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THE
MAMMALS
OF
SOMALILAND

BY
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COLONIAL SERVICE

WITH EIGHTEEN COLLOTYPE PLATES
AND DIAGRAMS

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RHINOCEROS

Rhinoceros bloornis, Gmelln.

Somali name, *Wiyil*

DESCRIPTION.—This animal requires no description. It has been said that it is smaller than the East African variety, but this is possibly due to the poorness of its food supply during certain seasons of the year in Somaliland. The horns certainly seldom grow to any great length—20 in. for a front horn being well above the average.

MEASUREMENTS.—The following are the measurements of a male rhinoceros shot in the Ogaden country :

Length (straight)	. . . . .	10 ft. 8 in.
Height at shoulder	. . . . .	4 " 6 "

Horns :

Front horn (length)	. . . . .	19½ in.
„ (circumference)	. . . . .	21¼ "
Second horn (length)	. . . . .	9 "
„ (circumference)	. . . . .	21 "

DISTRIBUTION.—The rhinoceros is never seen north of Burao, owing to its extermination. Towards the Abyssinian border, in the Haud and Nogal Valley, they are still to be found, and are said to be plentiful in Ogadayn.

HABITS.—He inhabits broken country, whether stony or otherwise, and lives on the small stunted acacias, creepers, and small plants which abound in his natural habitat. Very short-sighted but endowed with a remarkable sense of smell, he can easily be approached with due precaution. After defecating, they generally scatter their excrement in all directions, probably with a view of obliterating their spoor. Unfortunately this strange beast is being driven before civilisation, and a few more years will see its disappearance from all save the most remote regions. The Somalis value the hide for their shields, and whip-handles are made of it.