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" It will flourish, if naturalists, chemists, antiquaries, philologers, and men of science in different parts of *Asia*, will commit their observations to writing, and send them to the Asiatic Society at Calcutta. It will languish, if such communications shall be long intermitted; and it will die away, if they shall entirely cease." SIR WM. JONES.

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CALCUTTA:

PRINTED BY C. B. LEWIS, BAPTIST MISSION PRESS.

1875.

Hab.—Slopes of the Eastern Burreil at about 6,000 ft., tolerably abundant.

A very near ally of *D. Jatingana*, G-A., from which it is readily distinguishable by the situation and reduced size of the columellar process, its elongate flat-sided form, and very different sculpture.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE IV.

- Fig. 1. *Craspedotropis fimbriata*. With magnified drawing of the leaf-like fringe.
 „ 2. *Alycæus sculpturus*.
 „ 3. „ *crispatus* (basal side).
 „ 4. *Diplommatina Burtii*.
 „ 5. „ *Sherfaiensis*, var.
 „ 6. „ *tumida*, type form.
 „ 7. „ „ var.
 „ 8. „ *convoluta*.

IV.—*Note on a partially ossified Nasal Septum in Rhinoceros Sondaicus.*

By O. L. FRASER.

(Received 1874;—Read March 3rd, 1875.)

(With Plate V.)

Whilst cleaning the skull of a *Rhinoceros Sondaicus* lately obtained by me in the Sunderbuns, I was much surprised to find a partially ossified *septum narium*—a structure which I had hitherto looked upon as solely characteristic of the fossil Rhinoceros and for any mention of which in a recent species I have looked in vain; indeed Cuvier (*Oss. foss.* Vol. 2, p. 26,) distinctly states that no such thing occurs in the recent ones.

The specimen in question was a female 5 feet 6 in. high and, though a fully adult one (as the size of a fœtus she was carrying proved), from the unworn condition of her teeth she certainly was not old, so that the ossification could not be merely the result of age, as is so very often the case with the cartilages and even the tendons of mammals, birds, &c.

On looking at some other skulls, I found in two old specimens (one from Java, and the other the locality of which is unknown) traces of where such a structure might have been but had been destroyed either in cleaning or in some other way. In a third (not so old as the two preceding but still an older one than mine) there is distinct evidence of an exactly similar formation to that I am about to describe, though the anterior bone has been lost and part of the posterior portion broken away; this specimen was also from the Sunderbuns.

In some 6 or 7 skulls of *R. indicus* that I examined there was not the slightest indication of it, the vomer being quite distinct, and there being no roughened articulating surface on the inner side of the nasals.

In the first mentioned ♀ specimen, the septum, commencing from the ethmoid, is ossified for about 3 inches; it then divides, the lower portion running to within $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. of the maxillo-premaxillary articulation and being intimately connected with the vomer, along whose channel it runs, the upper portion forming a fringe about an inch deep along the inner surface of the conjoined nasal bones (to which it is ankylosed) to within $5\frac{3}{4}$ in. of their tip (the curved upper walls of the nasal cartilages being also completely ossified and ankylosed to the inner surface of the nasals and maxillaries for the same distance); here there is a break and the bone is perfectly smooth for a space of 2 inches, when there commences a diamond shaped roughened surface, which occupies the whole of the remaining $3\frac{3}{4}$ in. of the inner side of the nasals, and on this was articulated the ossified termination of the nasal cartilage. This is of subtriangular form and consists of a plate of bone $3\frac{7}{8}$ in. long, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ deep, and $\frac{1}{4}$ thick. Its upper edge is expanded laterally to a width (in its greatest measurement) of $1\frac{7}{8}$ in., and forms a deep sulcus, into which the tip of the nasals and the roughened articular surface of their underside fit. The anterior edge of this bone is slightly in advance of the tip of the nasals and is $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in advance of the anterior point of the præmaxillæ, between which point and the lower edge of the septal bone there is a distance of one inch.

I have since seen the skulls of two other specimens shot at the same place, the one an adult and the other a younger ♂. This structure was present in both.

As can be seen from the accompanying drawing, it bears a strong resemblance to the figure given by Prof. Owen (in his *Hist. of Brit. Foss. Mamm.*) of *R. leptorhinus*. There is this difference that in *R. leptorhinus* the ossified terminal portion of the septum is ankylosed to the nasals, whilst in *R. Sondaicus* it is not. This, however, might take place at a more advanced age, as, in a foot-note to p. 367, he mentions that the bony septum of *R. tiorhinus* is free until the animal has quite attained maturity. Judging, however, from the old skulls of *Sondaicus* before mentioned, I should not think that it would do so, or it would still remain *in situ* in those skulls. Again, Prof. Owen speaks of the edges of the septum of *leptorhinus* as being complete, whereas in *sondaicus* they are not. They bear distinct marks of the insertion of the posterior cartilage, thus leading one to think that, even if it did not ankylose to the nasals, it might in a very old animal become a completely ossified septum.

Prof. Owen also (*Anat. of Vertebrates*, Vol. III, p. 356) regards the cloison in *Rh. tichorinus* as indicative of the great development of the horns in that species, but in *Rh. sondaicus* the horn is small (5 or 6 inches as a rule and never exceeding a foot or 18 inches) in the male, and what is very peculiar, the female has no horn whatever. I do not know of any other

Rhinoceros in which this is the case; as in *Rh. indicus*, as well as the double-horned species with which I am acquainted, the female carries a horn or horns, though they are generally smaller than in the male.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE V.

- Fig. 1. Side view of the skull with the terminal ossification (*) *in situ*.
 „ 2. Section of the skull showing the posterior ossification (**)
 „ 3. Inner or under view of the conjoined nasal bones showing (a) the anterior termination of the upper fringe with the ossified nasal cartilages (b. c.) and (d) the roughened articular surface for the terminal bone.
 „ 4. Front view of the tip of the nasals with the terminal bone *in situ*.
 „ 5. Front view of the bone disconnected.
 „ 6. Upper or articular surface of ditto.

V.—*On the Scientific Names of the Sind “Ibex,” the Markhor, and the Indian Antelope.*—By W. T. BLANFORD, F. R. S., F. G. S.

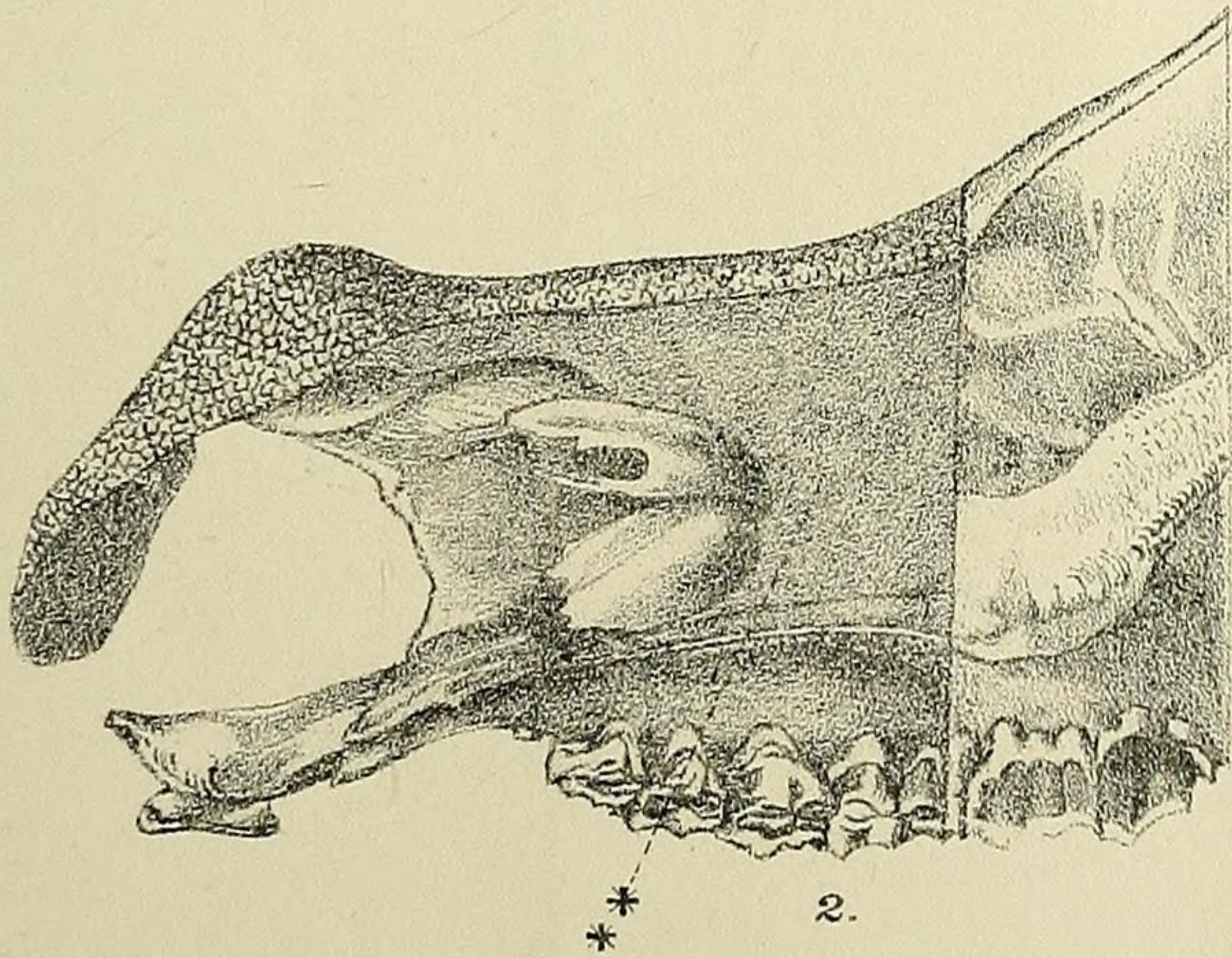
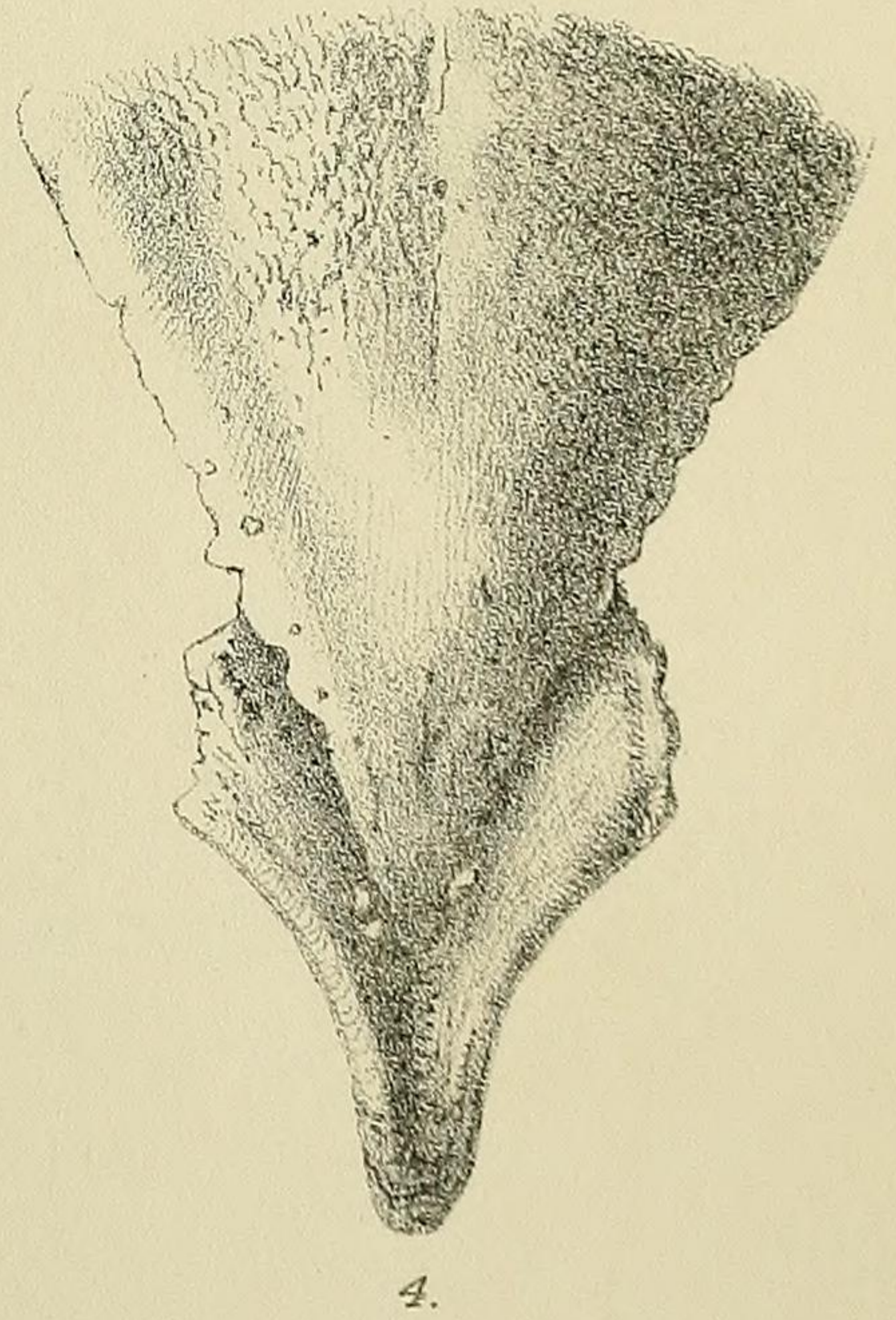
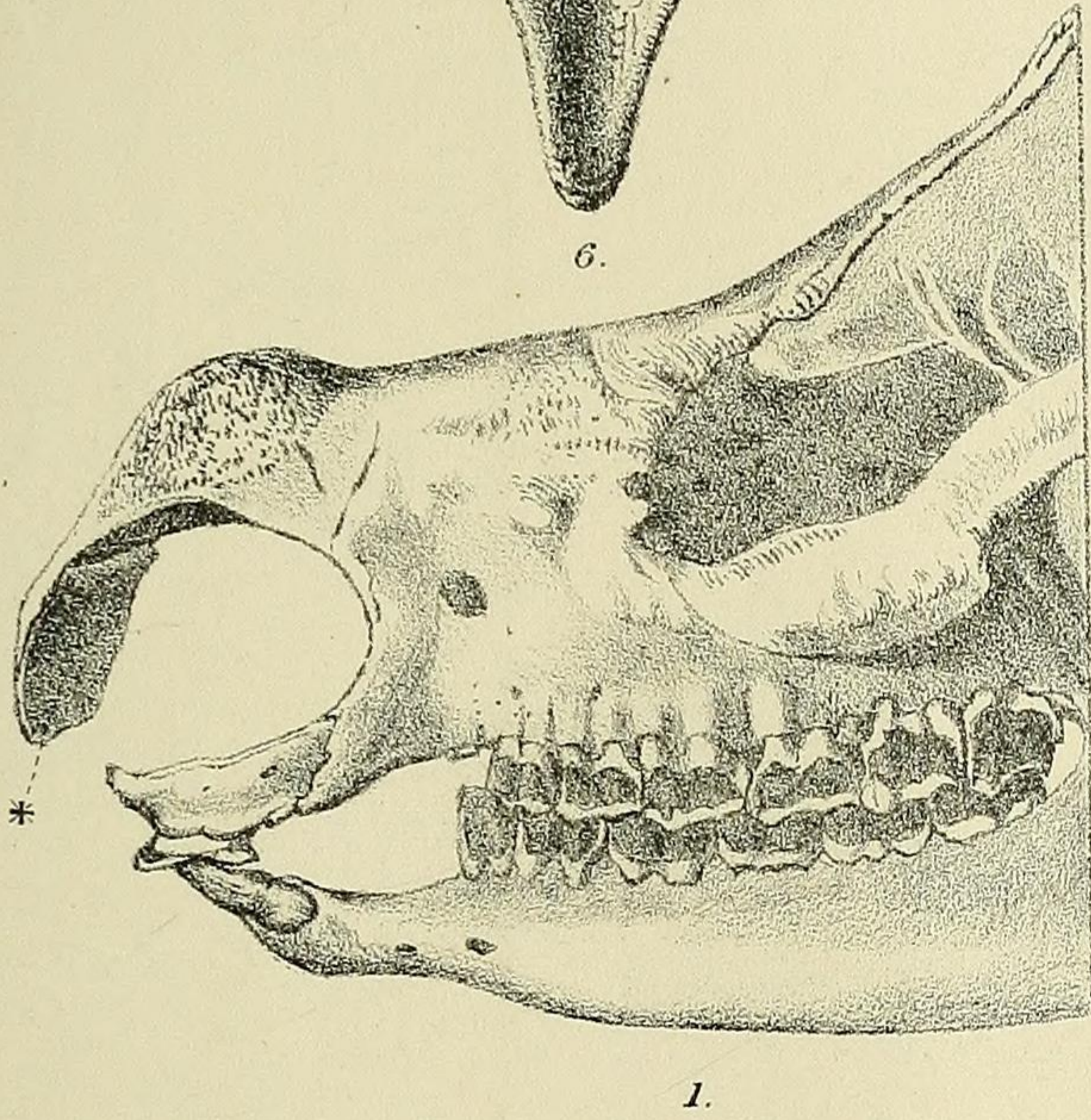
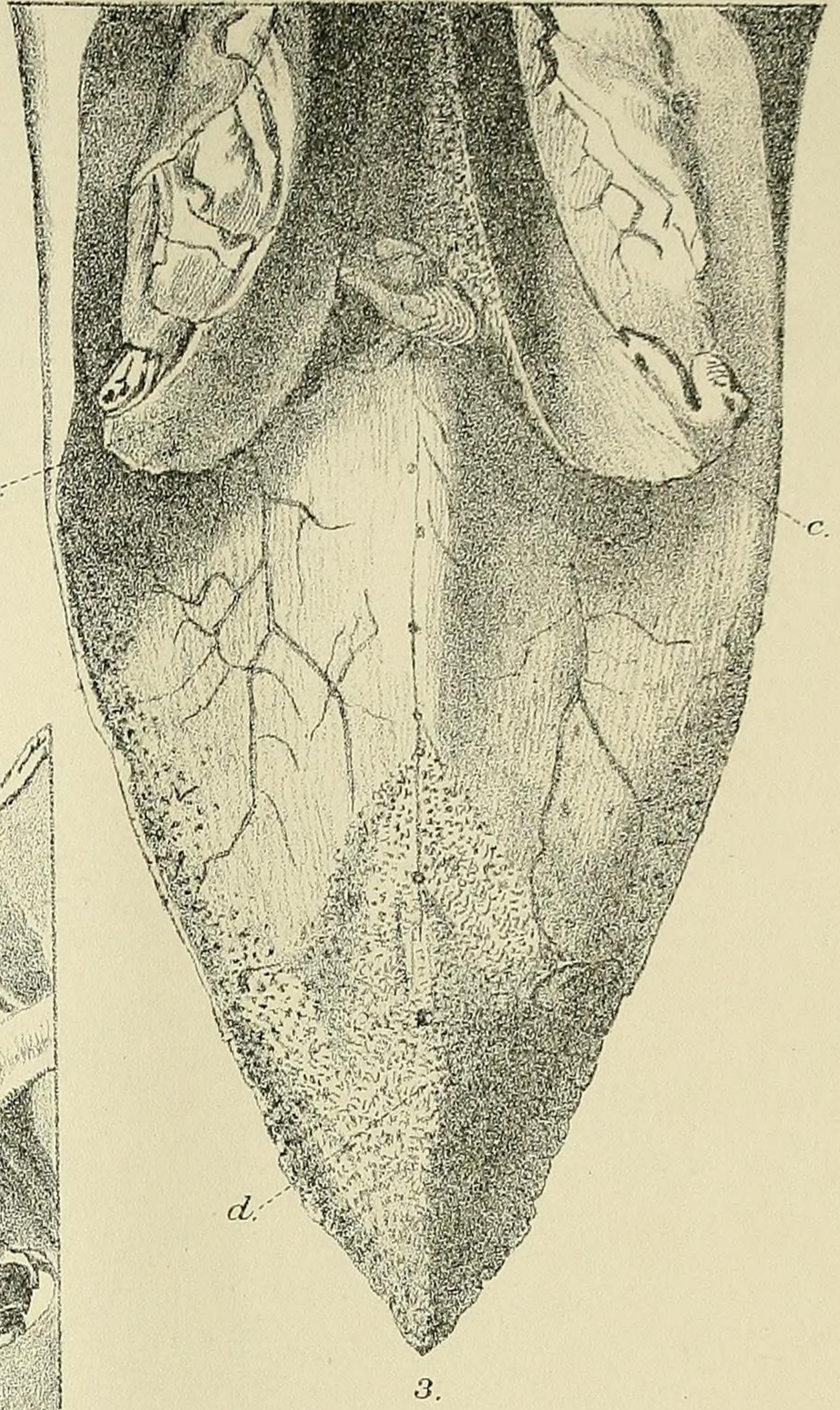
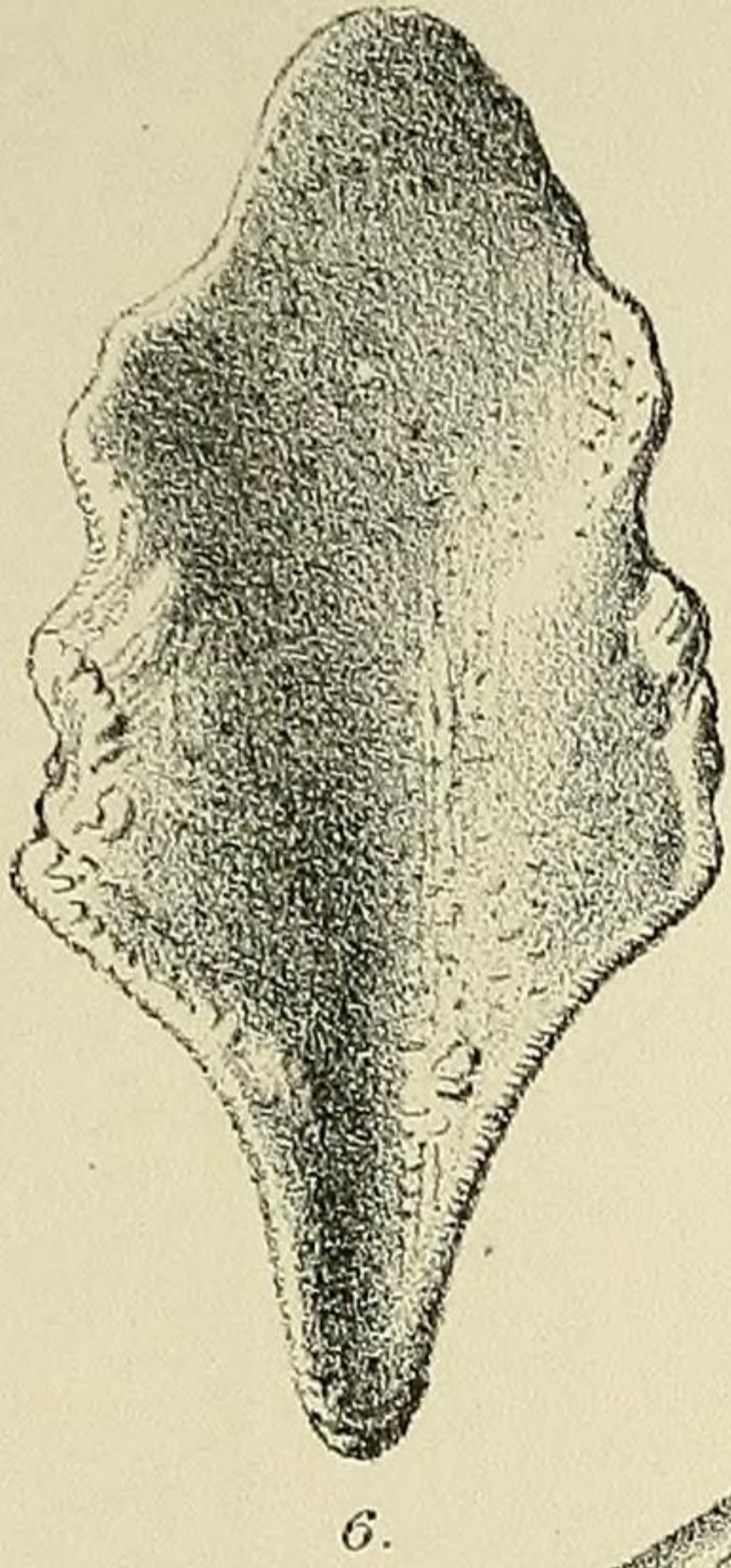
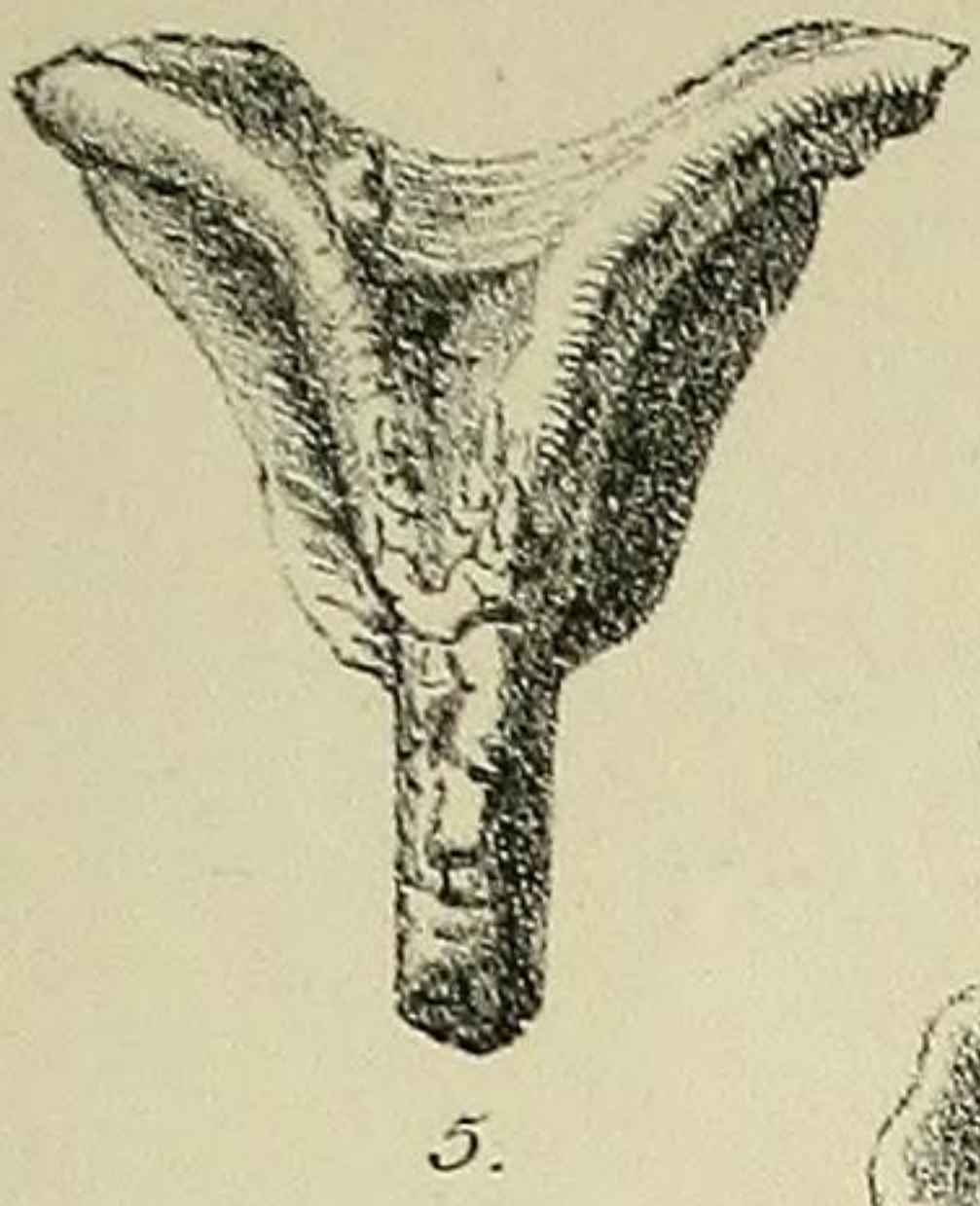
(Received 27th May,—Read June 2nd, 1875.)

In the Proceedings of the Asiatic Society for December last, p. 240, Mr. Hume proposed the names of *Capra Blythi* for the Sind wild goat or ibex, and *Capra Jerdoni* for the Suliman variety of the Markhor. The former animal is only incidentally mentioned in Jerdon's Mammals of India, p. 293, and then it is called *Capra Caucasica*.* The two forms of Markhor inhabiting Kashmir and Afghanistan are mentioned by Jerdon, but very briefly. As the idea is prevalent in India that neither the Sind goat nor the Suliman Markhor are known to naturalists, I think it may be useful to shew that this view is erroneous, and that neither animal requires a new scientific name.

To take the Sind “ibex” first. This animal is, I think, clearly identical with the wild goat of Persia, Armenia and the Caucasus, and probably of Crete. There is another wild caprine animal in the Caucasus, more nearly allied to the Alpine and Central Asian species of ibex, and this animal is the true *Capra Caucasica*. The wild goat of Persia and Sind has long been known throughout the civilized world as the source of the genuine bezoar,† so greatly famed in former times for its supposed virtue as an antidote to poison.

* It should be borne in mind that the Sind goat does not occur east of the river Indus, which was adopted by Dr. Jerdon, in the Prospectus published at the commencement of his “Birds of India,” as the western boundary of the Indian fauna.

† This word is Persian, or rather, a corruption of the Persian *pázahr*, which again is derived from *fá-zahr*, useful or profitable (against) poison.



J. Schaumburg, Lith.

RHINOCEROS SONDAICUS.