

OPPIAN

Kynegetika

Translation by Mair, 1928

Kyn. I, 68 ff.

Or who would pit the Eagle against the Lion King? And who would liken the Muraena to the venom of the pard, or jackal to hawk, or rhinoceros to sea-urchin, or gull to wild goat, or any sea-monster to the elephant?

Kyn. II, 551 ff.

The rhinoceros is not much larger than the bounding Oryx. A little above the tip of the nose rises a horn dread and sharp, a cruel sword. Charging therewith he could pierce through bronze and with its stroke could cleave a mighty cliff. He attacks the elephant strong though it be and many a time lays so mighty a beast dead in the dust. On his yellowish, hairy brows and on his back dense spots show darkly. All the breed are males and a female is never seen. Whence they come, I know not, but I speak as I have learnt, whether this deadly race springs from the rock or whether they are children of the soil and spring from the ground, or whether the wild monsters are begotten of one another, without desire and without mating and without birth.

Kyn. IV, 35

Not in his feet doth the Rhinoceros trust, but feet are the armour of the hare.