, but as they were too thick, they checked the strikes of its head. Meanwhile, they had the opportunity to fire their rifles (everybody used to carry a rifle by reason of the Javanese robbers, who roamed in the neighbourhood) and to hit his brain-pan; so the monster was brought down, with the help of Moorish slaves who were sent hither by their master to collect wood and who finished the animal with axes and daggers. But this was really exciting the horse-flys. To finish with *Pliny*; he tells in Book 8, On the Natural History, Chapt. 20: *Pompeius* had the first Rhinoceros on show in his theatre in Rome and he says it was as long as an elefant, but its legs were much shorter, therefore it is not so remarkable an animal as the elefant, that has longer feet and legs.

What is said on the docility of the elefant is true and I will finish after having corrected the error of *Pliny* and *Aelianus*, who state that the elefant has rigid feet and legs without joints, what is untrue, for, as man has a joint in the midst of the leg and in the hip, the elefant has still another joint in the middle of the shin-bone. They use their snout (as is also told by *Plautus*) like a hand, to catch their food, and

to bring it to their mouth. They are not found in Java, as far as I know, but in large numbers in Sumatra, which is right opposite.

Remark. Since the writer has described the notorious rhinoceros and only gives a picture of its skull, torn from the body, I thought it worth while to obtain a drawing of the entire animal, in order to exclude all errors. Therefore I show you here the nice and true picture of the beast, drawn in India, after the living model, by courtesy of the excellent gentleman *Johannes Uuttenbogaert*, chancellor of Holland in Amsterdam. Furthermore it may be mentioned that, when dissecting a head, which was brought hither from Java in the year 1630, it was found to contain a stone. It was good-looking, smooth to the touch, hard, and about 2 ounces in weight, about the length of an inch, lumpy, like the kidney of a swine in shape, with obtuse ends, the outside black, inside with brown waves. I must be silent on its use however, till I have gained experience on its properties.

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## CHAPTER II.

### ON THE TIGER.

I will describe this animal somewhat extensively, since I have an intimate — albeit unwilling — acquaintance with it, and since this very savage beast in our country is chiefly known by hearsay and the writings of classic authors, which for the greater part are untrue.

In the first place it is not true, when *Pliny* says (Nat. Hist. Book 8, chapt. 18) that the tiger is extraordinarily fast, on the contrary, it is a very slow animal, therefore it is longing more for men than for buffaloes, deer, boars and other wild animals, that roam in our woods. I will be silent on the wild steers and calves, that are found in abundance in the island of Java. For those animals escape easily by virtue of their speed, unless they are attacked from ambush. Therefore, when hunting such an animal, the tiger always uses an ambush and hides between thorny brushes and willows and from there leaps upon the passing beasts. When he misses, he retires roaring and takes cover in another place in the woods, again stalking the passing beasts. Furthermore he fastens his claws to his prey's neck, and fells the animal with a single stroke, no matter how strong it is, and after

having drunk the blood, which he likes very much, he drags it in the woods to feast on the meat. Therefore the tiger likes to live near man, who has not so acute a scent as the animals aforesaid, also because man cannot escape by his speed. I should judge the tiger to belong to the family of the cats for not only the head and the rest of the body is very similar, but they have also the same ways; for the cat — as is well known — catches mice with one single leap and kills the same with its claws, before devouring them. This is still more evident with the large spotted cats from Persia and Cyprus, that are the perfect image of the tiger with their grinning and wide-open muzzle. Furthermore they live chiefly in woods in the vicinity of a river and when the other wild animals come to drink, they jump from their hiding-place and devour one. The other wild animals have an instinctive fear for the tiger, by cause of its savageness. Therefore the Javanese call it not unrightly „Radja oetang”, which means King of the woods. At least this wild animal is incredibly strong, for it drags a felled buffalo, be it three times as large as itself, like a block to the woods. To illustrate this, I tell you, that the Hon. Gen. *Petrus Carpenterius* had constructed a number of traps from strong timber around the woods to catch tigers, with a goat in each, to attract the tiger with its bleating, and it happened that a large tiger was caught, after the double doors had closed. This animal with its claws, in which he is strongest, twisted the timbers, albeit those were fastened with iron clamps, and escaped without touching or harming the goat. Now I will tell something strange of the friendship between tiger and rhinoceros, and then I will finish. Where lives a rhinoceros, there usually is also the lair of a tiger and often they may be seen together. But I was curious and asked the Javanese the reason, this being probably, that the tiger is a carnivour and eats very much, which disturbs its stomach, the rhinoceros is a herbivore, therefore the tiger follows him and uses his excrements as medicine, like the cats make use of cat-mint, the dogs of grass and the deer of dictamnus. I judged the friendship between the two not to be true from the fact, that the rhinoceros does not allow the tiger to draw near, when it feeds its young. And one morning, when I happened to roam near the banks of the river, in order to look at the flowers, that bloom abundantly in that neighbourhood, I found on the bank a young rhinoceros, its hindquarters being torn away and lacerated by claws, that was still living and roaring pitifully.

My Moorish slaves, a pair of which was in my company, said, that this was undoubtedly the work of a tiger. Furthermore, when those animals go together, they glance at each other continuously, they growl and bare their teeth, which is in my opinion certainly not a sign of friendship. And truly, those animals represent very well the kind of friendship the Javanese feel for each other, who mistrust each other so deeply, that they do not trust their own sons, much less other relatives. I will add only this: I doubt whether the lion is as strong as the tiger, at least the lions I saw in Africa near the Cape of Good Hope, were much smaller than the tiger. This reminds me of the words of *Valerius Martialis*, this witty poet, in Book I, Epigram 18.

The tiger, a rare gem from the Hyrcan mountains, who used to lick the hands of his attendant, has killed the lion in his wrath with quick teeth, a fact, that never has occurred before. This he did not dare to do when he lived in the deep woods; since he is a captive, he became more savage.

In the year 1628 a tiger, that was kept here in a cage, escaped and, although accustomed to men from his prime youth, it attacked and killed in the outskirts of the fortress of Batavia a horse, that was grazing, which obliged the burghers and soldiers from Batavia to kill it, in order to prevent more mischief. This I saw with my own eyes. And a short time ago, when the Javanese were obliged to leave the town for a second time, a tremendous tiger was caught and killed under the city-wall, in the presence of our General Mylord *Jacobus Spex*. And some time ago a deserter was hung, who attacked a few years ago a tiger with his left hand, caught its tongue, and opened its belly with a large knife, so killing him. But I think this was more a case of boldness (which sometimes is favoured by Fortune) than of courage. So much for the tiger.

The porcupine is found everywhere in the woods and often hides in the reed-grass, as I experienced once to my great terror. For, in the year 1628 the rumour was abroad, that *Enatacanus* was going to lay siege to us and we started to chop the wood around the town, to

R H I N O C E R O S.

