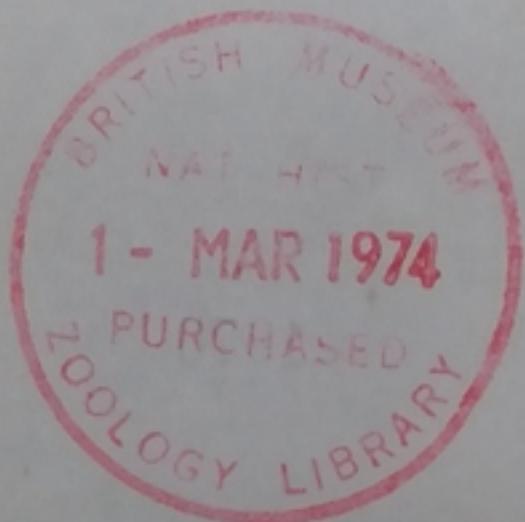


POCKET  
ENCYCLOPAEDIA  
OF SHIKAR

(Dealing with Game Birds and Animals)



COLONEL KESRI SINGH

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THE HINDUSTAN TIMES  
NEW DELHI

LIMITED  
AND PERIODICALS  
OKS 3644 Gopal House

and safe weapon to use for elephant  
s, " should be carried 600 cordite express.  
would be a good idea for sportsmen to gain  
pretty accurate idea of the animal's size by  
the measurement of the track of his  
Roughly speaking the animal would measure in  
height six times the diameter of the track of his  
forefoot. An adult male does not as a rule exceed 9  
feet and female 8 feet at the shoulder. The tusks  
weigh about 150 lbs and the animal about 5 tons.

## RHINOCEROS

There are half a dozen species of Rhinoceros found in the world but I am going to deal only with the one found in India.

It is the ugliest, largest and most powerful animal barring the elephant. The elephant is afraid of this creature. It is dull, clumsy and uncouth. The limbs are thick and strong and each foot contains three toes which are covered with hoof-like nails. The eyes are very small and head is large with biggish ears. The tail is small with a small tuft at the end.

The horn on its nasal bone grows on the skin. It is not like the horn of other animals but it is a growth of hair. The horn is a powerful weapon of offence and defence; with it the animal can uproot bushes or small trees which it desires to eat. It is a remarkable organ and much valued for its medical

use. It is in such great demand that the animal is often poached for the sake of its horn. The horn seldom exceeds a foot in length. It is composed of hair-growth attached to the skull bone from which it is easily removed a day or two after death. It is said that a drinking cup made out of it possesses the property of indicating the presence of poisons. It is also used for many ceremonial purposes.

The whole body is extremely thick with hard skin and no hair. The hardness of the skin is such that it prevents movement of the animal. It is, therefore, jointed by means of folds on the neck and shoulder to permit free movement. It is proof against the claws of tiger. In olden days its skin was used for making shields.

Although usually harmless, when provoked they show much temper. When irritated they become very dangerous and sometimes can run very fast. Their great weight and strength enable them to force their way through dense jungles, breaking down bushes and small trees.

It lives chiefly in marshy land on the banks of rivers or lakes, often wallowing in the mud for protection against flies, sun and insects.

It produces one calf only and the interval is long. Its flesh is used for food and in Nepal its meat is much prized.

It is an animal which belongs to the old world and is slowly getting extinct. It is fully protected throughout the country. It is found in some parts

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of Assam, and some places at the foothills of the Himalayas like Tarai and Cooch-Behar.

They have an uncertain temper. Once when we were riding elephants and having a general shoot in the jungle of Cooch-Behar, a male Rhinoceros attacked the elephant of the Maharaja of Jaipur. The Maharaja got ready and knocked him over with a well placed bullet before he could touch his elephant.

The simple method of shooting is to track the animal on an elephant. To beat them out with a line of elephants is very expensive. They have the habit of dropping their dung in one place like the antelope species. To shoot them at such a place is easy but rather unsporting.

When the Rhinoceros attacks an enemy he inflicts the wound more with his long sharp incisor teeth than using the horn for this purpose.

#### Measurements:

Average height at shoulder 5'-9".

Average length of horn 14".

Average length from nose to root of tail 10'-6".

Record horn shot by Tom Briscoe was  $24\frac{1}{4}$ " in Assam. Lord Curzon shot one in Nepal Tarai with  $21\frac{1}{2}$ " horn.

## WILD BUFFALO

The wild buffalo is a very big animal and has longer horns than any other animal in the world,



RHINOCEROS