

1701

# HISTORY of QUADRUPEDS

Vol. I.



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MD CCLXXXI.

## XI. RHINOCEROS.

With one, sometimes two, large horns on the nose.  
Each hoof cloven into three parts.

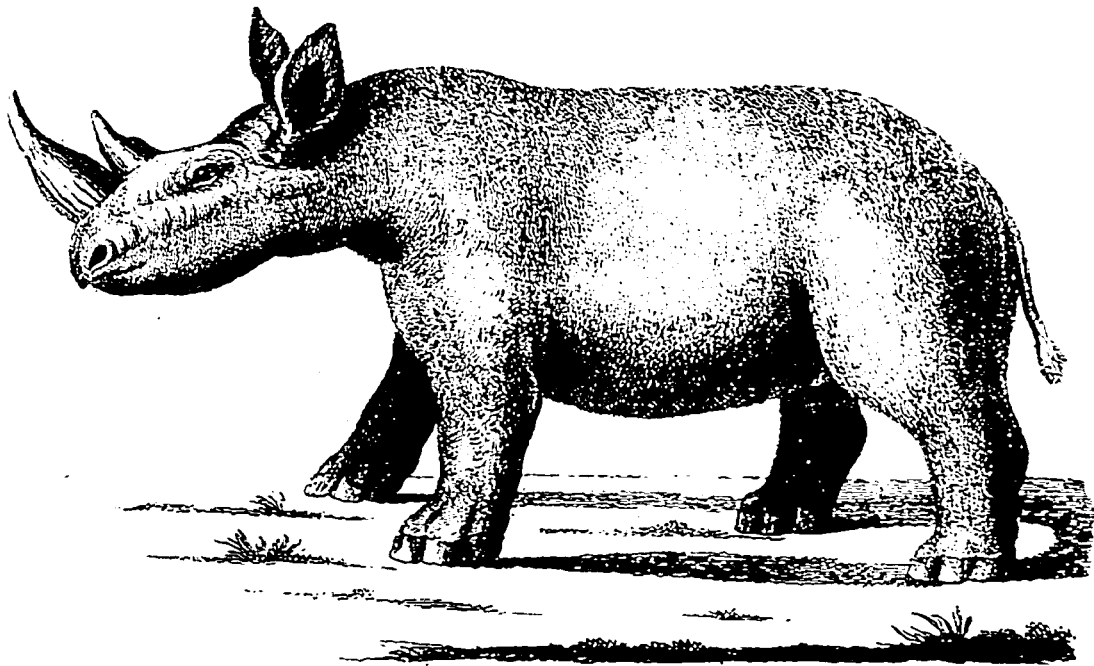
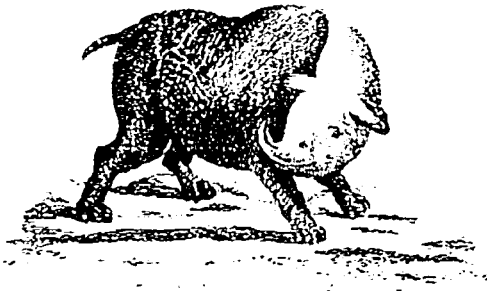
66. TWO-HORNED. *Rhinoceros cornu gemino. Martial* p. 103.  
*speſtac. ep. 22. Ph. Tr. Abr. ix. 100. Flacourt. hiſt. Madag. 395. De Buffon.*  
*xi. 910. Ph. Tr. vol. lvi. 32. tab. ii. xi. 186. Lobo Abiſs. 230.*  
*Kolben. ii. 101. Rhinoceros bicornis. Lin. ſyſt. 104. Br.*  
*Sparman. Stock. wettſk. Handl. 1778. muſ. LEV. Mus.*

**R**H. with two horns, one placed beyond the other. Nose and upper lip like the former. No fore teeth. The skin without any *plicæ* or folds; much granulated or warty; of a deep cinereous grey. Between the legs smooth, and flesh-colored. In other parts are a few scattered stiff bristles, most numerous about the ears and end of the tail. Tail thick as a thumb: convex above and below: flattened on the sides. Feet not more in diameter than the legs: but the three hoofs project forward. Soles callous.

## PLACE.

Inhabits *Africa* only. Observed first by *Flacourt*, in the bay of *Saldagne*, near the Cape. Within these few years by Mr. *Sparman*, a learned *Swede*, at some distance N. of that promontory. He, with the laudable perseverance of a naturalist, watched the arrival of those and other animals at a muddy water, whither the wild beasts resort to quench their thirst, and some to indulge, in that hot climate, in rolling in the mud. In that spot he shot two of these animals: one was so large that the united force of five men could not turn it. The lesser he measured: its length

was



Two Horned Rhinoceros N°66

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was eleven feet and a half, the girth twelve: the height, between six and seven.

SIZE.

This species seems to agree in manners with the following. Its flesh is eatable, and tastes like coarse pork. Cups are made of the horns; and of the hide, whips. Its food is boughs of trees, which it bites into bits of the size of a finger. It feeds also much on succulent plants, especially the stinking *Stapelia*.

MANNERS.

It continues during day in a state of rest. In the evenings and mornings (perhaps the whole night) wanders in quest of food: or in search of places to roll in.

Has no voice, only a sort of snorting, which was observed in females, anxious for their young.

Its dung is like that of horses. It has a great propensity to cleanliness, dropping its dung and urine only in particular places.

Its sense of sight is bad. Those of hearing and smelling very exquisite: the least noise or scent puts it in motion. It instantly runs to the spot from which those two senses take the alarm. Whatsoever it meets with in its course, it overturns and tramples on. Men, oxen, and waggons, have thus been overturned, and sometimes destroyed. It never returns to repeat the charge; but keeps on its way: so that a senseless impulse, more than rage, seems the cause of the mischief it does.

This was the species described by *Martial*, under the name of *RHINOCEROS cornu gemino*; who relates its combat with the Bear.

Namque gravem gemino cornu sic extulit ursum,  
Jactat ut impositas taurus in astra pilas\*.

In fact, the *Romans* procured their *Rhinoceroses* from *Africa* only,

\* Spect. Epig. 22.

T

which

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which was the reason why they are represented with double horns. That figured in the *Preneftine* pavement, and that on a coin of *Domitian*, have two horns: that which *Pausanias* \* describes under the name of *Æthiopian Bull* had one horn on the nose, and another lesser higher up: and *Cosmas Ægyptius* †, who travelled into *Æthiopia*, in the reign of *Justinian*, also attributes to it the same number: whereas *Pliny*, who describes the *Indian* kind, justly gives it but a single horn. *Cosmas* says, that its skin was so thick and hard, that the *Æthiopians* ploughed with it, and that they called the animal *Aru* and *Harisi*: the last signifying the figure of the nostrils, and the use made of the skin. He adds, that when the beast is quiescent, the horns are loose, but in its rage become firm and immoveable.

*Augustus* introduced a *rhinoceros* (probably of this kind) into the shews, on occasion of his triumph over *Cleopatra* ‡.

67. ONE-HORNED. Rhinoceros. *Plinii lib. viii. c. 20. Gesner quad. 842. Raii syn. quad. 122. Klein quad. 26. Grew's museum, 29. Worm. mus. 336. De Buffon, xi. 174. tab. vii. Brisson quad. 78. Pb. Tr. Abr. ix. 93. Schreber. ii. 44. tab. lxxviii.* Rhinoceros or Abbados. *Linschottan Itin. 56. Bontius India. 50. Borri hist. Cochin-China. 797. Du Halde China. i. 120. Faunul Sinens.* Rhinoceros unicornis. *Lin. syst. 104. Edw. 221. Br. mus. Asbm. mus. Lev. Mus.*

**R**H. with a single horn, placed near the end of the nose, sometimes three feet and a half long, black and smooth: the upper lip long, hangs over the lower, ends in a point; is very pliable, and serves to collect its food, and deliver it into the mouth: the nostrils placed transversely: four cutting teeth; one

\* ix. 9.

† Tom. ii. 334.

‡ *Dion. Cassius. lib. li.*

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on each corner of each jaw. Six grinders in each ; the first remote from the cutting teeth. The ears large, erect, pointed : eyes small and dull : the skin naked, rough, or tuberculated, lying about the neck in vast folds ; there is another fold from the shoulders to the fore-legs ; another from the hind part of the back to the thighs : the skin so thick and strong as to turn the edge of a scimeter, and resist a musket-ball : tail slender, flattened at the end, and covered on the sides with very stiff thick black hairs : the belly hangs low : the legs short, strong, and thick : the hoofs divided into three parts ; each pointing forward.

Those which have been brought to *Europe* have been young and small : *Bontius* says, that in respect to bulk of body, they equal the elephant, but are lower on account of the shortness of the legs.

Inhabits *Bengal, Siam, Cochinchina, Quangsi* in *China*, and the isles of *Java* and *Sumatra* ; loves shady forests, the neighborhood of rivers, and marshy places : fond of wallowing in mire, like the hog ; is said by that means to give shelter in the folds of its skin to scorpions, centipes, and other insects. Is a solitary animal : brings one young at a time, very solicitous about it : quiet and inoffensive ; but when provoked, furious : very swift, and very dangerous : I know a gentleman \* who had his belly ripped up by one, but survived the wound. Is dull of sight ; but has a most exquisite scent : feeds on vegetables, particularly shrubs, broom, and thistles : grunts like a hog : is said to consort with the tiger ; a fable, founded on their common attachment to the sides of rivers, and on that account are sometimes found near each other.

\* *Charles Pigot, Esq; of Peplot, Shropshire, at that time in the India service.*

## R H I N O C E R O S.

It is said, when it has flung down a man, to lick the flesh quite from the bone with its tongue : this is impossible, as the tongue is quite smooth ; that which wounded the gentleman, retired instantly after the stroke.

Its flesh is eaten ; the skin, the flesh, hoofs, teeth, and very dung, used in *India* medicinally ; the horn is in great repute as an antidote against poison \*, especially that of a virgin *Abbada* ; cups are made of them, which are supposed to communicate the virtue to the liquor poured into them.

## THE UNICORN.

Is the unicorn of HOLY WRIT, and *Indian* afs of *Aristotle* †, who says, it has but one horn ; his informers might well compare the clumsy shape of the *Rhinoceros* to that of an afs, so that the philosopher might easily be induced to pronounce it a whole-footed animal. I may add, that *Ælian*, *lib. iv. c. 22.* attributes the same *alexipharmic* qualities to the horn of the *Indian* afs, as are ascribed to that of the *Rhinoceros*. This was also the *fera monoceros* of *Pliny* ‡ ; which was of *India*, the same country with this animal ; and in his account of the *monoceros*, he exactly describes the great black horn and the hog-like tail. The *unicorn* of HOLY WRIT has all the properties of the *Rhinoceros*, rage, untameableness, great swiftness, and great strength.

Various animals were styled *monoceros* and *unicornis*, probably from the accident of having lost one of their horns. Thus *Pliny* mentions a *bos unicornis*, and *oryx unicornis*. Any of the great straight-horned antelopes, such as the *Indian*, N° 22, deprived of one horn,

\* It was not every horn that had this virtue : some were held very cheap, while others take a vast price.

† *Hist. An. lib. ii. c. 1.*

‡ *Lib. viii. c. 21.*

would

would make an excellent *unicorn*, and answer to the figure given of it: for on such an accident the fable seems to be founded, when the word is not applied to the *Rhinoceros*.

The combats between the Elephant and Rhinoceros, a fable, derived from *Pliny*.

An entire *Rhinoceros* was found buried in a bank of a *Siberian* river, in the antient frozen soil, with the skin, tendons, and some of the flesh in the highest preservation. This fact, incredible as it is at first sight, is given, not only on the best authority \* : but, as an evidence, the complete head is now preserved in the *Museum* at *Petersburg*: the body was discovered in 1772, in the sandy banks of the *Witim*, a river falling into the *Lena* below *Jakutsk*, in N. lat. 64, and a most ample account of it given by that able naturalist Doctor *PALLAS*, to whom this work is under such frequent obligations.

\* Dr. *PALLAS*, Nov. Com. *Petrop.* xvii. 585. tab. xv.