

Chapter 3

Checklist of South Asian Mammals

Arrangement of the Checklist

The checklist includes enumeration of all the living and recently extinct species known to occur or have occurred in South Asia. Taxonomic arrangement is following Wilson and Reeder (2005) and comments are added at appropriate places where deviations were incorporated following works published after 2005. Necessary taxonomic comments have been provided at order, family, genus, and species levels. Wherever necessary, additional classification levels have been included. The checklist is based on the best of our knowledge on mammalian species diversity as on 31.12.2011. Any omissions are purely unintentional.

Each species entry includes the currently used scientific name followed by the name of the author(s) and the year in which it was described. Following the scientific name the authority including the original citation in which the type description appeared is provided which is followed by the standardized common name which is followed by alternate English name(s) in parenthesis, type locality (site from where the type specimen(s) was collected for describing the species), synonyms and subspecies valid for South Asia, and distribution (subspecies-wise where applicable), with country-wise distribution details. For all practical purposes, this work considers the disputed part of Jammu and Kashmir, referred to as “Disputed Kashmir” here, as part of India. This is followed by comments (taxonomic or otherwise).

Order Perissodactyla Owen, 1848

Includes two families in South Asia (Grubb 2005a). Phylogenetic relationships between the extant families and species have been worked out by Steiner and Ryder (2011).

Family Equidae Gray, 1821

Genus *Equus* Linnaeus, 1758

Horses and Asses

Two species in South Asia.

431. *Equus hemionus* Pallas, 1775

1775. *Equus hemionus* Pallas, Nova Comm. Imp. Acad. Sci. Petrop., 19:394

Asiatic Wild Ass (Onager, Asian Wild Ass)

- Type locality: Terai-Nor (50°N, 115°E), Dauria, S. Chitinsk, Obl., Transbaikalia, Russia
- Synonyms: *Equus onager khur* Lesson, 1827
Asinus indicus Sclater, 1862 (*nomen nudum*)
Equus indicus George, 1869
Microhippus hemionus blanfordi Pocock, 1947
- Subspecies: *Equus hemionus khur* Lesson, 1827
Equus hemionus blanfordi (Pocock, 1947)
- Distribution: *Equus hemionus khur* Lesson, 1827
 Endemic to South Asia
 India—Gujarat
 Pakistan—extinct
Equus hemionus blanfordi (Pocock, 1947) Extinct
 Afghanistan—Kandahar Province
 Pakistan—Balochistan
- Comments: Grubb (1993a) treated the taxon *hemionus khur* Lesson, 1827 under *Equus onager* Boddaert, 1785, while Groves (2003) treated it as a distinct species. *Equus hemionus khur* Lesson, 1827 has become extinct in Pakistan where it was known from Sindh region bordering Gujarat, India. Corbet and Hill (1992) and Groves (2003) opine that *Equus hemionus blanfordi* (Pocock, 1947) is extinct
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432. *Equus kiang* Moorcroft, 1841

1841. *Equus kiang* Moorcroft, Travels in the Himalayan Provinces, 1:312

Kiang (Tibetan Wild Ass)

- Type locality: Eastern parts of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, India
- Synonyms: *Equus hemionus kiang* Moorcroft, 1841
Asinus equioides Hodgson, 1842
Asinus polyodon Hodgson, 1847
Asinus kyang Kinloch, 1861
- Subspecies: *Equus kiang kiang* Moorcroft, 1841
Equus kiang polyodon (Hodgson, 1847)
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Kiang (Tibetan Wild Ass)

- Distribution: *Equus kiang kiang* Moorcroft, 1841
 India—Jammu and Kashmir (in Ladakh), Khunjreb National Park, Gilgit
 (Disputed Kashmir) (St-Louis and Côté 2009)
Equus kiang polyodon (Hodgson, 1847)
 India—Sikkim
 Nepal—Eastern and Far-Western Nepal (in the Himalayas)
- Comments: Earlier included under *Equus hemionus* Pallas, 1775 (Ellerman and Morrison-Scott 1951; Schlawe 1986) from which it differs in cranial profile (Bennett 1980; Groves and Mazák 1967; Groves 1986, 2003). This taxon may probably occur in Bhutan
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Family Rhinocerotidae Gray, 1821

Three species in two genera. Molecular phylogeny studies show that *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis* is closely related to *Rhinoceros unicornis* and *Rhinoceros sondaicus* (Tougaard et al. 2001).

Genus *Dicerorhinus* Gloger, 1841**Asian Two-horned Rhinoceros**

A monotypic genus. Earlier named *Didermocerus* Brookes, 1828 (Ellerman and Morrison-Scott 1951). The present generic name *Dicerorhinus* Gloger, 1841 is accepted vide International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (1977).

433. *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis* (Fischer, 1814)

1814. *Rhinoceros sumatrensis* Fischer, Zoogn., 3:301

Sumatran Rhinoceros (Asian Two-horned Rhinoceros)

- Type locality: Bencoolen Dist., South Sumatra
- Synonyms: *Rhinoceros sumatrensis* Fischer, 1814
Didermocerus sumatrensis (Fischer, 1814)
Rhinoceros lasiotis Buckland, 1872
Didermocerus sumatrensis lasiotis (Buckland, 1872)
- Subspecies: *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis lasiotis* (Buckland, 1872)
- Distribution: *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis lasiotis* (Buckland, 1872)
 Bangladesh—Extinct
 Bhutan—Extinct
 India—Assam, Manipur and Nagaland
- Comments: Although there are no recent reports of this species in South Asia, Choudhury (1997) opined that it apparently still occurs in Manipur and Nagaland. Revised by Groves (1967c) and reviewed by Groves and Kurt (1972)
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Genus *Rhinoceros* Linnaeus, 1758

Asian One-horned Rhinoceros

Two species in South Asia of which one is extinct in the region.

434. *Rhinoceros unicornis* Linnaeus, 1758

1758. *Rhinoceros unicornis* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat. 10th ed., 1:56

Great Indian Rhinoceros (Great One-horned Rhinoceros, Indian One-horned Rhinoceros)

- Type locality: Probably the sub-Himalayan terai of Assam, India
- Synonyms: *Rhinoceros indicus* G. Cuvier, 1817
Rhinoceros asiaticus Blumenbach, 1830
Rhinoceros stenocephalus Gray, 1867
Rhinoceros jamrachi Scatter, 1876 (invalid *nomen*)
- Subspecies: None
- Distribution: Endemic to South Asia
Rhinoceros unicornis Linnaeus, 1758
 Afghanistan—Extinct
 Bangladesh—Extinct
 Bhutan—East Bhutan
 India—Assam, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal
 Nepal—Mid-Western Nepal
 Pakistan—Extinct
- Comments: The nomen *jamrachi* Scatter, 1876 is invalid as it is based on an unpublished document (Rookmaaker 1977; Laurie et al. 1983; Groves 2003). Groves (1993a, 2003) felt that the Assamese and Nepalese populations differ cranially, and suggest taxonomic studies. Historically, occurred in Afghanistan and Pakistan too (Rookmaaker 2000)
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435. *Rhinoceros sondaicus* Desmarest, 1822

1822. *Rhinoceros sondaicus* Desmarest, Mammalogie, 2:399

Javan Rhinoceros (Lesser One-horned Rhinoceros, Javan One-horned Rhinoceros)

- Type locality: Java
- Synonyms: *Rhinoceros inermis* Lesson, 1840
- Subspecies: *Rhinoceros sondaicus inermis* Lesson, 1840
- Distribution: Extinct from South Asia
Rhinoceros sondaicus inermis Lesson, 1840
 Extinct in South Asia
 Bangladesh—Extinct
 Bhutan—Extinct
 India—Extinct
- Comments: Groves and Chakraborty (1983) and Groves (1993a, 2003) opine that *Rhinoceros sondaicus inermis* Lesson, 1840 has become extinct. This taxon has been revised by Groves (1967)
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