

**THE ANNALS**

AND

**MAGAZINE OF NATURAL HISTORY,**

INCLUDING

**ZOOLOGY, BOTANY, AND GEOLOGY.**

(BEING A CONTINUATION OF THE 'ANNALS' COMBINED WITH LOUDON AND CHARLESWORTH'S 'MAGAZINE OF NATURAL HISTORY.')

CONDUCTED BY

PRIDEAUX JOHN SELBY, Esq., F.L.S.,

CHARLES C. BABINGTON, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., F.L.S., F.G.S.,

JOHN EDWARD GRAY, Ph.D., F.R.S., F.L.S., V.P.Z.S. &amp;c.,

AND

WILLIAM FRANCIS, Ph.D., F.L.S.

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VOL. IX.—THIRD SERIES.  
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LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY TAYLOR AND FRANCIS.

SOLD BY LONGMAN, GREEN, LONGMANS, AND ROBERTS; SIMPKIN, MARSHALL,  
AND CO.; PIPER AND CO.; BAILLIÈRE, REGENT STREET, AND PARIS:  
LIZARS, AND MACLACHLAN AND STEWART, EDINBURGH:  
HODGES AND SMITH, DUBLIN: AND ASHER, BERLIN.

1862.

## ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Nov. 12, 1862.—Dr. J. E. Gray, V.P., in the Chair.

The following extract from a letter addressed to the Secretary by Edward Blyth, Esq. (Corr. Memb.), dated Maulmein, May 10th, 1861, was read to the meeting:—

“I have made this day a grand discovery, which neither you nor others will believe in at the first announcement, but it is true nevertheless,—viz. that the extraordinary Rhinoceros-horn figured\* as that of *Rhinoceros Crossii* by Gray, in your ‘Proceedings,’ is the well-developed anterior horn of an old male *R. sumatranus*—the common species of these provinces. My host at this place is a great sportsman, and some noble trophies of the chase hang in his verandah; but what fixed my attention was the head of *R. sumatranus*, with a development of horns which I had never imagined to occur in this species; and the resemblance of the much-curved anterior horn to that of Gray’s supposed species, *R. Crossii*, struck me at once. Conversing with my host on the subject, he remarked that he took a similar head to England (where it now adorns his family hall), with the front horn at least 3 inches longer, and still more curved. A little reflection, and I felt satisfied that *R. Crossii* must sink into a synonym of *R. sumatranus*.”

In a subsequent communication Mr. Blyth remarked:—

“All doubts now removed about the identity of *R. sumatranus* and *R. Crossii*. Mason states that the skin of the Tenasserim species ‘is quite smooth, like a buffalo’s’—meaning devoid of folds; but Col. Fytche assures me that the one he shot had the slight folds described and figured of *R. sumatranus*. The mature female horns are small, and the nasal bones comparatively narrow; I am not aware that a corresponding sexual difference occurs in any other Rhinoceros. In the Indian one-horned species the sexes are alike in size and development of horn.”

The following papers were read:—

NOTICE OF HELOGALE, A NEW GENUS OF VIVERRIDÆ.  
BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S., F.L.S., ETC.

In making out a list of the skulls of the animals in the Museum, Mr. Edward Gerrard called my attention to a peculiarity in the skull of some of the smaller African Mangoustes. They are externally like the true *Herpestes*, but they want the smaller false premolar teeth in the upper jaw, which are always to be found in the true species of that genus. I propose to designate the group *Helogale*, which may be thus characterized:—

## HELOGALE.

Cutting teeth  $\frac{3-3}{3-3}$ ; Can.  $\frac{1-1}{1-1}$ ; Premol.  $\frac{3-3}{3-3}$ ; Mol.  $\frac{2-2}{2-2} = 36$ .

\* See P. Z. S. 1854, p. 250.