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A N

H I S T O R Y

O F

A N I M A L S.

Containing DESCRIPTIONS of the

BIRDS, BEASTS, FISHES, and INSECTS,

OF THE

Several PARTS of the WORLD;

A N D

Including ACCOUNTS of the several Classes of ANIMALCULES,
vifible only by the Affiftance of MICROSCOPES.

I N T H E S E

The CHARACTERS, QUALITIES, and FORMS of the feveral Creatures are
defcribed, the NAMES by which they are commonly known, as well as thofe by
which AUTHORS, who have written on the Subject, have called them are explained :

And each is reduced to the CLASS to which it naturally belongs.

Illustrated with Figures.

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Acad. Reg. Scient. Burdig. &c. Soc.



L O N D O N :

Printed for THOMAS OSBORNE, in *Gray's-Inn.*

MDCCLII.



large teeth are hollow, and have a medullary substance running up a great way on them: the grinders are solid, and their weight is very great.

The elephant is a native of Africa, and some other of the warmer countries, and even of some colder climates. We have seen them occasionally preserved alive with us, and shewn as curiosities. All the writers on animals have described it, under the name of Elephas.

R H I N O C E R O S.

THE Rhinoceros has in each jaw eleven fore-teeth; there are no canine teeth: the nose is ornamented with a single or double horn, which is permanent.

Rhinoceros cornu unico.

The Rhinoceros, with a single horn.

**The common
Rhinoceros.**

This, of all quadrupeds, approaches nearest to the elephant in size, but it is not equal to it in that respect: the body is nearly as bulky, but the legs are much shorter. A full-grown Rhinoceros measures fourteen feet from the ground to the highest part of the back, and the legs are so remarkably short, that, with all this height, the belly comes near the ground: the head is very large and oblong, of an irregular figure, broad at the top, and narrower and depressed toward the snout: the ears are very large and long; they in some degree resemble those of a hog, and are soft, and covered with a tender skin: the eyes are very small, and there is something extremely singular in their situation; they do not stand on the upper part of the head, as in other animals, but at a small distance from the extremity of the snout: on the upper part of the snout, near the extremity of it, there stands a horn of a conic figure, and very strong; it grows to about two feet and a half in length, and is a little bent backwards; its colour is black, and its substance very firm and hard.

The neck is short and very thick; the body rounded, and enormously big; the legs are very thick and clumsy to appearance, but all that strength is necessary to their being able to support so immense a bulk of body: the feet are broad, and divided into toes; and the tail is short, and furnished with some long and extremely thick black hairs.

The colour of the creature is a dirty tawny; the skin is remarkably thick and hard; it is, indeed, so hard, that the creature could not easily turn itself in any directions, but that nature has formed a kind of joints and folds in it; by means of these it moves its body, though in an unwieldy and awkward manner.

It is a native of some parts of Asia and Africa; it generally frequents the parts of the country which are far from the resort of men: it feeds on vegetables. We sometimes have it brought into Europe, and shewn as a curiosity. The skin of this creature, like that of the elephant, is covered at little distances with a kind of low protuberances, resembling warts; these have all hairs growing out of them, but they are but few, and are very thick and black. It is not easy to say to what length they would grow, were they left to themselves; for the creature is subject to itchings of the skin, and rubs them all off at but a little height above the skin. The horn also often shares the same fate. There is one now kept as a shew in London, in which the horn is not more than three inches high, and obtuse, which is owing to the creature's continually rubbing it down against the walls and boards of the place where it is kept.

Rhinoceros cornu gemino.

The double-horned Rhinoceros.

This is a large, unwieldy animal, in most respects greatly resembling the former: the head is enormously large and long; it is so bulky, that the creature seems to find pain

pain in holding it up, and is always seen in the wild state with it in a depending posture: the ears are large; the eyes small, and placed near the extremity of the snout: at the upper part of the nose, and near it's tip, there grows a large horn, as in the other species; and, just behind it, another of the same form and colour, but smaller; they are both of a firm and hard texture, and pointed at the extremities; but the larger never grows to so great a length in this species, as in the other, which has it single.

The neck is moderately long and thick, especially toward the shoulders; the body is of the same enormous bulk as in the other; the legs also are very thick and short, and the feet in the same manner divided into toes: the tail is about a foot and a half long, not very thick, naked for three fourths of it's length, but at the tip furnished with hairs not very numerous, but thick, and considerably long.

The skin is thick and hard, as in the preceding species, and in the same manner is covered with little protuberances, in form of warts; the hairs are few, but they are very thick and strong; they arise from these, and are black, and of some length.

This is a native of some parts of the world with the former; travellers have seen it living, but we never had one brought over to Europe. We have sometimes met with the horns preserved, with a part of the skin of the head to which they grow; some of our museums afford specimens of these, by which we are assured of their situation, a circumstance concerning which many have erred.

HIPPOTAMUS.

THE fore-teeth of the upper jaw of the Hippopotamus are four, they are placed in pairs, and at some distance; those of the lower jaw are prominent, and the intermediate ones are protended forward: the canine teeth are single and obliquely truncated; the teats are only two, and they are placed near the groin.

Hippopotamus cauda brevis.

The Hippopotamus, with a short tail.

The Sea-horse.

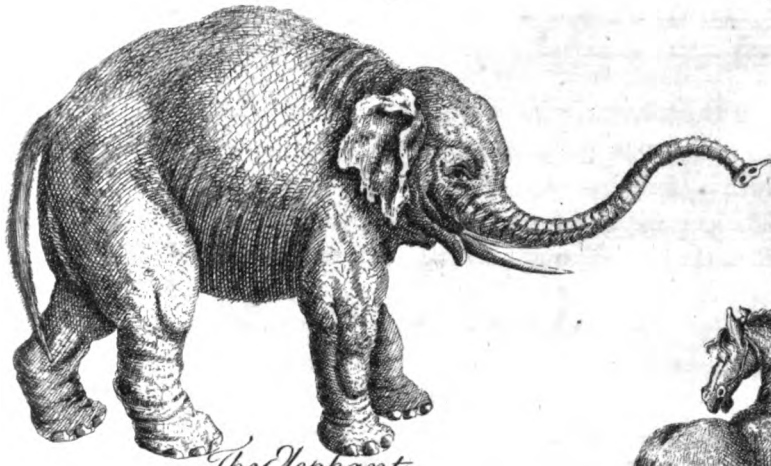
This is a very large and unwieldy animal; it is equal to a common ox in size: the head is very large, oblong, and somewhat depressed, and is obtuse and thick toward the rostrum or extremity: the ears are about three inches in length, so that they appear small, in proportion to the bulk of the head: the eyes are small, and stand not very high in the head; the mouth is very wide, and the teeth very large and strong: the canine ones are not exerted as in the boar, but, when the mouth is opened, they make a very formidable figure; they are six inches long, and nearly as much in circumference, and are not rounded, but of a somewhat flatted and trigonal figure; they are harder than the teeth of any other known animal, very few tools will make the least impression on them, and they will give fire in great plenty on being struck against a steel, in the manner of flint.

The neck is moderately long, and very thick; the body is extremely bulky, and rounded: the legs are very thick, and are between three and four feet in length: the foot is twelve inches in breadth, and is divided into four toes each, armed with a claw of near three inches in breadth, rounded and obtuse.

The tail is very singular in it's form, it more resembles that of the tortoise than of any other animal; it is not more than six inches in length, and is of a conic figure, very thick at the base, and thence tapering very swiftly to a point: the creature moves it up or down at pleasure, but it has no power of bending it.

The skin is very thick and black, it is perfectly naked; there is not the least appearance of hair on it, only that about the mouth there are a kind of whiskers, as cats have.

This



The Elephant



The Rhinoceros



The Sea Horse



The Horse



*The Zebra a Wild
As*



The Boar



The Dromedary



The Camel



The Paca



The Elk



The Camelopardalis



The Stag



The Ibex



The Chamoise



The Bison



The African Antelope