

GUIDE to the
New York Zoological Park

By

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NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



AFRICAN BLACK RHINOCEROS

Desert. This wild horse was at once acclaimed with great interest, as the supposition is that it was from such stock that the races of domestic horses were derived.

In height these animals are like an undersized domestic horse and of a "bay" color. There is a narrow, dark dorsal stripe visible on the short summer coat, which is quite smooth and lustrous. The winter coat is very long and shaggy. With the adult there is an erect mane. The upper portion of the tail has short hair, but the terminal half is typically horselike.

These animals started breeding in 1905 and the Society has disposed of a number of specimens bred in the collection, these being sent to various zoological gardens.

Rhinoceroses. Family Rhinocerotidae.

In prehistoric times species of Rhinoceros were broadly distributed. This is evidenced by fossil remains. There were big Rhinos in North America, Europe, Asia and Africa. During the glacial period the Rhinos of the northern parts had thick, woolly covering as protection from the cold. In the subsequent disappearance of many large forms of mammalian life, the Rhinos of North America and Europe dropped out of existence, as did most of such life over the greater part of Asia,

leaving a few remnants of the Rhinoceros races in southern Asia, a few islands of Malaysia and in Africa.

Six kinds of these animals are generally recognized as existing today. Thus the Rhinoceroses are of high interest in being the last of the impressive and widely distributed races of the past. Modern Rhinos have been greatly reduced in distribution in comparatively recent years, it being estimated that hunters have exterminated the African kinds from about nine-tenths of the territory they formerly occupied.

The African Black Rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*). This is the Rhinoceros most commonly seen in captivity. It is the most numerous of any of the species and exists in areas where it is more readily obtained when young. But even at that, the transport of a bulky young Rhinoceros may involve considerable difficulties. A specimen in the Park's collection was captured in the northern part of Tanganyika Territory, thence slung on a pole and carried six days' journey on men's shoulders to the shores of Lake Victoria Nyanza. From there she was transported by steamer to Port Florence at the head of the Uganda Railroad, thence 500 miles by rail to Mombasa, thence in a crate during the long voyage to New York.

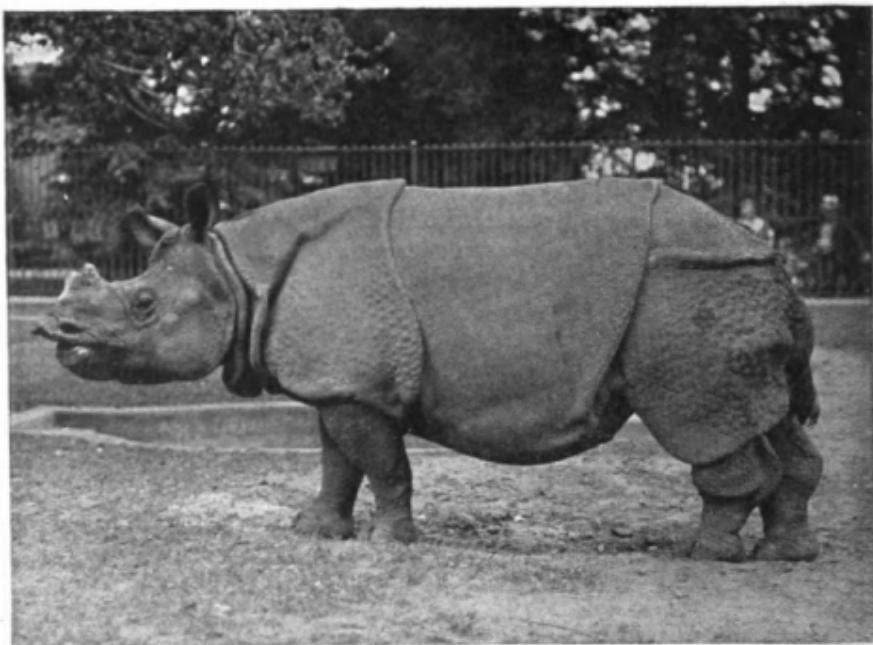
This species has two horns, the front one usually much longer. While called the "Black" Rhinoceros, this is rather a misnomer as the animal usually presents a dark gray or brownish appearance. Formerly abundant on the fertile plains of east and southern Africa, it has been exterminated over a large part of this region, but the species now appears well established in protected territory.

The White Rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*), also called the Square-lipped Rhinoceros, is the largest of the two existing African species and by far the rarest. In recent years it has been estimated that barely 200 of these massive creatures continue to exist, but these remnants now appear to be, for the most part, in protected territory. Owing to elongate head, absence of prehensile upper lip and other characters, this Rhinoceros is placed in a genus by itself.

Next to the Elephants, this is the largest land animal. There are records of examples standing 6½ feet high at the shoulder. There are two horns, the forward one the longer, which may exceed a length of 4 feet. This extremely impressive animal is bluish-gray in color, not actually white as its name implies. No specimen has ever reached America alive, but we hope that some day we may exhibit an example.

The Indian Rhinoceros or One-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) differs from the African kinds in having but one horn. This species has long been represented in the Park's collections, although very rare in zoological gardens.

It is one of the most wonderful of all living animals, appearing much as we suppose a prehistoric monster to have been. While of lesser height than the African species, it closely approaches it in weight. The extremely thick and tough skin is divided into great rigid slabs or



INDIAN RHINOCEROS

armor-like platings, overlapping the softer and movable integument. The effect is like a great suit of hinged armor designed to fit the animal. This character of body covering is carried out among the several other smaller species of Rhinoceros occurring in eastern Asia and several of the larger islands of Malaysia, one of which, the Sumatran Rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) is quite thickly covered with hair. It has two short horns.

The great Indian or One-horned Rhinoceros, the star among its Asiatic clan, has become greatly restricted in range. It now occurs only in some districts in northeastern India.

Tapirs. Family Tapiridae.

This small family closes our listing and consideration of the hoofed animals. The distribution of its 5 recognized species is curious. Four inhabit tropical America and one makes its home in Malaysia. In prehistoric times Tapirs were well distributed all over the world, but climate on the ancient continental areas was very different from what it is now, and tropical conditions extended far into latitudes where severe winters now occur. These odd creatures alternately frequent dense forests and the margins of rivers which traverse such places. They are very fond of the water and swim well. All Tapirs are similarly