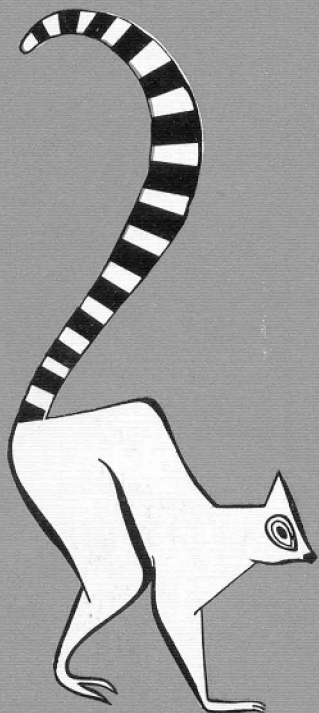


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# The Identity of the One- Horned Rhinoceros in Berlin 1874—1884

by L.C. Rookmaker

In 1874 William Jamrach brought to London a young female rhinoceros caught in the "Manipore district, Sunderbunds, Bengal". Later in the same year the animal was transported to the (West) Berlin Zoo where it lived at least until 1884. Its identity has been the subject of a long and continuing discussion, reviewed by Reynolds (1960:23) and Schlawe (1969:28). The confusion originated with P. L. Sclater. In 1874 he identified the animal as a Javan rhinoceros *Rhinoceros sondaicus* (Sclater 1877:645), but when he visited the Berlin Zoo in 1879 he thought it was a Great Indian rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros unicornis* (Sclater 1880:420); the latter identification is usually, but not always, followed nowadays.

The rhinoceros in question was illustrated on a print by Gustav Mutzel in 1882 (Schlawe 1969, fig. 20; Kourist 1970, fig. 3). I find it impossible to see the "saddle" which is so clearly formed by the anterior and posterior neck folds in the Javan rhinoceros (see photographs in Hoogerwerf 1970). Also I was unable to locate the Manipore district in Bengal; if the Manipur district in Bihar is meant, that would point to *R. unicornis*. Neither of these reasons for identifying the animal as an Indian rhinoceros are compelling, and they allow differences of opinion. More important for my present purpose is, therefore, that this female rhinoceros from Bengal (or N. India?) shows a short

(?ca. 10-20 cm.), but clearly visible horn. This calls to mind the present rather awkward discussion about the presence or absence of a horn in the female *R. sondaicus* (cp. Groves 1971: 243-246). Whatever the case may be in Java, I think everybody agrees that the females of the former Bengal populations certainly had no horn. Therefore, if Mutzel's figure were true to reality, I can only conclude that the Berlin rhinoceros was a typical *Rhinoceros unicornis*. This means, in terms of nomenclature, that the name *R. jamrachii* Sclater, 1877 now becomes a synonym of *R. unicornis*.

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