

Notes on the
fauna, flora, &c.
TENASSERIM:

OR

NOTES

ON THE

FAUNA, FLORA, MINERALS, AND NATIONS

OF

BRITISH BURMAH AND PEGU:

WITH

SYSTEMATIC CATALOGUES

OF THE KNOWN

**MINERALS, PLANTS, MAMMALS, FISHES, MOLLUSKS, SEA-
NETTLES, CORALS, SEA-URCHINS, WORMS, INSECTS,
CRABS, REPTILES, AND BIRDS;**

WITH VERNACULAR NAMES.

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TON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, AND OF THE LYCEUM OF
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—“Das Land wo die Citronen bluhn,
Im dunkeln Laub die Goldorangen gluhn,
Ein sanfter Wind vom blauen Himmel weht,
Die Thauka still und hoch der Palmbaum steht.”—*Goethe*

MAULMAIN:
AMERICAN MISSION PRESS.

CHAS. J. BARNES.

1852.

RABBIT.

Rabbits have been introduced, and when well tended, they breed very abundantly.

Lepus cuniculus.

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TOOTHLESS ANIMALS.

The *Edentata*, or toothless animals, have only one representative in these Provinces, and another in Arracan.

PANGOLIN.

The scaly ant-eater is not very rare here, and so far as I can judge, it is the same species as the one found in Malacca, though there is not a perfect correspondence. It has not the difference in colour at the end of the tail which is characteristic of the Arracan species.

<i>Manis javanica</i>	Desmarest.
“ <i>pentadactyla</i> ,	Lin. apud Raffles.
“ <i>aspera</i> ,	Sundeval.
“ <i>quinquedactyla</i> ,	Raffles, apud Gray : List.
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ARRACAN PANGOLIN.

The scaly ant-eater of Arracan is another species, but called by the same native names.

Manis leucura.

THICK-SKINNED ANIMALS.

Six species of *Pachydermata*, or thick-skinned animals, inhabit our forests.

ELEPHANT.

Wild elephants are numerous in the interior, and their haunts readily traced by the mutilations of the bamboos and young trees ; but they usually avoid settlements. I have often come upon them on the wild, lone banks of the Tenasserim, and have heard their blowing and heavy tramp around my booth by the head waters of Tavoy river. They seem uniformly to avoid the face of man, unless wounded by him, but an enraged elephant is a

most formidable foe, from which in an open country it is almost impossible to escape. Karens tell us that if one be wounded and not killed, he immediately retreats, but as soon as he feels the smart of his wound, he turns and rushes upon his antagonist with terrible fury. One of the best Karen marksmen I ever knew perished in this way. He shot and wounded but did not kill the elephant, which immediately ran away. His companions, knowing the habits of the animal, scattered themselves; but this man kept his ground in confidence that he would be able to reload, and renew the attack when it returned; but before his gun was loaded, the enraged elephant was upon him, and instantly trampled him to death.

Elephas indicus.

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WILD HOG.

Whole droves of wild hogs come down upon the Karen paddy fields, and were they not guarded night and day, they would destroy every thing before them. It is a small blackish species, exceedingly numerous.

Sus indicus,

Schinz.

Sus Scrofa,

Linne, apud Elliot.

Sus vittatus,

Schlegel.

Sus cristatus,

Wagner, apud Schinz.

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SINGLE-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

The common single-horned rhinoceros is very abundant. Though often seen on the uninhabited banks of large rivers, as the Tenasserim, they are fond of ranging the mountains, and I have frequently met with their wallowing places on the banks of mountain streams, two or three thousand feet above the plains. They are as fond of rolling themselves in mud as a hog, or a buffalo. The Karens when travelling have quite as much fear of a rhinoceros as they have of a tiger. When provoked, the rhinoceros, they say, pursues his enemy most unrelentingly, and with indomitable perseverance. If to escape his rage the huntsman retreats to a tree, the beast, it is said,

will take his stand beneath the tree, for three or four days in succession, without once leaving his antagonist. There are seasons when the rhinoceros is very dangerous and ferocious, attacking every thing that comes near its haunts, yet it is believed the stories related of them are exaggerated.

On one occasion while descending the upper Tenasserim on small rafts, a rhinoceros was started on the river bank, which ran down the side of the river at a buffalo gallop for about a quarter of a mile, to a ford, with which it appeared to be well acquainted, where it crossed over. Just as it reached the opposite bank, a Karen on a raft near shot at it, and apparently hit the animal, but it rushed into the jungle and was seen no more, though we encamped for the night a short distance below, on a small island that was manifestly the resort of the rhinoceros.

A gentleman in Arracan procured a single-horned rhinoceros from the Arracan jungles, and presented it to a friend in Calcutta. In the course of events it passed out of that gentleman's hands, and was ultimately sold to the Zoological Gardens for the sum of one thousand pounds sterling, where it still lives. Rhinoceros trapping, then, might prove no bad speculation.

In the Latin Vulgate the Rhinoceros is put where unicorn is read in the English Bible; and a similar rendering has been adopted in several Indian versions, though unsupported by any philological considerations. The Hebrew name *reem* bears no resemblance to the name of the rhinoceros in any of the countries adjacent to Judea. In Persian it is called *karg*.

<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i> ,	Linn.
“ <i>indicus</i> ,	Cuvier.
“ <i>asiaticus</i> ,	Blumen.
“ <i>inermis</i> ,	Lesson.

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DOUBLE-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

The double-horned rhinoceros is not uncommon in the southern provinces. It differs from the other species not in its horns only, but also in its skin, which is as

smooth as a buffalo's, while in the single-horned it it disposed in immense folds all over its neck, shoulders, haunches, and thighs; so that it looks as if harnessed in its own natural tackling; and the Karens call it the "coat of mail rhinoceros." The horns of both species are bought by the Chinese for medicine. "From the earliest times," says a recent writer, "the horn of the Indian rhinoceros has been regarded either as an antidote against poison, or as efficacious in detecting its presence, as well as useful in curing diseases;" and the Chinese seem to retain the ideas of antiquity on this subject, as they do on every other.

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JAVANESE RHINOCEROS.

The southern Karens say there is a third species of rhinoceros in the jungles, which is distinguished from both the others by its skin being covered with small tubercles; and above all by its eating fire! Wherever it sees fire, it runs up, and devours it immediately!

I once lost my way amid the hills and valleys of Palaw and Katay; and on obtaining a Karen who lived in that region for a guide, he laid special charges on every member of the party to follow him in silence, for a fire-eating rhinoceros had been recently seen, and it always came to noises, instead of fleeing from them as most animals do. It is further described as excavating a habitation for itself on the mountain side, in which it remains during the principal part of the dry season, and wanders about during the rains. Amid the marvelous there is sufficient truth in this description to enable us to recognize it as the Javanese rhinoceros, and its supposed fire-eating propensity brings to mind a striking resemblance to the black African rhinoceros. *Rh. Africanus*. "This animal appears to be excited by the glow of a fire, towards which it rushes with fury, overturning every obstacle. It has been known to rush with such rapidity upon a military party lodged among the bush covering the banks of the Great Fish river, that before the men could be aroused, it had severely injured two of them, tossed about, and broke

several guns, and completely scattered the burning wood."

Rhinoceros Sondaicus, Cuvier.

" *javanensis*.

" *javanus*,

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MALAY TAPIR.

The tapir has been long known to exist in the southern provinces, but has never been heard of north of the valley of Tavoy river. It has been known, however, principally from native description that the animal could be no other than the tapir. It is believed that none have ever been killed or captured in the Provinces, except one that was procured from a Karen by a writer of the late Major Macfarquhar at Tavoy. It was a very inoffensive animal, and became as much domesticated as a cat. It followed its master around the compound like a dog, but looked as unseemly as a hog. It differs in no respect from the descriptions of the Malay tapir, has the same white blanket-like appearance on its back, and like that, frequents the uplands. Though seen so rarely, the tapir is by no means uncommon in the interior of Tavoy and Mergui provinces; I have frequently come on its recent foot-marks, but it avoids the inhabited parts of the country.

Tapirus malayanus, Raffles.

" *indicus*, F. Cuvier.

" *sumatranus*, Gray.

" *bicolor*, Wagner.

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SOLID-HOOFED ANIMALS.

Two species of *Solidungula*, animals with undivided hoofs, have been introduced.

HORSE.

The horses of Burmah and the Shan country, which are imported into the Provinces, are small ponies, resem-