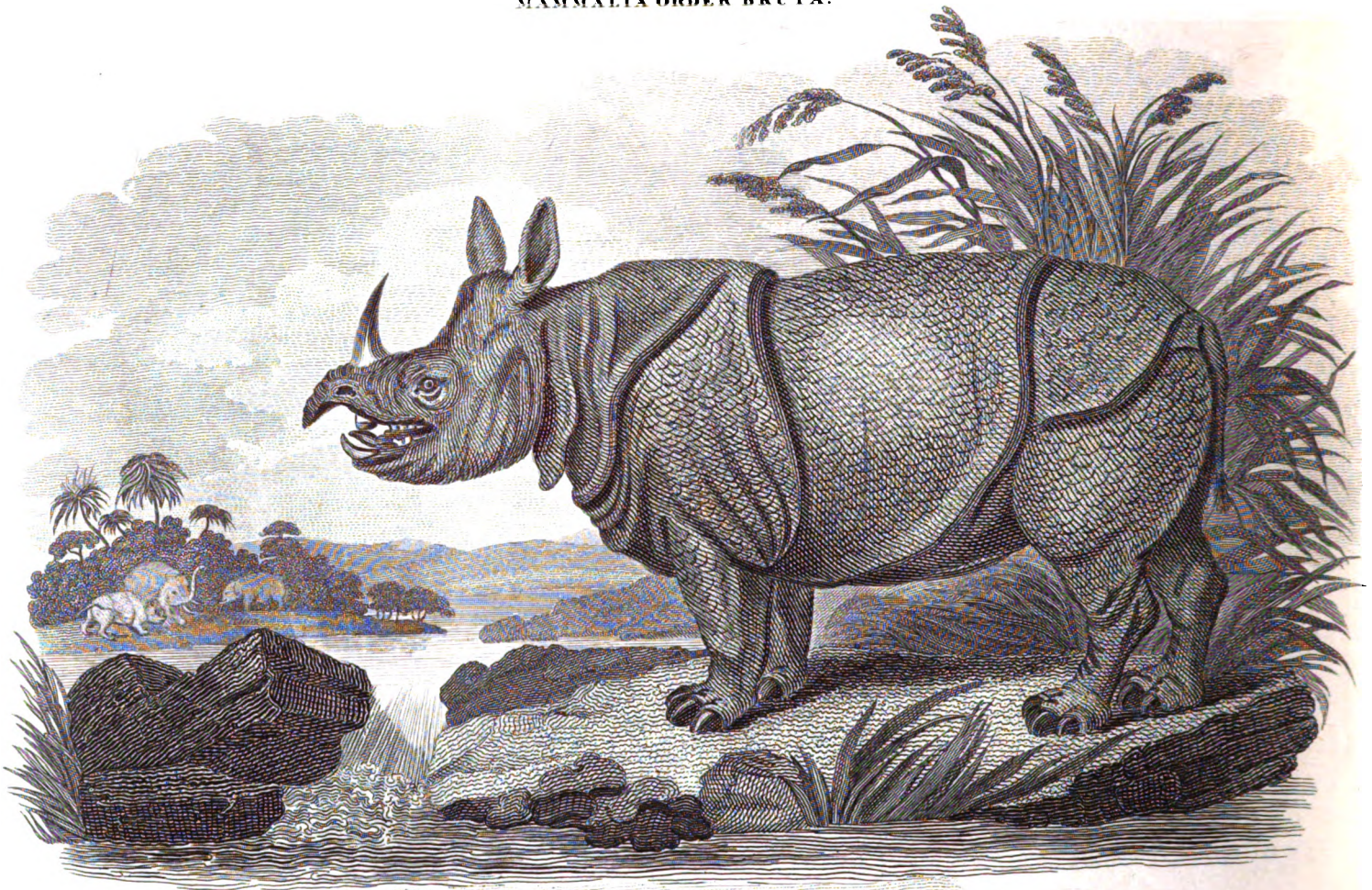




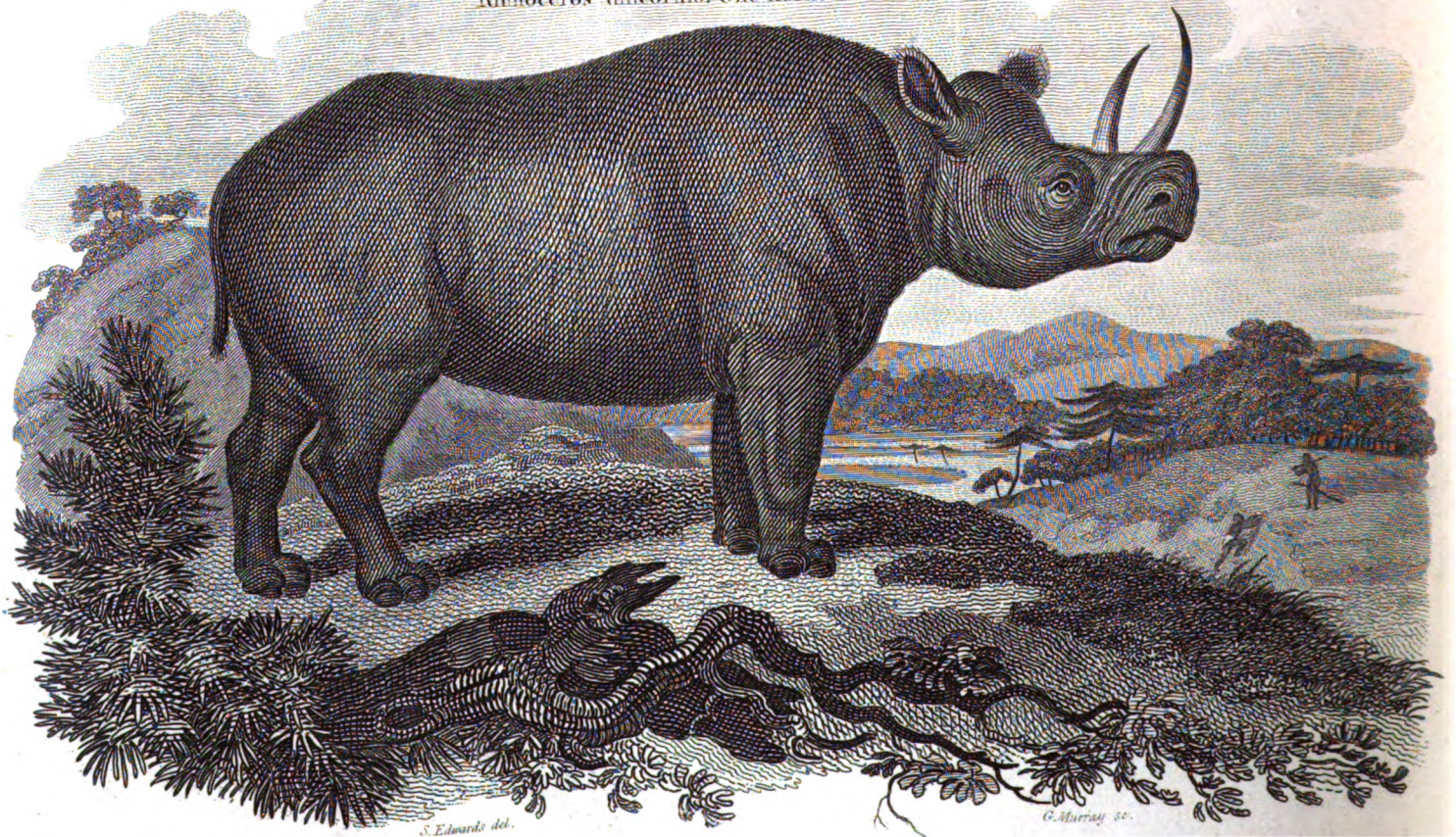
THE
B O O K
OF
NATURE:
EMBRACING
A CONDENSED SURVEY
OF THE
Animal Kingdom
AS WELL AS SKETCHES
OF
Vegetable Anatomy, Geology, Botany,
Mineralogy, &c. &c.
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Rhinoceros unicornis. One horned Rhinoceros.



Rhinoceros bicornis. Two horned Rhinoceros.

PLATE CCX.—QUADRUPEDS.

MAMMALIA. Order BRUTA. Genus RHINOCEROS.

Generic character. There are no incisory teeth, or they are $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$; without canine teeth; and the grinders are $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{8}$; total 32 or 36. When incisory teeth exist, they are unequal among themselves; the anterior grinders are small; the posterior increasing progressively; the eyes are small, lateral, and placed far back in the head; ears long, narrow; there are three toes on all the feet, and one or two horns placed on the nose, above the nasal cavity; skin very thick, naked, and rough; the tail is short, and laterally compressed; with two teats.

FIG. 1. *One-horned Rhinoceros. Rhinoceros Unicornis*, LINN.
Rhinoceros Indicus, DESMAREST.

This animal has one solid, conical horn on the nose, sometimes three feet in length, and eighteen inches in circumference at the root, and two incisory teeth in each jaw, with a small tooth on each side of these in the upper jaw; the skin, which is of a blackish colour, is disposed about the neck into large plaits or folds; a large fold passes from the shoulders to the fore legs, and another from the thighs; the skin is naked and rough, and covered with large tubercles, or granulations, which extend over the legs and feet. Between the great folds, under the belly, the skin is very soft, and of a rose colour.

The body of this animal is little inferior in size to the elephant, but he is much shorter in the legs; his length, from the muzzle to the tail, is nearly twelve feet, and the girth about the same measurement; and, from the shortness of its legs, the belly nearly touches the ground. The pendulous upper lip of the rhinoceros assists it in a great measure to collect its food.

The Indian rhinoceros, without being ferocious, is very intractable and rude. It is subject to paroxysms of fury, which nothing can appease. It frequents moist and marshy ground, is fond of wallowing in the mire, and seldom quits the banks of rivers. It inhabits Bengal, Siam, Java, Sumatra, Ceylon, and many places of Africa. It does not seem a numerous species, and is less diffused than the elephant. The female produces but one at a time.

The sense of smell in the rhinoceros is said to be exquisite, and hunters are in consequence always obliged to keep to the windward of him. They follow him unobserved, till he lies down to sleep, then steal close to him, and discharge their muskets into the lower part of his belly, where the skin is soft.

The rhinoceros can run with great swiftness, and, from his strength and hard impenetrable hide, he is capable of rushing through thickets with resistless fury; almost every obstacle is quickly overturned.

The first rhinoceros which was brought to England was in 1684. The next we have any distinct account of was imported from Bengal about the year 1743. Another was brought from Atchaws, in the dominions of the King of Ava, and was exhibited at Paris. He was exceedingly docile, and showed great fondness for some of his attendants. He was fed upon hay, corn, and sharp prickly plants, of which he was very fond.

The following particulars of a rhinoceros, exhibited at Exeter Change, was obtained by Sir Everard Home, from the person who kept him for three years, when it died; and published in the *Philosophical Transactions*. "It was so savage," says he, "that about a month after it came, it endeavoured to kill the keeper, and nearly succeeded. It ran at him with the greatest impetuosity, but, fortunately, the horn passed between his thighs, and threw the keeper on its head; the horn came against a wooden partition, into which the animal forced it to such a depth as to be unable for a minute to withdraw it, and, during this interval, the man escaped. Its skin, though apparently so hard, is only covered with small scales, of the thickness of paper, with the appearance of tortoise-shell; at the edges of these the skin itself is exceedingly sensible, either to the bite of a fly or the lash of a whip. By this discipline,

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the keeper got the management of it, and the animal was brought to know him; but frequently, (more especially in the middle of the night,) fits of frenzy came on; and, while these lasted, nothing could control its rage, the rhinoceros running with great swiftness round the den, playing all kinds of antics, making hideous noises, knocking every thing to pieces, disturbing the whole neighbourhood, and then, all at once, becoming quiet. While the fit was on, even the keeper durst not make his approach. The animal fell upon its knee to enable the horn to be borne upon any object. It was quick in all its motions, ate voraciously all kinds of vegetables, appearing to have no selection. They fed it on branches of willow. Three years' confinement made no alteration on its habits."

More than one of these animals have recently been brought to the United States for exhibition. It is related of one carried to England in 1790, that its voice resembled a calf's. His daily allowance of food was 28 lbs. weight of clover, besides an equal allowance of ship-biscuit, and a great quantity of greens; and he drank five pails of water every 24 hours. He liked sweet wines, and was sometimes indulged with a few bottles. He was very mild, and allowed himself to be patted on the back, even by strangers.

FIG. 2. *Two-horned Rhinoceros. Rhinoceros Bicornis*, LINN.
Rhinoceros Africanus, DESMAREST.

The two-horned rhinoceros has no incisory teeth in either jaw, and is furnished with two erect horns on the nose, the lower one being longer than the upper. These horns are said to be moveable when the animal is in a quiescent state, and to become perfectly firm when enraged. He differs materially from the Indian rhinoceros in the appearance of his skin, which is devoid of the large folds and wrinkles of that species, having merely a slight plait across the shoulders, and some fainter wrinkles on the sides, being comparatively smooth, when opposed to the Indian species, having no hair on any part of it, except at the edge of the ears, and extremity of the tail. Mr. Burchell ascertained that musket-balls, composed of lead and tin, easily penetrated the skin of this species, though they were flattened by striking against the bones; but he is of opinion, that balls of lead alone, or, if fired with a weak charge of powder, might possibly be turned by the thickness of the hide. The flexible upper lip in this animal, like that of the former species, is of great use in collecting its food.

At first sight, this animal has much the appearance of an enormous hog, which it resembles, not merely in its general form, but also in the contour of the head, the smallness of its eyes, and size of its ears: but, in its clumsy and rudely formed feet, it is more allied to the hippopotamus and elephant.

Mr. Burchell measured an African rhinoceros, which was eleven feet two inches from the point of the nose to the insertion of the tail, following the undulations, but, in a straight line, was only nine feet three inches; the tail, which was flattened vertically at its extremity, was twenty inches; and the greatest girth of the body was eight feet four inches.

The organs of smell, and other senses in this species, strongly resemble that of the Indian rhinoceros, and its habits are so nearly allied, that a repetition of them is unnecessary.

Rhinoceros Hunt.—Some years ago, a party of Europeans, with their native attendants and elephants, met with a small herd of seven of them. These were led by a larger and more powerful animal than the rest. When this large leader charged the hunters, the first elephants, in place of using their tusks as weapons, which they are generally in the practice of doing, wheeled round, and received the blow of the rhinoceros's horn on their hind quarters; and, so powerful was the concussion, that it brought them instantly to the ground, with their riders, and as soon as they could get on their feet again, the brute was ready to repeat the attack, and was certain to produce another fall; and in this manner did the contest continue, until four of the seven were killed, when the rest made good their retreat.