

2. PRESENT STATUS OF THE TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS,  
*DIDERMOCERUS SUMATRENSIS* (FISCHER) IN  
 THE SHWE-U-DAUNG RESERVE, BURMA

U Tun Yin of Rangoon has sent us a recent draft report on the Shwe-U-Daung Reserve by Mr. Oliver Milton who, together with Mr. R. D. Estes, is presently engaged on a survey of wild life in Burma. This report is of a preliminary nature and covers the period of one month (July-August) when the monsoon was at its worst making it difficult to find, follow, and identify rhino tracks. More than half the Reserve, i.e. over 60 sq. miles, was sampled including some 25 sq. miles in which grew abundantly two sources of food particularly favoured by rhinoceros, namely Kyansa (*Toddalia aculeata*) and Kyein (*Calamus* sp.), where the rhinoceros were expected to be found. From all the evidence obtained, both directly and by questioning the locals, it appears that there are now only two rhinos living in this area (some believe 3) confined to the upper reaches of the streams in the remotest parts of the Reserve.

Considerable depletion of wild life took place in the Reserve during and since the last war until about 1956, anti-government elements having made protective control by the Forest Department impossible. From local evidence it seems that since about 1940 at least 17 rhinos have been killed. This figure may represent only a part of the total destruction. What an attractive commercial proposition a dead rhino can be to the poacher is shown by the values attached to the various parts of its body, given as under:

Dried blood	5 kyats	=\$1.05 U.S.	per half ounce
Fresh blood	500 kyats	=\$105	per 1 viss (=3.65 lb.)
Bone	50 kyats	=\$10.5	per viss
Skin	100 kyats	=\$21	per viss
Horn varies from 500 kyats (\$105) to 1000 kyats (\$210) per inch.			

The survey will be resumed in March/April 1960 after which a further report will be submitted by the investigators, with their comments and suggestions.

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