

## VII. THE ONE-HORNED RHINOCEROS IN THE MALAY PENINSULA.

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(Plate V).

The Smaller One-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) has long been known, and was fairly numerous, in Tenasserim in the north of the Malay Peninsula. It was at one time fairly common in Java where, however, it is now represented by a few dozen individuals all strictly protected: and it exists, though apparently only in small numbers, in Sumatra.

Of its occurrence in the Siamese part of the Malay Peninsula we have practically no evidence, but it still occurs in the Malay States though the concrete evidence of its presence there rests upon two examples only, both shot in Perak. Happily the heads of these specimens have both been preserved.

The first of these is the (locally) famous "Pinjih Rhino" which was shot by Mr. (now Sir) George W. Maxwell in the Pinjih valley of the Kinta district of Perak in 1899 (see "In Malay Forests" by George Maxwell, Blackwood, 1907, pp. 12-46). This was a bull with a height of 5 ft. 5½ in. at the shoulder, measured after death. The head was mounted by Rowland Ward and is now on deposit in the Selangor Museum. (Pl. V, fig. 1).

The Pinjih animal was *kramat*: "that is to say, the Malays credited it with supernatural powers and imagined it to be protected against all danger by a guardian spirit. It often happens that an animal which attaches itself to one locality and establishes a reputation for daring or cunning, and which is fortunate enough to escape a few ill-directed bullets, comes in a few years to be considered *kramat*, and is in many cases imagined to be a reincarnation of a deceased celebrity." (Maxwell, p. 12).

The other animal is a cow that was killed at Kuala Serukoi near Telok Anson, Perak, on April 16th, 1924. As this rhinoceros was shot by a person without a licence and no report of the matter was made to the authorities the skull and head-skin (which had been roughly preserved) were, on news of the incident being received, confiscated by Government and handed over to the Selangor Museum where the skin, in view of its poor condition, was most successfully set up by Mr. E. Seimund. (Pl. V, fig. 2).

Both these animals seem to have been extremely savage and given to unprovoked attacks. The Pinjih beast had been the terror of its valley from long before the British Occupation (1874) and it was only large and well armed parties that ventured into its neighbourhood. It was known to have killed at least three men on separate occasions and had attacked many others who escaped. "It would turn aside for no one, so it was said; on the contrary, if met in the forest, it would either stand its ground and then slowly and deliberately advance in the direction from which it had been disturbed, or it would charge without warning." (Maxwell, p. 13).

The Telok Anson cow came to notice through an attack on a Chinese who was tapping jelutong in the forest. He was charged three times, tossed, and chased into the coolie-lines. She was believed to have killed a man earlier, but a second animal was reported in the neighbourhood though nothing further has been heard of it.

The much smaller, Two-horned Rhinoceros (*R. sumatrensis*) is the common Rhinoceros of Malaysia where it occurs in Sumatra, Borneo and throughout the Malay Peninsula.





RHINOCEROS SONDAICUS FROM PERAK,  
MALAY PENINSULA.  
*(Male and Female).*