

# BORNEAN MAMMALS

By

**E. BANKS.**



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TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

RHINOCEROS SUMATRANUS. TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

Fig. 39.

Malay: Badak. Dayak: Schimaru. Murut: Tembaiungan.

Tagal: Camansur. Dusun: Dampak.

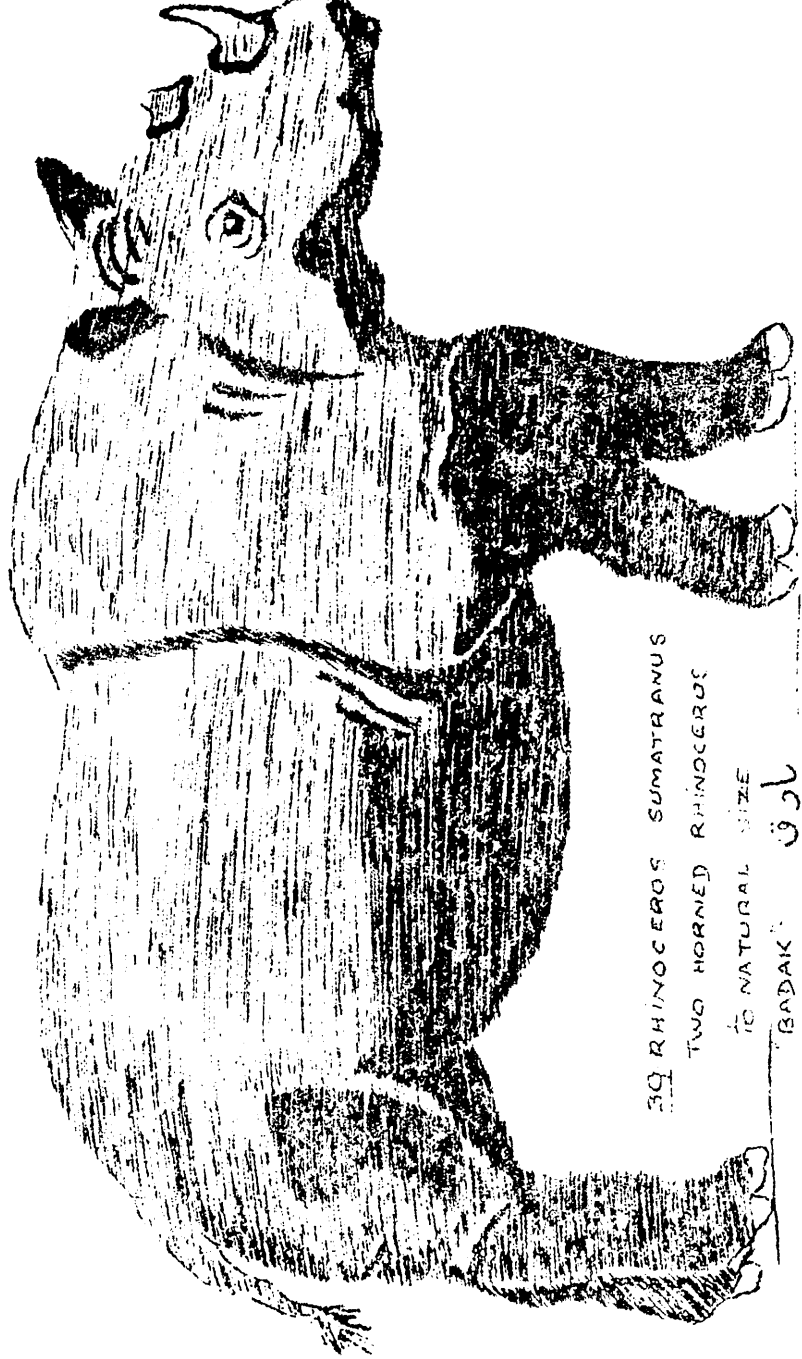
*Field characters.* Shape suggest a very large pig, colour blackish when young, ashy grey when adult but retains black fore-head and face, occasionally the rest of the body. Young are hairy with fringed ears and tufted tail but hairs are soon lost, living in thick jungle and only a few bristles are left.

Length of male 8' 6" height 4' 6" the female slightly smaller. Horns have been recorded up to 30" in length but from 15"-20" is rare, 19" is the longest Sarawak horn and 10" is a good size. Posterior horns are usually just a swelling but may reach 5" in length, both horns are as a rule less well developed in female but there are exceptions. Horns 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " long weighed 5 ozs, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " long 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  ozs. and 13" long 1 lb, 5 ozs.

*Habitat.* Formerly widely distributed but now a mountain animal living in moss forest and thorn forest on hill tops, often as high 5000 feet but may occasionally descend to plains in hot, dry weather. Solitary save for female with young or during rare mating periods, unsociable without herd instincts and may not join up with other tracks crossed. Travels slowly but tirelessly when undisturbed, preferring thickest jungle in hilltop clefts or at the head of valley stream and seeks no comfort. May rest 2-3 days in vicinity but wanders, does not follow paths and bulldozes its way, using horns to lift fallen or leaning tree trunks, allowing them to fall behind making pursuit difficult.

*Breeding.* One young born about 2 feet in height and after seven years, whilst still running with mother, is only just over 3 feet high. Follows dam very close, head almost between her hind legs, perhaps responsible for native legend of young remaining in mothers body with head protruding, for feeding, or to warn against approaching enemies astern or to avoid being crushed by the trees falling in the wake of the cow, as she bull-dozes her passage through the jungle in the manner described.

*Food.* True forest animal, browses, never grazes but eats fallen fruit. Feeds by pushing against tree with forehead or chest or even rising on fore feet and "walking" the trunk down under its belly, when it skirts the edges eating leaves and shoots on branch tips. Frequently strops horn on sapling trunk, peeling off bark and will paw up earth



30 RHINOCEROS SUMATRANUS  
 TWO HORNED RHINOCEROS  
 TO NATURAL SIZE  
 بادق  
 "SCHIMARU"  
 جادو

TWO HORNED RHINOCEROS

This rhinoceros is found in the mountainous regions of Sumatra, and is the largest of the two species of rhinoceroses. It is a very powerful animal, and is capable of running at a great speed. It is also a very intelligent animal, and is able to learn to recognize its keepers.

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TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

with its feet at foot of tree but this probably male demonstration. Has no regular feeding or sleeping hours, eats shoots and/or seeds of *Jelutong*, *Mangifera* and various kinds of *Eugenia* - in Malay Kelat, manai and nyatoh.

*Voice.* When suspicious loud snort or two, expels breath through nose. When alarmed makes loud "squeal", something between bark of dog and loud quack of duck and runs in direction it is facing, even towards its enemy but with no aggressive intention. When feeding at peace squeals to itself and can be heard some distance; in wallow makes low, plaintive noise resembling swishing sound of large Horn-bill in flight, snorting and blowing mud as well. Young have quack-like "qark qark".

*General.* Wallows necessary, usually once or twice in 24 hours, about 10'x7', 3'-4' deep. Lies down under bank, tucks legs underneath and never lies on side, may use horn or feet to add earth until mud of right consistency. Although hide is very thick, actual skin is very thin, dries and crack easily and rhinoceros cannot apparently live without wallowing. Very large tick and some Tabanid flies also worry it. Visits salt licks and with other animals licks and rubs adjacent rocks smooth, ridding itself of leeches found there.

Sense of hearing good but eyes poor, large ungainly head is mostly nasal cavity and sense of smell phenomenal. Horn is not offensive weapon, lower incisors are used for biting. When walking digs in toe nails, which worn short with age, foot-prints usually overlap and wear deep, narrow furrow in much used track. Male organ apparently points backwards between hind legs, male certainly and probably female also when undisturbed but particularly when alarmed, will dribble urine for half an hours walk, spraying leaves six feet from ground and as much as 20 feet away. Defaecation takes place in water as well as on land, faeces large and round like cricket-balls but piles of ordure rare, story apparently originating with one-horned Indian rhinoceros.

The legend of the unicorn as a fierce animal, only to be tamed by the more smashing virgins, has descended on the Rhino with unfortunate results. The East has reversed the legend and credits the consumer of any portion of a rhinoceros with smashing powers over virgins and in the hurry the Rhinoceros has almost suffered extinction.

The destruction recorded in the Baram District of Sarawak was as follows and there is little doubt the Trusan and Upper Rejang Districts suffered just as much.

	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
Rhinos killed	18	14	8	12	11	12	4

## TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

Rhino are exceptionally agile, climb up and down the steepest hillsides, negotiate rocks, seem indifferent to falls, are extremely hardy, indifferent to fatigue and once frightened are difficult to track to a finish. It is the wallowing habit that generally leads to their slaughter.

Full accounts of the two-horned rhinoceros have been written by W. S. Thom and T. R. Hubback in the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society for 1935 and 1939, and to which I am indebted for much of the above information.

### MALAY TAPIR.

#### TAPIRUS INDICUS.

#### MALAY TAPIR.

Four very reliable observers state two of these animals were seen near Brunei golf course. A rubber planter in North Borneo declared one shot was brought to him and another planter reckoned he had seen one in the jungle whilst hunting. One cannot in fairness say that Tapirs do not occur in Borneo but since numerous native hunters over many years have failed to bring in the hide or bones or teeth or feet one cannot very well say the Tapir does occur in Borneo and there the matter rests.

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