

ZAMBEZIA

A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE VALLEY OF
THE ZAMBEZI RIVER, FROM ITS DELTA TO THE
RIVER AROANGWA, WITH ITS HISTORY, AGRI-
CULTURE, FLORA, FAUNA, AND ETHNOGRAPHY

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whence, in the ordinary nature of things, they never returned.

On the plains and more open country several species of large antelopes appear, sometimes in large herds, and foremost among them are eland, waterbuck, wildebeeste, and reed-buck ; sable antelopes in large numbers abound in the low, forested hill country ; also, it is said, roan are not unrepresented. Hidden with them in the trees we also find the shy, beautiful kudu, the graceful impala, Lichtenstein's hartebeeste, bush - buck, duiker, oribi, and several smaller forms to which more detailed reference will be made hereafter.

Elephant, rhinoceros (*R. bicornis*), zebras, and buffaloes are still found in fair quantities, and the sobbing grunt of the amorous hippopotamus is heard on all the streams and marshes throughout the country. There are, in addition, several pigs, namely, the hideous wart-hog, and two bush-pigs.

We now come to the great order of the Carnivora, which embraces many families, the foremost members of which are naturally the lion and leopard. These are sufficiently numerous to be a source of considerable danger and loss of life among the native races, Europeans at times falling victims to them as well. The spotted hyena is also widely distributed, whilst servals, civets, genets, three ichneumons, jackals, hunting dogs, several weasels, two otters, a wild cat, and a badger, exhaust the list of the predatory forms so far as our present knowledge extends.

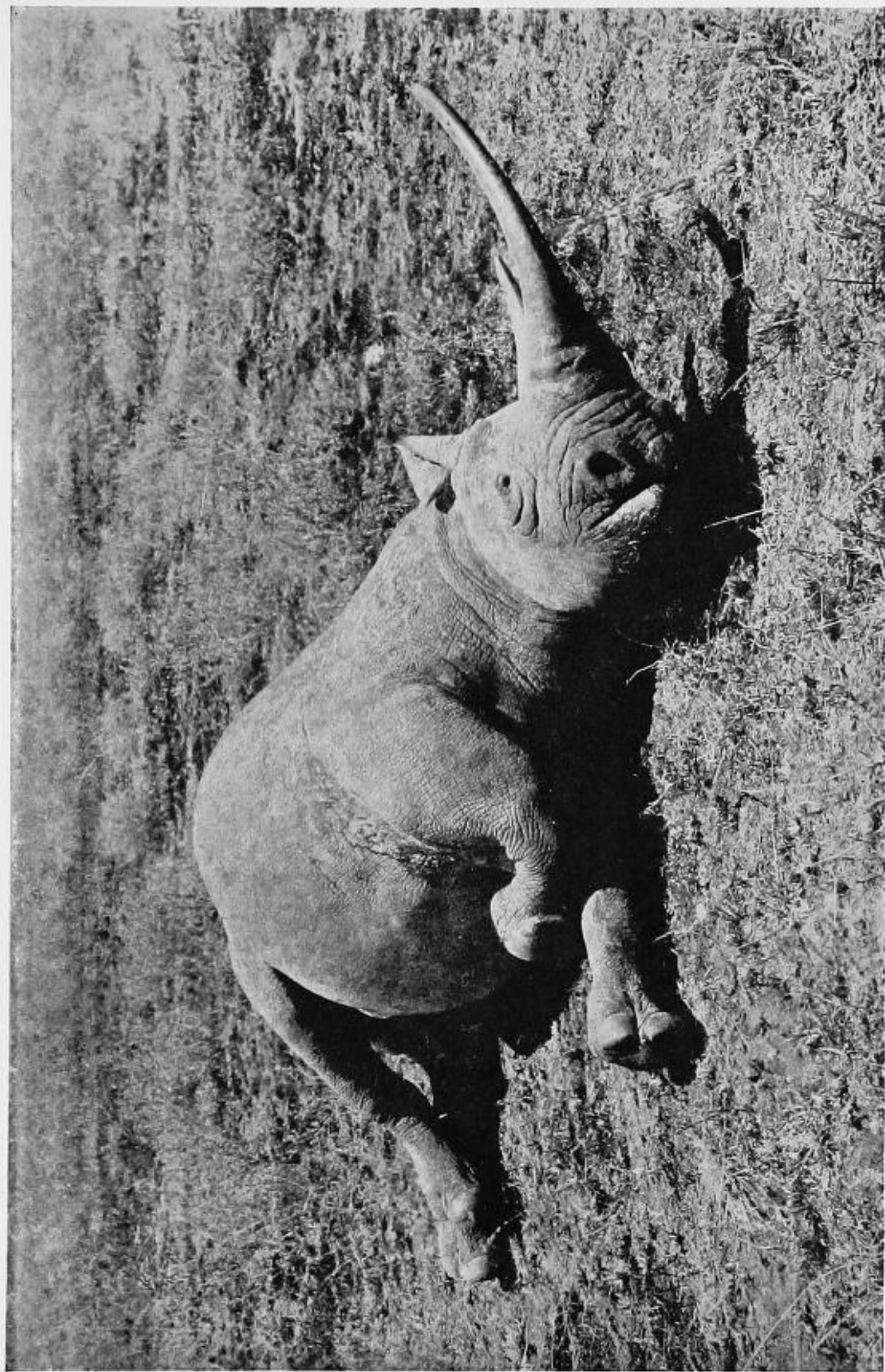
The Rodentia are represented by a number of

ginians, who used these animals in their wars and forays, the two elephants mentioned would appear to be the sole instances of the domestication of this magnificent beast; but the reported capture in Rhodesia of a number of young elephants recently, gives one reason to hope that very shortly we may hear of some interesting experiments in this direction.

In the Barué district, and in portions of the dry thorn country, both north and south of the Zambezi, about the Lupata Gorge, the Black Rhinoceros may still be found. He is by no means numerous however, and, to the best of my belief, is absent entirely from those areas which lie to the eastward of Shupanga in the south, or of a line drawn thence northward to the sixteenth parallel of south latitude. The larger form of square-mouthed or so-called white rhinoceros is not found in Portuguese East Africa. This latter extraordinary creature, which was at one time so numerous in South Africa that in certain portions of the country, as Baker tells us, men like Oswell and Gordon-Cumming finally got tired of shooting them, is almost extinct in the southern half of the great continent. A few are jealously preserved, I am told, in the Zululand Game Reserve, and a few are believed to exist in that portion of Rhodesia lying between Salisbury and the Kariba Gorge of the Zambezi, but their numbers are thought to be very limited. It is thus a source of great gratification, to those who feared for the preservation of this splendid and most extraordinary type, to learn that its occurrence to the north of

the Zambezi, for so many years regarded as uncertain, has now been placed beyond doubt. Several have been obtained in North Central Africa during the last year or two, and there is some prospect that shortly European Museums may be enriched by still further specimens from the same locality.

Unlike the Rhinoceros, which from whatsoever cause most assuredly tends to diminish in number, no early extinction need be prophesied for that great amphibious pachyderm the Hippopotamus, which continues to be extremely numerous in Zambezia when once the main stream of the great river is left behind. As I remember the Zambezi in the early nineties, hippopotami were still numerous, but the daily passage of the steamers has driven them into the affluents and marshes which extend in places for long distances, and, secure in these impenetrable fastnesses, they will continue to multiply for many years to come. When I first arrived in Zambezia in 1894, I heard many stories of the danger these great beasts were to navigation in small boats and canoes, and there is no doubt that the natives are still in great dread of them. For some hitherto unexplained reason, they are addicted to a playful habit of upsetting these frail craft, apparently for the pure enjoyment of watching the struggles of the occupants in the water. It is a curious fact that there are very few cases on record of the natives being molested whilst swimming, although this has happened. Having caused the capsizing, the great beast does not retreat. He remains on the surface



BLACK RHINOCEROS.

APPENDIX TO CHAPTER IX

LIST OF ZAMBEZIAN MAMMALS

Order PRIMATES

<i>Cercopithecus albigularis</i>	.	.	White-throated Grivet Monkey
<i>C. moloneyi</i>	.	.	Moloney's Grivet
<i>C. opisthosticus</i> (?)	.	.	
<i>Otogale kirkii</i>	.	.	Great Galago
<i>O. moholi</i>	.	.	Small Galago
<i>Papio babuin</i>	.	.	Yellow Baboon
<i>P. pruinus</i> (?)	.	.	Grey Baboon

Order UNGULATA

<i>Elephas africanus</i>	.	.	The African Elephant
<i>Rhinoceros bicornis</i>	.	.	The Black Rhinoceros
<i>Equus tigrinus</i>	.	.	The Zebra
<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i> *	.	.	The Hippopotamus

Sub-Order ARTIODACTYLA

<i>Bos caffer</i>	.	.	The Cape Buffalo
<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>	.	.	The Eland
<i>Cobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	.	.	The Common Waterbuck
<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>	.	.	The Roan Antelope
<i>H. niger</i>	.	.	The Sable Antelope
<i>Strepciseros kudu</i>	.	.	The Kudu
<i>Bubalis lichtensteini</i>	.	.	The Hartebeeste
<i>Connochætes taurinus</i>	.	.	The Brindled Gnu
<i>Cervicapra arundinum</i>	.	.	The Reedbuck
<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	.	.	The Bushbuck
<i>Æpiceros melampus</i>	.	.	The Impala
<i>Cephalophus grimmi</i>	.	.	The Duiker
<i>Ourebia scoparia</i>	.	.	The Oribi
<i>Oreotragus saltatur</i>	.	.	The Klipspringer
<i>Phacochærus æthiopicus</i>	.	.	The Wart-hog
<i>Potamo-chærus</i>			
<i>chæropo-</i>			
<i>tamus</i>	.	.	The Bush Pig

* This animal is only so placed for the sake of convenience.

never been written, save by travellers and missionaries, they must have been handed down orally in the various tribes from a time as remote as the earliest occupation of the great continent by black races. It is clear, therefore, that these old legends and fables must, to an unlettered people, have largely taken the place of books, and, in their simplicity or complexity of construction, they afford us considerable assistance in gauging the intellectual capacity of the people.

I shall now proceed to transcribe a few for the benefit of my readers, or such of them as are unacquainted with African stories.

THE HARE, THE ELEPHANT, AND THE RHINOCEROS

Once upon a time the elephant went out and met the hare. "What news?" said the elephant. "Good," replied the hare. "I have eaten well, my stomach is full, and I feel remarkably strong. Let us have a tug-of-war." "What!" cried the elephant, who could scarcely believe his ears. "Why, if I put my foot down upon you, who would ever believe you had been a hare?" "Never mind," said the hare, "take this rope and tie it round your neck; I will go down this ravine, and you will see that you will not be able to pull me up again." So the elephant tied the rope round his neck, chuckling to himself the while, and the hare, with the other end, disappeared down the ravine. He there found an immense rhinoceros, to whom he said, "Will you wager that if I tie this rope round your neck, and go up to the top of the

ravine, you can pull me back ?” But the rhinoceros only laughed, and said, “ I could jerk you back and catch you on my horn.” “ Never mind,” rejoined the hare, “ let us try.” So he attached the end of the rope held by the elephant to the neck of the rhinoceros, and retracing his steps until he reached a point about the middle, he cried to them both to pull him. Then commenced a mighty struggle ; the elephant trying to pull the rhinoceros up-hill, and the rhinoceros to draw the elephant down. They pulled until they were weary, without the least result, and at length went in search of each other. When they met both were furious at the trick the hare had played them, and agreed that he must die, so they tied him up and placed him in a tree, whilst they went for firewood to burn him to death. Whilst they were gone, a leopard passing by espied the hare tied up in the tree. “ What are you doing there, hare ?” he asked. “ The elephant said he would make me eat flesh,” replied the cunning hare, “ and as my teeth were not made for eating anything but grass, I shall starve to death.” “ Oh, but mine were,” said the leopard ; “ I will take your place.” So with his teeth he unfastened the hare’s bonds, and the latter lost no time in getting out of sight. When the elephant came back, he said in a surprised tone, “ What are you doing there, leopard ?” “ Waiting for the meat you went to get for the hare,” was the rejoinder. “ Ah,” said the elephant, “ you want the meat, do you ? Well, take it,” and throwing upon the leopard the immense pile of wood he had brought back, he crushed him to death.