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W. H. Murray
W. H. Murray
11/16/61

BURMAH,

ITS

PEOPLE AND NATURAL PRODUCTIONS,

OR

NOTES

ON THE

NATIONS, FAUNA, FLORA, AND MINERALS

OF

TENASSERIM, PEGU AND BURMAH,

WITH

SYSTEMATIC CATALOGUES

OF THE KNOWN

MAMMALS, BIRDS, FISH, REPTILES, INSECTS, MOLLUSKS, CRUSTACEANS, ANNALIDS, RADIATES, PLANTS AND MINERALS,

WITH

VERNACULAR NAMES:

BY

REV. F. MASON, D. D.; M. R. A. S.

CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ORIENTAL SOCIETY, OF THE BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, AND OF THE LYCEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, NEW-YORK.

Celebrant te Domine omnia tua opera ; tui te pii collaudant.

R A N G O O N :

THOS. STOWE RANNEY,

1860.

L O N D O N :

TRUBNER & CO. 12 PATERNOSTER ROW.

N E W - Y O R K :

PHINNEY, BLAKEMAN & MASON, No. 61 WALKER STREET.

~~1862~~

1866

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 bamboo 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.

ဝင်း ကဆု ကဆိ ကဆိ

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. Mr. Blyth suggests that it may be a new species, like the hog of the Andamans.

Sus Andamanensis,

Sus indicus,

Sus Scrofa,

Sus vittatus,

Sus cristatus.

Schinz.

Linne, apud Elliot.

Schlegel.

Wagner, apud Schinz.

ဝေဝေဝ ကိ ထိ ထိ ထိ

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 Aracan procured a single-horned rhinoceros from the Aracan 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*.

Rhinoceros unicornis,

Linna.

" *indicus,*

Cuvier.

" *asiaticus,*

Blumen.

" *incermis,*

Lessor.

ကြီးဆင်း ဆဒါအဂ္ဂါ တာဒိန်ဒိန်စစ်ပွန် ဒြိုဏ်ဒါန်

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 is 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.

မြို့ရှင်၊ ဆာဒါ့ရှာ၊ တာဒိန်ဒိန်ဘွဲ့၊

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."

The Bghais call the rhinoceros the "great-footed horse," but they are rarely found among them. Many of their young men never saw a rhinoceros, and to which species, the one occasionally found belongs, is uncertain.

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.

တရုရှ်၊ ဆာကွဲ၊ တာကွဲ၊

SOLID-HOOVED 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, resembling the little Spanish horses that run wild in Missouri, and the other western parts of America.

Equus caballus.

မြင်း၊ ကဘူ၊ ကဘူ၊ မြင်း၊

ASS.

Asses are said to be common at Ava, where they are introduced from the north, and a solitary specimen is occasionally seen in Pegu.

Equus Asinus.

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RUMINATING ANIMALS.

Eleven species of *Ruminantia*, animals that chew the cud, are known in British Burmah; and it is not probable that any remain to be discovered.

CHEVROTAIN.

This little deer, about the size of a large hare, is often seen crossing the traveller's path in the interior; but it is by no means

during the season, so that scarcely a stalk of rice escaped them. I met with two of these animals, swimming the Tenasserim where it is more than a quarter of a mile wide, and succeeded in capturing one. The animal is about five inches from the nose to the end of the tail, of a slim and nimble appearance, the belly white, and the rest a mouse color. During the rains, when the river is much wider and more rapid, these rats crossed in columns, as the people say, so abundant that a boat, in passing through, caught bushels of them. They only make their appearance at long intervals, like the locusts of other places. It is said to be from twenty to thirty years since they visited the country before, to any great extent. The people think they have a warning of their approach by a heavy detonation, something like that of a cannon, but much heavier and louder. They remember that this was the case on their former visitation, and they say it was so now. Even some of the native preachers heard the sound, but did not like to think that it had anything to do with the rats. This detonation is occasioned by the breaking up of their fold, (so say the Burmese,) which is situated in the middle of the world."

Mr. Blyth found in Major Berdmore's collections specimens of a new genus of rats which he describes:

HAPALOMYS, nobis, n. g. A very distinct new genus of *Murida*, with long and delicately fine pelage, and exceedingly long tail, the terminal fourth of which is remarkably flattened and furnished with hair more developed than in perhaps any other truly *Murine* form. Limbs short, with the toes remarkably corrugated underneath, the balls of the ungual phalanges greatly developed, protruding beyond the minute claws of the fore-feet, and equally with the more developed claws of the hind-feet. Head short; the ears small and inconspicuous. The skull approaches in form that of *MUS INDICUS*; but the rodentia tusks are broader and flatter to the front; molars as in the *Murida* generally, but much worn in the specimen under examination; they are considerably less directed outward than usual, and the bony palate has therefore the appearance of being narrow; the super-orbital ridges project much outward, in form of a thin bony plate; and there is a considerable process at base of the zygoma anteriorly, and posterior to the ant-orbital foramen; zygomata broad and compressed about the middle.

H. LONGICAUDATUS, nobis, n. s. Length of male 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. to base of tail, of tail 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.; of female 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ in., with tail 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.: sole 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.: ears posteriorly $\frac{1}{4}$ in., rounded, and scantily fringed with fine long hairs. Fur long and soft, measuring about $\frac{3}{8}$ in. on the upper-parts, slaty for the basal two-thirds, then glistening brown with black tips, and a few long hairs of very fine texture interspersed: lower-parts dull white. Whiskers black, long and fine; and there is a tuft of fine blackish hair anterior to the ears.

Rhizomys. sumatrensis,	Gray.	Bamboo Rat.
ရွေးပွား <i>pwae.</i>		
Rhizomys.		Small Bamboo Rat.
Hystrix bengalensis,		Large Porcupine.
ပွား <i>phyu.</i>		
Atherara sp. ?	Blyth.	Small Porcupine.
Lepus peguensis,		Pegu Hare.
ယုန်း <i>yung.</i>		
Lepus cuniculus.		Rabit.
ပူးကောင်း <i>phu-goung</i>		

EDENTATA.

TOOTHLESS ANIMALS.

Manis javanica.	Desmar	Pangolin.
သင်းရွှေချပ် <i>then-khwa-ghyat.</i>		
Manis leucura.		Aracan Pangolin.

PACHTDERMATA.

THICK-SKINNED ANIMALS.

Elephas indicus,		Elephant.
ဆင်း <i>hsen.</i>		
Sus indicus,	Schinz.	Wild hog.
တောဝက် <i>tau-wet.</i>		
Rhinoceros, unicornis,	Linn.	Single-horned Rhinoceros.
ကြဆင်း <i>kyan-hsen.</i>		
Rhinoceros sumatranus,		Double-horned Rhinoceros.
ကြရှင်း <i>kyan-shau.</i>		
Rhinoceros Sondaicus,	Cuvier,	Javanese Rhinoceros.
Tapirus malayanus,		Malay Tapir.
တာရှု <i>ta-ra-shu.</i>		

SOLIDUNGULA.

SOLID-HOOFED ANIMALS.

Equus caballus,		Horse.
မြင်း <i>myen.</i>		
Equus Asinus,		Ass.
မြီး <i>myai.</i>		