

William DANIELL

Interesting Selections from animated nature, with illustrative scenery: designed and engraved by William Daniell, A.R.A.

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63 unnumbered plates, each followed by one page of text (unpaginated)

Plates not coloured

[7th plate]

Two Horned Rhinoceros

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[Text]

The African Rhinoceros

Rhinoceros Bicornis Linn.

Le Rhinoceros, Buff.

Two Horned Rhinoceros. Penn. Hist. Quad. 1, p. 150, pl. 29.

Bew. Quad. p. 160. Wood's Zoography, 1, p. 81, pl. 4

Next to the elephant, the rhinoceros is the most powerful of quadrupeds: when full grown, it is at least twelve feet long, six or seven feet high, and of a circumference almost equal to its length. It therefore nearly approaches the elephant in bulk, but differs infinitely in intelligence, being stupid, brutal and absolutely indocile.

The rhinoceros is the only animal that carries a horn upon the nose, and a singularity attends its attachment which is deserving of notice. The Asiatic species has but one, the African boasts of two; both are alike fixed to the integuments, and not to the bone of the nose; so that when the animal is in a quiet state, the horns are loose, but become stiff and ready for action on the first alarm. With this powerful weapon of defence, the rhinoceros will contend with the elephant, and frequently proves victorious.

The hide of the African rhinoceros is not so impenetrable as that of the Asiatic species. It is pervious to the lances, or hassagais of the Hottentots, who hunt the animal for the sake of the horns and the skin.

Bones of the two-horned rhinoceros have been found by Pallas, in the coldest parts of Siberia, as well as portions of the skin and muscles, imbedded in the ice, where they had probably remained for ages.