

ORDER PERISSODACTYLA

The Malay Tapir, *Tapirus indicus* Desmarest, was included among the fauna of Borneo by several early authorities, including Everett (1893). Although fossils from Niah cave, Sarawak, indicate that it survived in Borneo into the Recent era (Medway, 1961a), there are no modern specimens and no authentic evidence of its continued existence there with in historic times.

FAMILY RHINOCEROTIDAE

Genus *DIDERMOCERUS* Brookes, 1828

Didermoceros sumatrensis (Fischer)

SUMATRAN or ASIATIC
TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS
Pigmy Rhinoceros

Didermoceros sumatrensis harrissoni Groves

Didermoceros sumatrensis harrissoni Groves, 1965, Säugetier. Mitt. 13: 128 - 130 - Borneo.

Rhinoceros sumatrensis Pryer, 1881, Zoologist 5: 394; Davis, 1958, Fieldiana: Zool. 39: 147.

Rhinoceros sumatranus Hose, 1893, Mammals of Borneo: 62.

Ceratorhinus sumatrensis Jentink, 1897, Notes Leyden Mus. 19: 64.

Rhinoceros (Ceratorhinus) sumatranus Banks, 1931, Jour. Malayan Br. Roy. Asiatic Soc. 9 (2): 19.

Rhinoceros sumatrensis sumatrensis Chasqa, 1940, Bull. Raffles Mus. 15: 207.

Didermoceros sumatrensis Davis, 1962, Bull. National Mus. Singapore 31: 120.

Didermoceros sumatrensis sumatrensis Ellerman & Morrison-Scott, 1951, Checklist Palaearctic & Indian Mamm.: 340.

Distribution: Formerly widespread, now very scarce. T. Harrison (1961b) has stated that there are "probably not more than thirty in the whole island". There are recent reports of animals encountered or tracks seen in Sabah on G. Kinabalu (J. L. Harrison, personal communication, 1962) and towards the east coast, "at S. Bole on the Segama. There are also reliable records for the Dent Peninsula, Ulu S. Kalumpang and Ulu Kuamat" (P. F. Burgess, *in litt.*, 22 February 1963).

The near extermination of the species has been rapid. In Sabah, a little over eighty years ago, in the vicinity of Sandakan Pryer (1881) found rhinoceroses "not infrequent; the tracks of one or two may usually be seen in the course of a walk in the low districts." In western Kalimantan, Büttikofer found tracks and fresh droppings on the higher slopes of G. Liang Kubung, in the upper Kapuas, although not in the surrounding plains; he also reported that Malay rhino hunters were active, and regretted his own bad luck in not getting a specimen himself (Jentink, 1897)! A little further

southwest Abbott, in 1907, noted reports of rhinoceroses from about "Batu Dajeu" (? = Bajeh), in the upper S. Simpang, from the lowlands about the base of G. Palung (= G. Panti), and the neighbourhood of G. Kedijo; in the southeast "the headman of the Bajaus at Sungei Manungul [i.e. Menung-gul], Pamukang Bay, said there used to be some rhinos in that locality, but he had seen no traces for years" (Abbott, quoted in Lyon, 1911b). A little further north in east Kalimantan, at S. Merah, Mahakam, Raven (unpublished diary, entry dated 14th March, 1914) was "surprised to see fairly fresh rhinoceros tracks, as they are said to be rare hereabouts".

In Sarawak, Banks (1931a) found it "hard to give any exact localities but they occur in the mountainous region in the Lawas interior, various places in the far interior of the Baram and Rejang Rivers, occasionally straying as far down as the Ulu [i.e. upper reaches] of Mukah and Oya but is [sic] not found on the left bank of the Rejang or down into Saribas and Sarawak proper". Some sixty years earlier Beccari, who had spent most of his time in 1865-1867 in the southwestern parts of present Sarawak, "once heard that the carcass of a rhinoceros had been seen in the Sarawak, carried down by the current", but otherwise never saw "any portion of one got in Borneo" (Beccari, 1904: 311). Banks concluded, rather surprisingly in the light of his own evidence, that "there can at the moment be no fear of Rhinoceros becoming scarce for as many as 36 trophies were brought into Belaga in two years not so long ago and I have met men who have claimed to have shot over 30 in the course of their lifetime" (Banks, 1931a: 20). Eighteen years later, Harrisson (1949) wrote, "there are now almost certainly no rhinoceros left in Sarawak", although he was able to report observations in 1946 from the upper S. Padas, in Sabah, and in 1945 from S. Raya and from high ground in the upper S. Bahau in Kalimantan. In the Kelabit uplands Harrisson later found (Harrisson, in Davis, 1958) that "the Sumatran rhinoceros, once common in the area - in the last century even breaking fences around padi fields - has not been reported anywhere in the area for twenty years. There are living Kelabits who have killed more than ten".

There are specimens from northern Sarawak (SM), from Sandakan, collected by W. B. Pryer in 1886 (BMNH), and from S. Tingkayu, in the former East Coast Residency, Sabah (SNM, *vide* Davis, 1962).