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S Y S T E M  
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N A T U R A L H I S T O R Y,  
A D A P T E D F O R T H E  
*I N S T R U C T I O N O F Y O U T H,*  
I N T H E F O R M O F A D I A L O G U E.

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*Originally written in German, by Prof. RAFF of Goettingen;  
now first translated into English.*

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*Georg Christian RAFF 1742-1788*

VOLUME I.

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EDINBURGH:  
PRINTED FOR G. MUDIE AND SON, SOUTH BRIDGE;  
AND FOR J. JOHNSON, AND G. G. &  
J. ROBINSON, LONDON.

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1796.

351 pp.

P. But it will not do the same thing which the may-bug does, which flies when we wish it, as soon as we sing a little song to it; whilst the other instead of flying or running, do what one will to rouse it, draws in its head and legs as soon as one touches it, or wishes to make friends with it, and counterfeits death.

M. Well then, let us leave this uncomplaisant beetle; here is another with which you are not acquainted perhaps.

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## THE RHINOCEROS.

THIS name signifies horned-nose, because in reality this animal has a horn on the fore part of its head, and it is also called monoceros, because it has only one; this it possesses in common, with a large quadruped which bears the same name. It is, as you see, (Plate VIII. fig. 31.) two or three times larger than a may-bug, and resides in rotten wood, but especially in old hollow oaks, or in tan-pits filled with the bark of that tree. It can, like the may-bug, lie concealed during winter; and appear again in spring with its young companions. One of them has been known to conceal itself behind the wainscoting of a room, where it has been heard gnawing the timber during the whole winter, whilst it could not be imagined what it was, till the month of March when it left its concealment, and was endeavouring to regain its liberty; but was retaken and condemned to death as a deserter, to be sent afterwards to or-

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namement the cabinet of natural history belonging to the house.

As to beetles with three horns, they are only found in America, and especially in Brazil, where they are larger than our flying stags. They have horns however pointed forwards, and turned in sometimes upon one another, sometimes beside one another, like the claws of the cray-fish: they get the name of Hercules, or elephants, or flying bulls.

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### THE DUNG-BEETLE.

THIS, like other beetles, proceeds from a larva, and this larva resides in dung, where it continues at most one year. There are several species of this beetle. Some deposit or rather scatter their eggs on the dung of horses, cows, or sheep. Others make a sort of small balls of it to inclose their eggs in. Ours, represented in Plate VIII. fig. 17. is of this last species. It flies up and down, and creeps into the dung of cattle, especially of horses. Having fixed on some portion, it then makes a hole in the earth, introduces the portion of dung, which it had formed into a ball, deposits an egg upon it, returns for some more dung, and then flies away to do the same in ten other places, or even more. After some days the larva is produced and subsists on the provision made for it by its mother. This provision lasts till the spring; then it changes its skin four times, and at last becomes nymph, to pass into the state of beetle.

We have in this country, as well as in several other countries of Europe, a beetle with  
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