

NATURAL HISTORY,

FOR

THE USE OF SCHOOLS;

FOUNDED ON THE LINNÆAN ARRANGEMENT OF
ANIMALS; WITH POPULAR DESCRIPTIONS IN THE
MANNER OF GOLDSMITH AND BUFFON.

Illustrated by Thirty-eight Copperplates, representing One
Hundred and Fifty of the most curious Objects.

By WILLIAM MAVOR, LL.D.

W. Fordyce
Mavor

1758-N37

Vicar of Hurley, Berkshire, Chaplain to the Earl of Dumfries,
Author of the British Nepos, &c. &c. &c.

“ Natural History is a study particularly suited to Children: it cultivates
their talents for observation, applies to objects within their reach, and
to objects which are every-day interesting to them.”

EDGEWORTH on *Practical Education*.

“ It is to be regretted that Buffon with all his excellencies is absolutely
inadmissible into the library of a young lady, both on account of his im-
modesty and his impiety. Goldsmith's History of Animated Nature has many
references to a divine author. It is to be wished that some person would
publish a new edition of this work purified from the indelicate and offensive
parts.”

MISS MORE'S *Strictures on Female Education*.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR R. PHILLIPS, NO. 71, ST. PAUL'S
CHURCH-YARD;

BY T. DAVISON, LOMBARD-STREET, FLEET-STREET.
SOLD BY T. HURST, AND J. WALLIS, PATERNOSTER-ROW;
BY VERNOR AND HOOD, IN THE POULTRY; CARPENTER
AND CO. OLD BOND-STREET; AND BY ALL OTHER BOOK-
SELLERS: WITH THE USUAL ALLOWANCE TO SCHOOLERS.

1800.

(Price Four Shillings and Sixpence bound.)

XVI, 392 1240

dogs, and wounding them with the tusks in its lower jaw. It has an excellent scent, and is extremely swift of foot: when in danger, it will plunge into the sea or rivers, and swim and dive alternately, till it reaches a place of security.

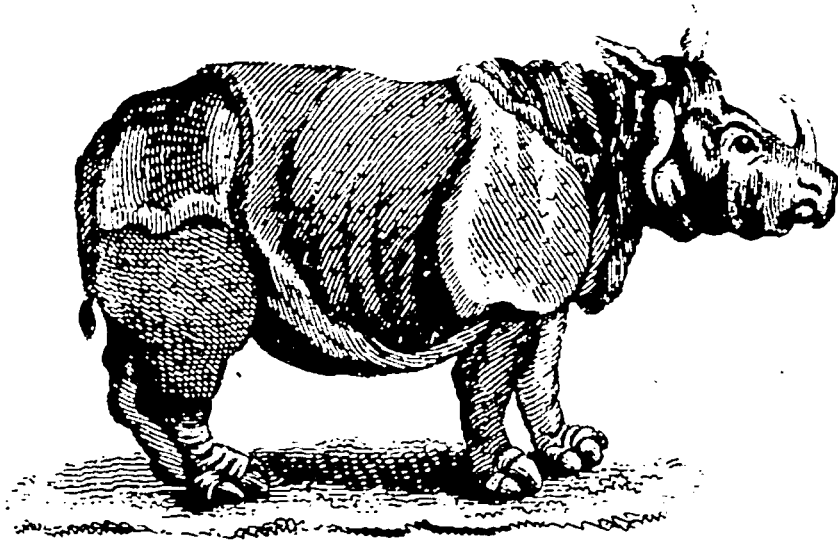
The babryouessa reposes in a very singular manner, by hitching one of its upper tusks on the branch of a tree, and then suffering its whole body to swing down at ease. Thus suspended by a single tooth, it will remain the whole night out of the reach of annoyance.

It appears to subsist chiefly on the leaves of trees and vegetables, shuns the haunts of men, and is innoxious, unless when excited to exertion in its own defence.— This animal is very common in the island of Borneo, to which it was formerly supposed to be peculiar; but it is now known to inhabit many other parts both of Asia and Africa.

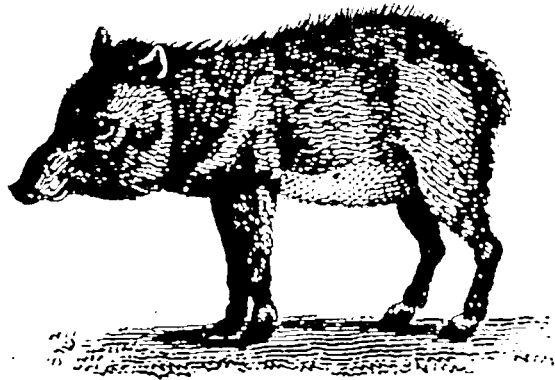
THE RHINOCEROS.

Of this animal there are two varieties, one with a single, the other with two horns on its snout. Next to the elephant, it is the most powerful of quadrupeds, and the most bulky, if we except the hippopotamus. Its length is commonly twelve feet, its height six or seven, and its circumference is nearly equal to its length.

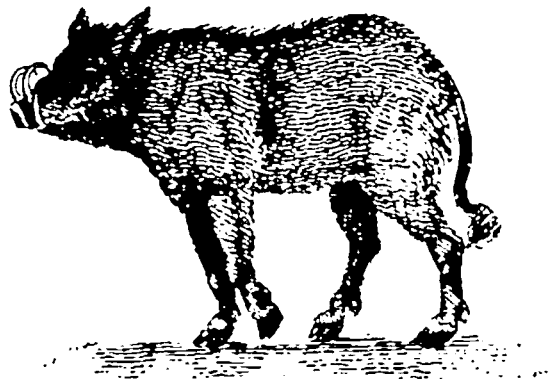
Except in strength, however, nature has not endowed the rhinoceros with any qualities that exalt it above the ordinary rank of quadrupeds; its principal resources consist in its moveable lip, and the offensive weapon on its nose, which is peculiar to the kind. This is indeed a very formidable instrument of annoyance or defence: it is solid throughout, and situated so advantageously, that it protects



Rhinoceros



Peccary



Babirusa

protects the whole visage, and enables the animal to assail its foes with irresistible effect. It frequently rips open the belly of its antagonist, and is dreaded by the tiger more than the elephant itself.

The body and limbs are covered with a blackish skin, so impenetrable as to resist the claws of the most ferocious animals, as well as the spear, and the shot of the hunters. Being incapable of either extension or contraction, it is rolled up in large folds at the neck, the shoulders, and the rump, in order to facilitate the motion of the head and limbs; which last are massy and furnished with large feet, armed with three toes.

The horn of the rhinoceros sometimes measures nearly four feet in length, by six or seven inches diameter at the base. It is commonly of a brown or olive colour, and is more esteemed by the Indians than the ivory of the elephant; not on account of real advantage derived from it, but for certain medicinal qualities which it possesses, or is fancied to possess.

Without being ferocious or carnivorous, the rhinoceros is perfectly untractable. He is merely among large, what the common hog is among small, animals; temerarious, and brutal, without intelligence, sentiment, or docility: he seems even to be subject to paroxysms of fury, which nothing can mitigate; for one that Emanuel, king of Portugal, sent to the Pope in 1513, destroyed the vessel in which it was transporting; and a rhinoceros, exhibited some years ago in Paris, was drowned in a similar manner, while on the voyage to Italy.

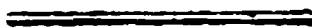
This huge beast is fond of wallowing in the mire like a hog; and testifies a marked predilection for moist, marshy grounds, never quitting the banks of rivers. The species is not very numerous; but it is found both in

Asia and Africa. The female produces but one at a time, and that at considerable intervals. During the first month, the young rhinoceros is much about the size of a mastiff.

Destitute of every beneficial quality, the rhinoceros only consumes an immense quantity of provisions while alive, and his flesh is of no value when dead. His skin, indeed, forms the hardest and best leather in the world; and among the ignorant natives of the countries where he is found, almost every part of his body is reckoned an antidote against poison, or beneficial in some diseases.

Having no appetite for flesh, but subsisting on vegetables alone, he neither disturbs the small, nor dreads the largest animals. He is rather solitary than savage, and never attacks mankind unless in his own defence.

The two-horned rhinoceros is a scarce animal; it is found only in Africa, and was a long time supposed to be a fabulous creature, till observed by Dr. Sparrman, and described in his travels at the Cape of Good Hope.



ORDER VII.—CETÆ.

THIS order includes the whale kind, the cachalot, and the dolphin. Though inhabitants of the deep, they are viviparous, respire through lungs like quadrupeds, and suckle their young.

THE NARWAL, OR SEA UNICORN.

In size this animal is inferior to the whale, seldom exceeding sixty feet in length, and the body is more slender
and