

GUIDE

TO THE

GREAT GAME ANIMALS
(UNGULATA)

IN

THE DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY,
BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY),
CROMWELL ROAD, LONDON, S.W.

ILLUSTRATED BY 88 TEXT AND OTHER FIGURES.

LONDON:

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1907.

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earth by human agency, but the others have mostly a very restricted geographical range.

The Tapirs. The Tapirs form a family of Perissodactyla remarkable at the present day for their anomalous geographical distribution, one species (*Tapirus indicus*, 991) inhabiting the Malay countries, whereas the other four are confined to Central and South America. The clue to this peculiarity is afforded by extinct species, remains of which occur in the Tertiary rocks of Europe, China, and North America. From other living members of the suborder, Tapirs are distinguished by having four front-toes; the hind-feet, as in the Rhinoceroses, terminating in three digits. The nose is prolonged into a short proboscis, and the molar teeth of both jaws are low-crowned, and carry simple transverse crests, united in the upper ones by an outer wall. The number of teeth is 42, or only two below the full typical complement. The heavy form of the body, the small size of the eyes, and the shortness of the tail, are shown in the specimens exhibited. In the typical members of the genus, like the Malay *T. indicus* (991) and the American *T. terrestris* (992), the nasal region of the skull is of normal structure; but in two of the American species (*Tapirus bairdi*, 993, and *T. dowi*) a bony partition divides the cavity of the nose into two divisions. These two species are in consequence separated generically, or subgenerically, as *Tapirula*. The young of all are spotted and striped.

[Lower
Mammal
Gallery.
Case 38.]

Tapirs are dwellers in dense forest, where water is abundant. In this they swim, and even dive, while they also enjoy wallowing in mud, and in the deep forest wander about during the day, generally alone. Although usually slow in their movements, when frightened they make violent rushes. Their food consists of leaves, twigs, and fruits.

Rhinoceroses. Rhinoceroses are the largest and bulkiest of the existing Perissodactyla; and although now confined to Africa and the Indo-Malay countries, in past epochs ranged over the greater part of Europe and North America. Their most distinctive feature is the presence

[Lower
Mammal
Gallery.
Cases
37* & 40,
H & J.]

of one or two horns in the middle line of the fore-part of the head; this, together with the presence of only three front toes, in the living forms, distinguishing them from the Tapirs. The upper molar teeth are of a more complex type than those of the latter; and the lower molars have curved, instead of straight, cross-crests. The horns, as stated above, are attached only to the skin, and have no connection with the bones of the skull. Rhinoceroses have very thick skins—which may be thrown into folds and carry but a scanty covering of hair—small eyes, and moderate-sized, tubular ears. They show but little intelligence, and although usually timid in disposition, display great ferocity when brought to bay. Whereas, however, the African species attack with their horns, those from Asia make use of their lower tusks. Although the sight is dull, their senses of smell and hearing are acute. Some kinds browse on the boughs of trees, and others graze on grass; but all are fond of water and of wallowing in the mud.

Asiatic Rhinoceroses.

Three species of Rhinoceros are recognised from Asia, in all of which the skin is thrown into definite folds or flaps; while cutting-teeth are present in the front of the jaws, and the nasal bones of the skull are pointed. By far the largest of the three is the Great Indian Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*, 999, fig. 3 c), in which the folds of the skin are very strongly marked, and there are large tubercles on the hind-quarters. Only a single horn is present; and the fold across the shoulders is not continued over the back. The upper teeth are of a complex type, with a flat plane of wear. This Rhinoceros inhabits the tall grass-jungles of Assam, in which it forms "runs," or tunnels, completely concealed from view. The specimen exhibited was presented by H.H. The Maharaja of Cooch-Behar. The species is confined to India. The smaller Javan Rhinoceros (*R. sondaicus*, 1000) differs by the fold in front of the shoulder being continued across the neck, and by the small polygonal plates on the skin. The molar teeth are of a simpler type than in the last, and wear into ridges. This species, of which a young specimen and a skull are exhibited, ranges from the Sandarbans of Bengal to Java. In the Sumatran Rhinoceros (*R. [Dicerorhinus] sumatrensis*, 1001) the molars are of the same type as in



FIG. 3.—Horns of Burchell's or White Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros simus*) (a), Common or Black Rhinoceros (*R. bicornis*) (b), and Great Indian Rhinoceros (*R. unicornis*) (c).

the last, but there are two horns, and the skin is smoother, with no fold crossing in front of the shoulder. Although variable in this respect, this species is the most hairy of all the Rhinoceroses, as it is the smallest. Its range extends from the Bengal Sandarbans to Sumatra, and there are several local races; the two specimens exhibited belonging to the dark-coloured Malay race.

African Rhinoceroses. Africa is the home of two species of Rhinoceros, in both of which there are no distinct folds in the skin; teeth are absent from the front of the jaws of the adult, there are two large horns placed close together, and the nasal bones of the skull are blunt and rounded. Of the two species, the larger is the White Rhinoceros, also known as Burchell's or the Square-mouthed Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros* [*Diceros*] *simus*, 1002, fig. 3 a), formerly numerous in the districts to the north of the Orange River, but now nearly exterminated, although existing in Central Equatorial Africa near Lado. The most distinctive external features of this species are the short and truncated muzzle, and non-prehensile upper lip; but it is also well characterised by the very complex pattern of the grinding-surface of the upper molar teeth, which become worn quite flat. Its food consists solely of grass.

[Case 37.]

[Case H.]

In the Common, or Black, Rhinoceros (*R.* [*Diceros*] *bicornis*, 1003, fig. 3 b) the upper lip is distinctly prehensile, and the upper molar teeth are of a simpler type, their grinding-surfaces being ridged. This species feeds entirely on leaves and twigs. There is great variation in respect to the relative lengths of the two horns; those individuals in which the second is as long as or longer than the first have received the name of Keitloa.

[Lower Mammal Gallery. Cases 38, 39 & 39*.]

Horses. This family, which includes true Horses, Zebras, and Asses, is now represented only by the genus **Family Equidæ.** *Equus*, although in past times there were several other types. From the other two existing families of Perissodactyla, modern *Equidæ* are distinguished by the tall crowns and complex structure of their cheek-teeth, in which all the hollows and valleys formed by the infoldings of enamel are filled by cement, so as to form a grinding surface of a perfect type. Another feature is the presence of an infolding of the enamel in the summits of the incisors, thus producing what is called the