

THE  
ANIMAL CREATION :

A Popular Introduction to Zoology.

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and four nails on the hind feet. Its tusks are often very short.

The **African Elephant** (*Elephas Africanus*) has a round head, a convex forehead, large flattened ears, and but three nails on the hind feet. It is more fierce than that of India ; its tusks are much longer, and the female has them as long as the male. This species is not tamed.

The **Ordinary Pachyderms** are distinguished by having no prehensile trunk, and feet provided with three or four distinct toes. They are divided into several genera, as in the following Table :—

#### CLASSIFICATION OF ORDINARY PACHYDERMS.

Number of their toes .	Having on all the feet . . .	Equal, and the foot having the appearance of being forked .	Four equal toes .	<b>HIPPOPOTAMUS.</b>
				<b>HOG.</b>
	Unequal, and the foot not forked . . .		Two large middle toes armed with strong hoofs, while the lateral toes are too short to rest on the ground . . .	
			Three toes on all the feet . . .	<b>RHINOCEROS.</b>
			Four toes before and three be- hind . . .	<b>TAPIR.</b>

The **River Horse** (*Hippopotamus* \*) is found in most of the rivers of Africa, but in greatest numbers south of the equator. These are unwieldy looking animals, having their legs so short that the belly almost touches the ground. The feet are curiously constructed, so as to facilitate walking among the mud and reeds of the river bottoms, and enable them to swim with ease. The hoof is divided into four short, apparently clumsy, and unconnected toes, and they are able, through this spread of foot, to walk rapidly through the marsh. These animals consort together in flocks of from three to thirty. They choose shallow parts of the river, where the depth of the water allows them to keep their footing, and yet have their whole body submerged. Here they remain all day, swimming off into the deeps, and diving for their grassy food. They prefer parts of the river

\* *ἵππος*, hippos, a horse ; *ποταμός*, potamos, a river.

where the current is not very swift, and are therefore to be found in all the lakes of the interior.

The Hogs (*Sus*) have on all their feet two middle toes, which are



FIG. 420.—WILD BOAR.

of large size, and armed with strong hoofs, and two exterior toes, which are much shorter, and scarcely touch the ground in walking. Their canine teeth bend upwards, so as to form projecting tusks, and their snout is flattened, and adapted for rooting in the earth.

The Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros*\*). These are large animals, with each



FIG. 421.—SKULL OF RHINOCEROS.

foot divided into three toes. The bones of the nose are very thick, and

\* *βίν, βινός, rhin, rhinos, a nose; κέπας, keras, a horn.*

united into a sort of vault, upon which is supported a solid horn, composed of agglutinated hairs. They frequent marshy places, and live on herbs and the branches of trees.

The **Tapirs** (*Tapir*) have their nose prolonged into a short pro-

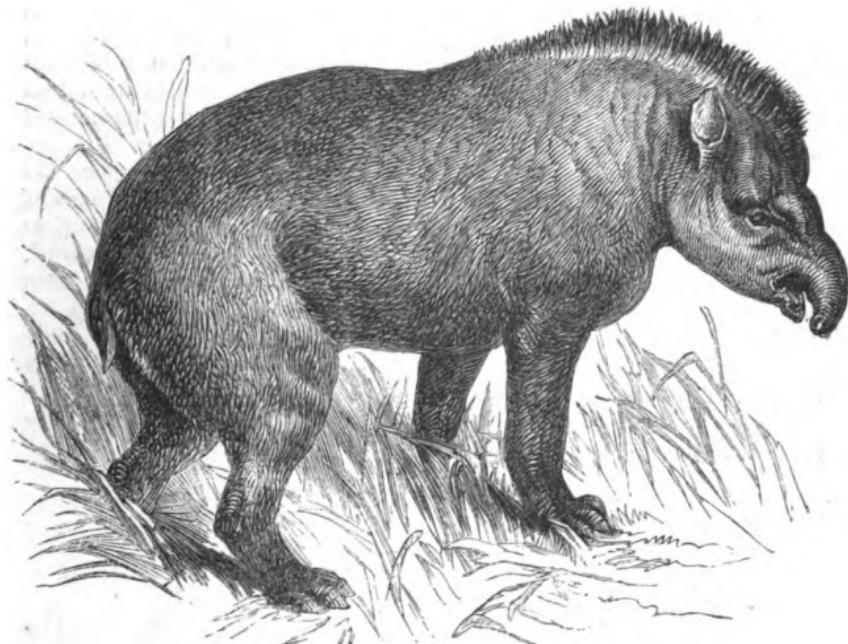


FIG. 422.—AMERICAN TAPIR.

boscis, which, although very moveable, is not prehensile, like that of the Elephant. There are several species known.

The third family of Pachydermata, or hoofed non-ruminating animals, comprehends

The **Solipedes**, having only one apparent toe on each foot, which is enclosed in a single hoof. They have, however, under the skin, the rudiments of lateral toes. Only one genus is known, namely,

The **Horses** (*Equus*), distinguished by having six incisors in each jaw; small canines likewise exist in the males, which are wanting in the females. Between the canines and the first cheek-tooth there is a space which corresponds with the angle of the lips, where the bit is placed, an arrangement by which alone man has been able to subjugate this vigorous quadruped.

The **Horse** (*Equus Caballus*), the noble companion of man in the

battle and the chase, in the labours of agriculture and of commerce, is of unknown origin. It would seem, he exists in a wild state, only in those places where horses, formerly domesticated, have been left in freedom, as in Tartary and America. In such places they live in troops, conducted and defended by an old male. The importation of horses into the latter country dates only about three hundred years back, and, nevertheless, wild horses exist there in immense numbers. It is asserted that troops consisting of more than ten thousand individuals are occasionally met with. The Horse is distinguished by the uniformity of his colour, and by his tail being ornamented with hair, quite from its origin.

As intrepid as his master, the horse sees danger only to face it; but docile as he is courageous, he responds to the slightest touch of the rein that guides him. The horse gives himself entirely up to the service of mankind, understands what is required from him, and, refusing nothing, labours with all his strength, and even dies rather than disobey.

The **Ass** (*Asinus*) is distinguished from the horse by his small size, by his long ears, by the black cross over his shoulders, and by the tuft of hair at the end of his tail. Though not so powerful as the horse, he is more patient and quiet, and scarcely less valuable to the peasant.



FIG. 423.—WILD ASS.

The Ass has been generally classed as a variety of the Horse. Dr. Gray, however, who has been followed by Professor Bell, separates the Ass, under the generic name of *Asinus*, leaving the Horse alone to fill the genus *Equus*.

The Ass, therefore, is not a Horse with a naked tail; he is no

mongrel, but like all other animals, has his family, his rank, and his species. Although his nobility is not quite so illustrious, it is quite as pure and quite as ancient, as that of the horse. Why, therefore, is it, that the Ass, so patient, so sober, so useful, is treated with so little consideration? Is it because he serves mankind too well and too cheaply? No one ever seems to think, as, stick in hand, he drives the overladen slave along the dusty road, that were there no horses in the world, the Ass would be the most useful, and doubtless the best cared-for, animal in creation. As it is, he is only the second, instead of being the first; but being second, he is looked upon with contempt. It is by comparison only that he is so degraded; he is regarded, not in accordance with what he is, but with what he is not: he has all the attributes belonging to his own nature, perfect in their kind; but we expect in him the form and qualities of the horse, which he does not and ought not to possess. His natural disposition is as humble, as patient, as quiet as that of the horse is proud, ardent, and impetuous. He suffers with constancy, and with courage, the blows which he does not deserve; he is content with the coarsest herbage; in everything the willing slave of man: his only deficiency is, that he is not a horse.

The Zebra (*Asinus Zebra*), very like the Ass in form and proportions, is at once the most elegant, and the most intractable of animals. His skin has the softness of satin, and is adorned with beautiful



FIG. 424.—ZEBRA.

ribbon-like stripes. In the female, these stripes are alternately black and white; in the male, brown and yellow. The limbs are remarkably slender. These animals are found in the southern parts of Africa, and numerous herds are often seen grazing on the extensive plains of the Cape of Good Hope.

The **Quagga** (*Asinus Quagga*) resembles the horse much more than the Zebra; it is striped only on the shoulders and back.

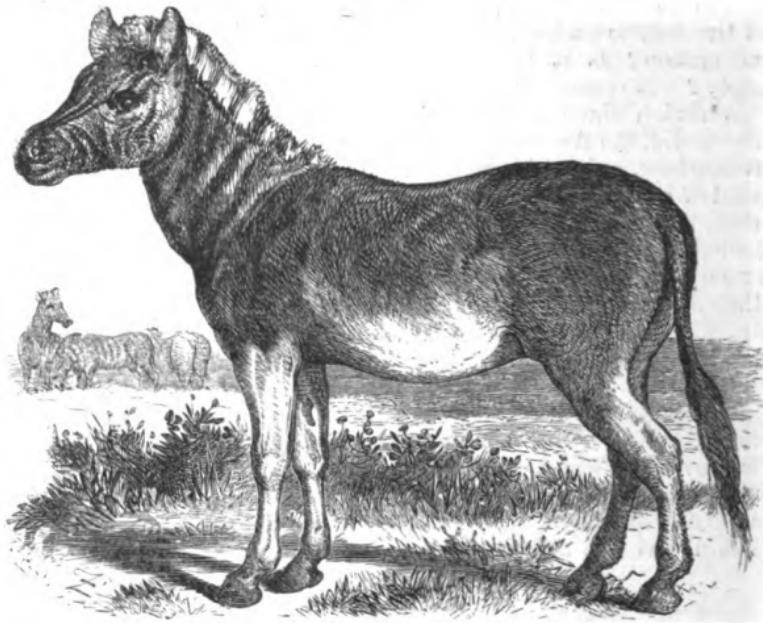


FIG. 425.—QUAGGA.

The **Onagga** (*Asinus montanus*), or Mountain Horse, is smaller than the Ass, and is marked on the head, neck, and trunk, by alternately wide and narrow black stripes, upon an isabella or bay ground. His legs and tail are white.

### ORDER III.—RUMINATING QUADRUPEDS.

#### RUMINANTIA.\*

The grand character given in the inspired volume, whereby to distinguish those quadrupeds which are specially adapted for human food, is that “they divide the hoof and chew the cud,” a description so concise, and at the same time so comprehensive, that modern science has not been able to improve it. It embraces, in fact, the extensive Order of Ruminants, which next offers itself for our notice.

The animals belonging to this order are recognisable from the circumstance that they all chew the

\* *Ruminare, to chew the cud.*