

OCCASIONAL PAPER NO. 219

**RECORDS OF THE
ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA**

**A Catalogue of Mammalian Exhibits of
Zoological Galleries of the Indian Museum**

RINA CHAKRABORTY

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Edited by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata



सत्यमेव जयते

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INTRODUCTION

The Indian Museum was established in the year 1814, but zoological galleries were set up later, in the year 1878. Since then, only one catalogue on total mammalian collections was published in two volumes by Anderson (1881) and Sclater (1891). With the establishment of the Zoological Survey of India in the year 1916, the zoological galleries along with the displayed and reserve collections, came under the supervision of the survey.

The sources of collection of the exhibits are various. Some of the mammal specimens were originally the property of the Asiatic Society of Bengal which was established in the year 1784 by Sir William Jones. Blyth (1863) published a catalogue dealing with the collection of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. Those mammalian collections were later handed over to the Indian Museum. So, the gallery is enriched with century old exhibits also.

Private donors, too numerous to mention, also contributed substantial collections. Collections of W. Rutledge, C.J.T. Llyod, A.R.S. Anderson, H. P. Vieere, Thakur Jaswant Singh, E. Blyth, etc., specially enriched the gallery. In the recent period, the main sources of collection are from Kolkata Zoological Garden and Zoological Survey of India.

The collection is also enriched with invaluable specimens, collected during different expeditions viz., Yunnan Expedition in 1868 and 1875, Northern and Eastern Frontier Expedition in 1870, Pamir Boundary Commission in 1896, Lhasa Expedition in 1903, Abor Expedition in 1911 etc.

The desirability of the preparation of a revised catalogue has been keenly felt, as many changes have taken place in the collection since the publication of the last catalogue, more than hundred years ago.

In many cases, Z.S.I. Registration number, locality, date of collections are wanting but all the exhibits are having GRM number, which belongs to Museum and Taxidermy Section. Date of presentation and date of collection are mentioned under a single column as in many cases of presentation, date of collection was not mentioned.

Wherever possible, Catalogue number of Asiatic Society of Bengal, Sclater and Anderson's catalogue along with the status of the exhibits like mounted exhibit or mounted skeleton, skull etc. are given.

Though most of the mammalian collections now belong to the Mammal and Osteology section of the Zoological Survey of India, yet a comprehensive catalogue of mammalian exhibits displayed in the mammal gallery of the Indian Museum is needed for the curious visitors and researchers. Khajuria (1953, 1955a, 1955b, 1958) published catalogues on primates but those include the reserve National Zoological collections as well as Indian Museum exhibits.

This is, however, the first attempt to have a catalogue exclusively on displayed exhibits of the Indian Museum. The gallery is enriched with 362 exhibits, belong to 191 species.

The abbreviations used in the text are mentioned here along with their full form. Z.S.I. -

Zoological Survey of India; ASB - Asiatic Society of Bengal, ME - Mounted exhibit; Mt. - Mounted; ♂ - Male; ♀ - Female; HB - Head and body; Tl - Tail; E - English; Sl. No. - Serial Number; M & T - Museum and Taxidermy; Yr. - year; Coll. - Collection; Col. -Collector; Reg. No. - Registration Number.

The scientific account like taxonomy, geographical distribution, morphological characters etc. are based on Prater (1965), Honacki *et al.* (1982), Walker (1983), Corbet and Hill (1986), Wilson and Reeder (1993).

As the name of Calcutta has been renamed as 'Kolkata' in the year 2002, so the term 'Kolkata' is used instead of Calcutta.

Class MAMMALIA

Sub Class PROTOTHERIA

1. Order MONOTREMATA

Oviparous; nourish their young after hatching with a lacteal secretion; possess cloaca like birds and reptiles; two uteri; presence of a beak; no teeth; pectoral girdle with coracoid bones.

1.1. Family TACHYGLOSSIDAE

1811. *Tachyglossus* Illiger, *Prodr. Syst. Mammal. et Avium.*, P. 114.

1.1 1 *Tachyglossus aculeatus* (Shaw, 1792)

Nat. Mis., 3, pl. 109.

Common Name (E) : Short-nosed Echidna

HB 350 - 530mm; body covered with spines; snout long and cylindrical with a sticky vermiform tongue for catching ants; feet with plantar pads and toes terminating in strong claws; colour yellowish grey.

Distribution : Australia, Tasmania and New Guinea.

Sl. No.	M & T Reg. No.	ZSI Reg. No.	Locality	Yr. of Coll./donation	Coll./ Donor	Sex	Remarks
1	GRM 261	-	-	-	-	-	ME ASB
2.	GRM 319	20687	-	1981	Zoo Garden Kolkata	-	ME

mostache consisting of about 400 bristles; no tail; fore-flippers oar-like and long; all flippers thick and cartilaginous, being thickest on the forward edge; palms and soles bare, rough and warty.

Distribution : Arctic seas; south as far as New England (U.S.A.), Great Britain, Scandinavia, Pribilof Isls. and Honshu (Japan) at least occasionally.

Sl. No.	M & T Reg. No.	ZSI Reg. No.	Locality	Yr. of Coll./donation	Coll./ Donor	Sex	Remarks
1.	GRM 75	-	-	-	-	-	ME
2.	GRM 76	-	-	-	-	-	Skull
3.	GRM 77	-	-	-	-	-	Skull
4.	GRM 78	-	-	-	-	-	Skull

9. Order PERISSODACTYLA

Number of toes in each foot usually odd, either one or three in number; of these, the third or middle toe of the foot is most prominent. These are further marked by having their molar and premolar teeth in one unbroken series, the posterior molars resembling the premolars in size and shape.

9.1. Family RHINOCEROTIDAE

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

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

Common Name (E) : Great One-horned Rhinoceros.

HB 2100-4200 mm; TL 600 - 750 mm; the skin practically naked except for a fringe of stiff hairs around the ears and the tip of the tail; skin divided into large shields by heavy folds; fold in front of shoulders does not continue across the back of neck; skin studded with convex tubercles on the shoulders, thighs and buttocks; colour grey to black with a pinkish cast on the under-surface and on the margins of the skin folds; head large; short, tubular legs, small eyes and wide nostrils; a single horn on the nose which is composed of agglomerated mass of hair, solidly attached to a roughened patch of bone but has no firm attachment to the bones of the skull.

Distribution : West Bengal and Assam in India and Nepal.

Sl. No.	M & T Reg. No.	ZSI Reg. No.	Locality	Yr. of Coll./donation	Coll./ Donor	Sex	Remarks
1	GRM 6	7806/ 19263	-	-	-	-	Skull with lower jaw 'ASB' Sclater's Cat. no. 'O'
2.	GRM 7	2735	Nepal Terai	1875	E.Barring	-	Skull with lower jaw Sclater's Cat.no. 'h'
3.	GRM 197	-	-	-	-	-	ME
4.	GRM 198	19262	-	-	-	-	Mt. Skeleton Sclater's Cat.no. 'e'
5.	GRM 353	-	-	-	-	-	Skull
6.	GRM 354	-	-	-	-	-	Skull

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

Common Name (E) : Smaller One-horned Rhinoceros

Smaller than Great One-horned Rhinoceros; fold of skin in front of the shoulders carried right across the back; hide divided by cracks into small polygonal discs; a single horn, approximately 270 - 280 mm in length; colour grey to black.

Distribution : Formerly Myanmar, Bangladesh, Thailand, Laos, Kampuchia, Vietnam and probably S. China through Malay Peninsula to Sumatra and Java. Survives in Ujung Kulon (W. Java), and perhaps in small areas of Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Kampuchia.

Sl. No.	M&T Reg. No.	ZSI Reg. No.	Locality	Yr. of Coll./donation	Coll./ Donor	Sex	Remarks
1	GRM 8	17693	Java	1846	Batavian Society	-	Skull with lower jaw
2.	GRM 11	-	Sunderban	-	-	-	Mt. Young, last collected specimen from Sunderbans
3.	GRM 273	76	-	-	-	-	ME Baby

1841. *Dicerorhinus* Gloger, *Hand. Hilfsb. Nat.*, P. 125.

9.1.3. *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis* (Fischer. 1814). *Zoognosia*, 3 : 301.

Common Name (E) : Asiatic Two-horned Rhinoceros

Smallest living Rhinoceros; HB 2350 - 3200 mm; facial skin, characteristically wrinkled around the eye but the muzzle rounded and unwrinkled due to heavy keratinization; horn two in number, frontal horn often so inconspicuous that it appears to be single horned; posterior horn is generally short, the record length being 381 mm; the skin on the body, folded; body covered with reddish brown to black bristles; a single pair of lower incisors.

Distribution : Formerly Assam (India), Chittagong Hills (Bangladesh), Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam south through Malay Peninsula to Sumatra; probably also S. China, Laos and Cambodia (Kampuchea); Borneo, Mergui Isl. Survives in Tenasserim Range (Thailand-Myanmar), Petchabun Range (Thailand); and other scattered localities in Myanmar, Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and Borneo.

Sl. No.	M&T Reg. No.	ZSI Reg. No.	Locality	Yr. of Coll./donation	Coll./ Donor	Sex	Remarks
1	GRM 1	-	-	-	-	-	Mt. head
2.	GRM 2	-	-	-	-	-	Mt. head

3.	GRM 3	-	-	-	-	-	Mt. head
4.	GRM 4	2702	-	-	-	-	ME
5.	GRM 5	17691	Singapore	1875	W.Rutledge	-	Skull with lower jaw Sclater's Cat.no. 'a'

1821. *Diceros* Gray, *Lond. Med. Repos.*, 15 : 306.

9.1.4. *Diceros bicornis* (Linnaeus, 1758). *Syst. Nat.*, 10th ed., 1 : 56.

Common Name (E) : Black or African Hook - lipped Rhinoceros

HB 3000 - 3750 mm; TL about 700 mm; number of horns two, anterior horn is larger than posterior one, averaging about 500 mm in length; colour dark yellow brown to dark brown; upper tip protrudes slightly in the middle and its tip is prehensile.

Distribution : Formerly in suitable open habitats in Africa south of about 10°N from Chad, S. Sudan and N. Somalia and from Angola, south to Cape Province (S. Africa). Survives in reserves and relatively undisturbed areas in much of the northern three-quarters of its historic range, and in places, to South Africa.

Sl. No.	M & T Reg. No.	ZSI Reg. No.	Locality	Yr. of Coll./donation	Coll./ Donor	Sex	Remarks
1.	GRM 10	-	South Africa	-	-	-	Horn (length 860 mm) ASB
2.	GRM 12	10466	German E.Africa	-	E.W.Harper	♀	ME
3.	GRM 199	-	-	-	Purchased	-	Mt. Skeleton

1868. *Ceratotherium* Gray, *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.*, 1867 : 1027.

9.1.5. *Ceratotherium simum* (Burchell, 1817). *Bull. Sci. Soc. Philom. Paris*, P. 97.

Common Name (E) White or African Square-lipped Rhinoceros.

Largest of all rhinoceros; HB 3600 - 5000 mm; colour yellowish brown to slaty grey; body necked except for ear fringes and tail bristles; hairs present in the skin but do not protrude;

anterior horn about 600 mm in length but can reach upto 1500 mm; square shaped upper lip; skin folds on the body less conspicuous; a shoulder lump present.

Distribution : Survives mostly as scattered populations in Reserves in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Zaire and southern Sudan; formerly found in NW. Africa and lower Nile Valley but now extinct.

Sl. No.	M & T Reg. No.	ZSI Reg. No.	Locality	Yr. of Coll./donation	Coll./ Donor	Sex	Remarks
1.	GRM 9	-	South Africa	1846	Maj. W.S. Sherwill	-	Horn (length 640 mm) ASB

9.2. Family TAPIRIDAE

1772. *Tapirus* Brunnich, *Zool. Fundamenta*, pp. 44, 45.

9.2.1. *Tapirus indicus* Desmarest, 1819. *Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat.*, 32 : 458.

Common Name (E) : Malayan Tapir

HB 1800 - 2500 mm; TL 50 - 100 mm; general form is rounded in back and tapering in front; snout and upper lip projected into a short fleshy proboscis; eyes small and flush with the side of head; ears oval, erect and not very mobile; front half of body and hind legs blackish and rear half above the legs white; four toes on forefoot and three on the hind.

Distribution : Myanmar, Thailand south to 18°N latitude, Malay Peninsula and Sumatra.

Sl. No.	M & T Reg. No.	ZSI Reg. No.	Locality	Yr. of Coll./donation	Coll./ Donor	Sex	Remarks
1	GRM 13	10744	-	-	Zoo Garden Kolkata	-	ME
2.	GRM 277	10044	-	-	-	-	Mt. Baby

9.3. Family EQUIDAE

1758. *Equus* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.*, 10th ed., 1 : 73

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

Common Name (E) : Tibetan Wild Ass or Kiang