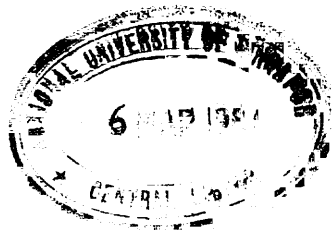


NATURAL HISTORY GALLERY

A BRIEF GUIDE



**MUZIUM NEGARA
KUALA LUMPUR 1979**

It inhabits the isolated patches of limestone rocks which flank at intervals the main granite chain of the Peninsular.

(This is a totally protected animal.)

31. SUMATRAN OR ASIATIC TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS

(Didermocerus sumatrensis)

The smallest and most hairy of the rhinoceros can be recognised by the two horns but it is better distinguished by the presence of two deep and permanent folds of skin on the back, one in the shoulder region and the second over the hind quarters. The feet bear three toes each ending in a hoof-like nail.

They feed on a wide variety of leaves and shoots of trees and shrubs along fringing forest or secondary growth. Small trees are pushed over and broken up by trampling before the foliage is eaten.

This endangered species is now totally protected by law though the animal was once common throughout Malaysia.

Now they survive as solitary animals or in small groups restricted to areas of different types of forest from the swampy lowlands to the interior of hills and mountains. They will ascend mountains moving up slopes which are steep to man.

31. MALAYA'S BEST KNOWN ELEPHANT

A wild elephant who in defence of his herd charged and derailed a train on the 17th. day of September, 1894.

It is historically true that on the single line near dusk, a train rounded a curve and hit an elephant. The train was derailed and the elephant's body was flung by the crash into a stormwater drain alongside the railway embankment. But nobody with any knowledge of wild Malayan elephants believes that the elephant was a bull charging the train in defence of the herd. Bulls rarely travel with herds and play no part in their defence. They run at the first



31. *Sumatran or Asiatic Two-horned Rhinoceros*



35. *Great Hornbill (Buceros bicornis)*