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THE
LIVING WORLD:

CONTAINING DESCRIPTIONS OF
THE SEVERAL RACES OF MEN,
AND ALL SPECIES OF
ANIMALS, BIRDS, FISHES, INSECTS,
ETC., ETC.

With Numerous Anecdotes,
ILLUSTRATIVE OF THEIR
INSTINCTS, REASONING POWERS, AND DOMESTIC HABITS.

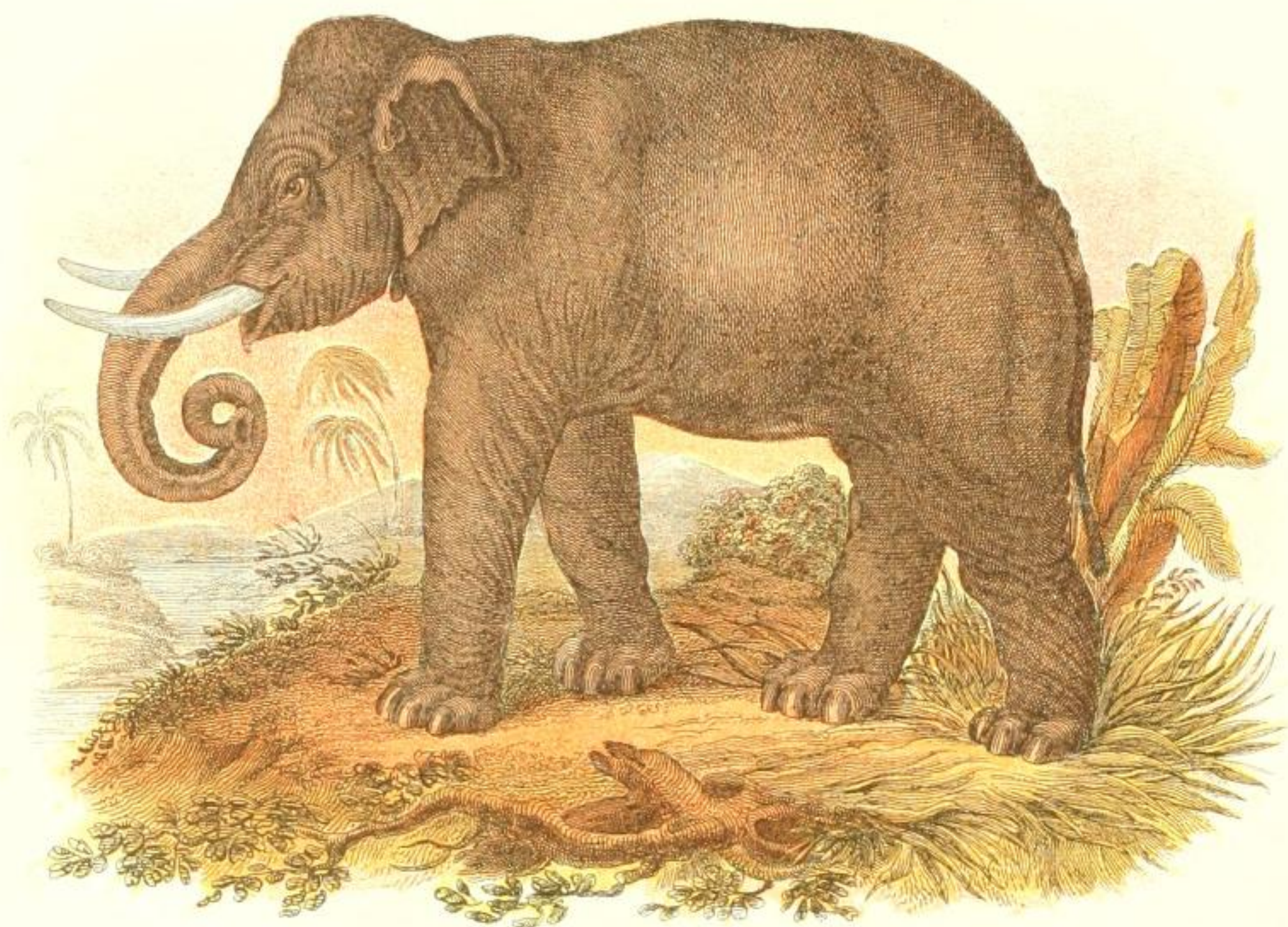
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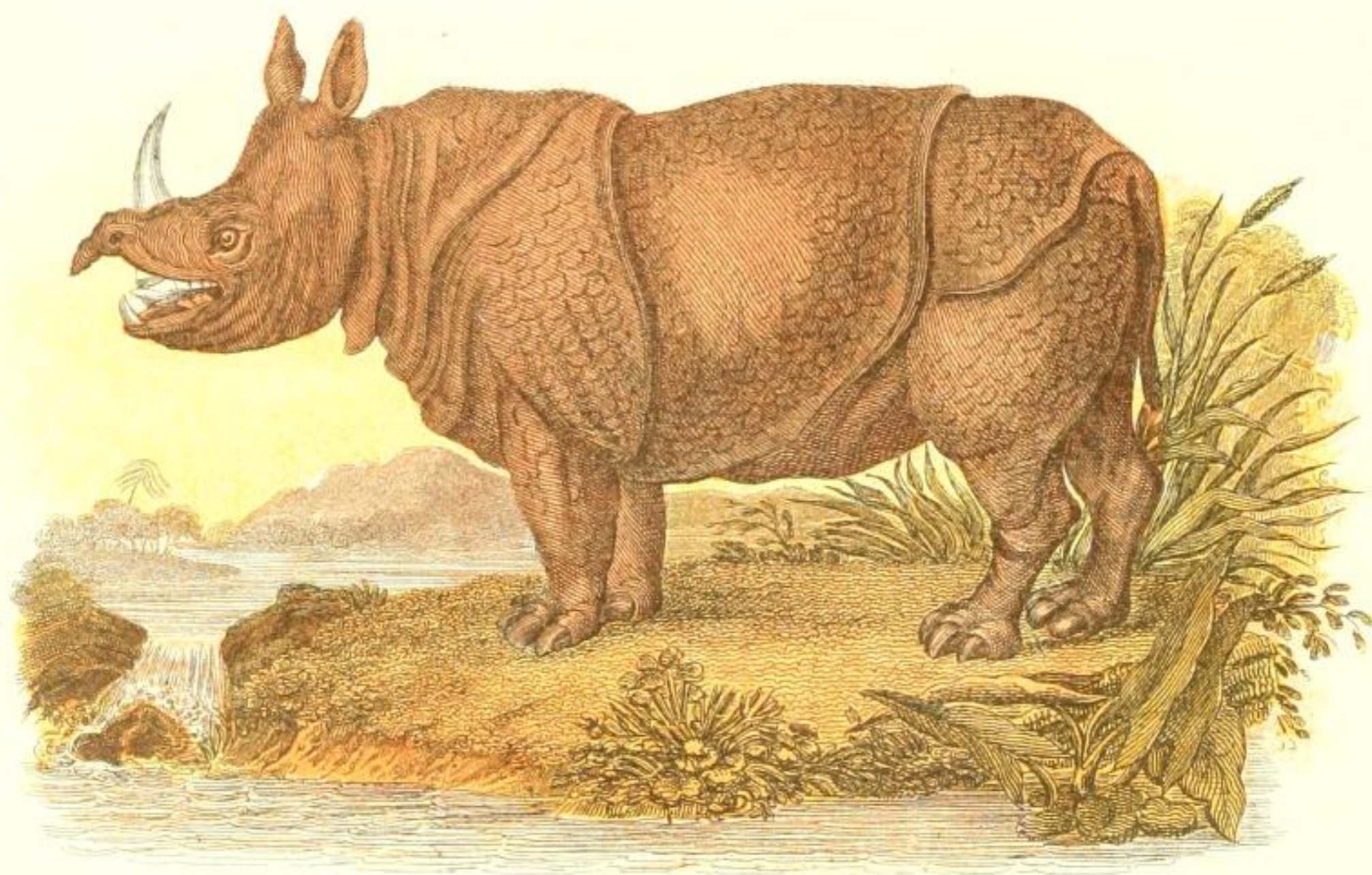
VOL. I.

Nature is a book written on both sides, within and without, in which the finger of God
is plainly visible. — FRED. VON SCHLEGEL.

BOSTON:
SAMUEL WALKER & CO.
1870.



The Elephant.



The Rhinoceros.

a very small portion of the animal exposed, and a shot at the whole body can scarcely ever be obtained. The color is a uniform bluish tint."

These animals are valuable to the inhabitants on account of the uses to which their skins are applied, and their excellent meat, as well as for the ivory of their teeth. Their ribs are covered with a thick layer of fat, celebrated as the greatest delicacy, and known to the colonists by the name of *Zeekaespek* — sea-cow pork. This can only be preserved by salting, as on attempting to dry it in the sun, as the other parts of the animal, it melts away. The rest of the flesh is lean, and is cut into large slices, and dried on the bushes. The colonists destroy the animal with the rifle, but the natives entrap it in pits.

Genus RHINOCEROS. The general appearance and form of this group of animals indicate great strength and power of endurance. The rhinoceros is a powerful beast, about twelve feet in length, and four and a half in height. The skin is arranged in folds, destitute of hair, and is almost impenetrable to any ordinary bullet. But the most striking feature of this animal is its horn, or horns; for some species have two. In regard to the structure of this member, Mr. Burchell makes the following interesting remarks: "Dispersed over the skin of all animals are pores, which secrete a peculiar fluid, which may be designated by the name of *corneous* matter. When these pores are separate, they produce hairs; when they are confluent and in a line, they produce the nails, claws, and hoofs; when these pores are confluent and in a ring, they furnish the corneous core of the horns of the animals of the ruminating class; and when confluent in a circular order, they supply matter for the formation of a solid horn, such as we see in the rhinoceros."

The rhinoceri are gregarious, though sometimes they go in pairs. Their food is entirely vegetable. The teeth vary according to age, and their feet have three toes, apparent externally, as if shod with blunt hoofs. The upper lip is long, extending into a narrow point, having prehensile powers, like the proboscis of the elephant, and is used to collect the food, and bring it into the mouth. They are extremely slovenly, but of inoffensive temper; yet when irritated, they are furious and revengeful, possessing enormous strength, and exercising a most formidable power with their horns, the principal one of which is nearly three feet in length, and though a blunt-looking instrument, when wielded by an animal of such bulk and force, is made to drive its way through almost any resistance. Their skins are used for various purposes, both in Africa and India, for which they are hunted, chiefly, however, by the natives, Europeans not liking to engage them. According to Colonel Williamson, they are shot with heavy guns, containing an iron ball of three ounces weight, and an aim is generally taken at the eye, or thorax, or some of the vulnerable parts where the skin is thinnest, and the part is

usually struck with the greatest precision. Williamson also affirms, contrary to the representations of some authors, that the rhinoceros is an animal of great activity, acuteness of smell, and rapidity of motion, and in opposition to the character we have given it above, ascribes to it a temper of extraordinary ferocity, wantonly attacking the elephant and travellers, sometimes even rendering the roads impassable. In further illustration of the habits of the animal, he relates the following incident: "In 1788, two officers, belonging to the troops cantoned at Dunapore, went down the river towards Monghyr, to shoot and hunt. They had encamped in the vicinity of Derriapore, and had heard some reports of a rhinoceros having attacked some travellers many miles off. One morning, just as they were rising, about daybreak, to go in quest of game, they heard a violent uproar, and, on looking out, found that a rhinoceros was goring their horses, both of which, being fastened by the heel and head with ropes, were consequently unable either to escape or resist. The servants took to their heels, and concealed themselves in the neighboring jungles, and the gentlemen had just time to climb up into a small tree, before the furious beast, having completed the destruction of the horses, turned his attention to their masters. They were barely out of his reach, and by no means exempt from danger. After keeping them in dreadful suspense for some time, and using some efforts to dislodge them, seeing the sun rise, he retreated to his haunt, not, however, without occasionally casting an eye back, as with regret at leaving what he wanted the power to destroy."

R. Indicus.—The Indian Rhinoceros. We have already sufficiently described this animal in our statement of the characters of the genus, and will, therefore, only add one or two paragraphs from Dr. Parsons's interesting account of a young specimen exhibited in London in 1739: "He was fed with rice, sugar, and hay; of the first he ate seven pounds, mixed with three of sugar, every day, divided into three meals, and about a truss of hay in a week, besides greens of different kinds, which were often brought to him, and of which he seemed fonder than of his dry victuals; and drank large quantities of water at a time, being then, it seems, two years old.

"He appeared very peaceable in his temper, suffering himself to be handled in any part of his body, but outrageous when struck or hungry, and pacified in either case only by victuals. In his rage he jumped about, and sprang to an incredible height, driving his head against the walls of the place with great fury and quickness, notwithstanding his lumpish aspect."

R. Sondaicus. This species differs from the foregoing, physically, in a more elongated head and muzzle, and morally, in the possession of a milder disposition. Travellers represent this rhinoceros as perfectly harmless, unless first attacked. It is of nocturnal habit, and in its night-rambles occasions

serious injury to the plantations of coffee and pepper which are laid out in the fertile districts which it selects for its retreat.

R. Sumatranus. This is a hog-shaped animal, of a dull brown color, with small, pointed ears, lined and edged with short, black hairs. But the distinguishing feature of the species is two black horns, the larger of which is placed immediately above the nose, pointing upwards, and bent a little back, being about nine inches in length. The smaller is about four inches long, of a pyramidal shape, flattened a little, and placed above the eyes, standing in a line with the upper horn immediately above it.

R. Africanus. This species is a native of Africa, and formerly abounded in the vicinity of the Cape Colony. It resembles the animal just described in its hog-like shape, and the possession of two horns. In South Africa the flesh of this animal is much esteemed as food, and is said to be excellent, resembling beef. The tongue is considered the most delicate part. When one is killed, the neighbors all flock around it, and encamp by its side, until they have consumed it entirely, being scarcely so provident as to dry any part of the flesh for future use.

R. Simus. — The Flat-nosed Rhinoceros. This species is also armed with two horns, but is distinguished from the former by its flattened nose and mouth, and larger size. M. Burchell says, "In my travels in Southern Africa, I met with this animal for the first time near latitude 26°. They frequent the fountains and streams every day, not only for drink, but also for the purpose of rolling in the mud, which, by adhering to a skin entirely free from hairs, serves to protect them from the scorching heat of the climate."

Genus HYRAX. At first view it would seem that this small group of diminutive animals would be more appropriately placed almost anywhere than among the large and powerful Pachydermes, approaching as they do very nearly the form of the Rodentia, and resembling a small hare. Their habits, too, are quite different from the other pachydermes; for, unlike the elephant, rhinoceros, swine, and tapir, they avoid the morass and sluggish stream, and make their home among the rocks and in dry retreats. Yet, notwithstanding this wide difference, they possess characters that necessarily place them in this order, which are particularly seen in the structure of the head. Besides, the number of toes in the hyrax is four before, and four behind, as in the tapir. They are united by the skin to the very nail, as in the elephant and rhinoceros, and represent those of the former animal, both in their figure and in the manner they are placed upon the foot, while the wrist joint very closely resembles that of the tapirs.

H. Syriacus. — The Syrian Hyrax. This curious animal is about eleven inches in length. The upper parts of the body are brownish-gray, the lower parts white. It is found in Ethiopia, Abyssinia, Arabia, and abounds in