

evidence of similar monsters encountered in the vicinity of Newfoundland, has appeared in the pages of 'Appleton's Journal' for January 31, 1874. Among the latter the Rev. M. Gabriel has stated that in the winter of 1870-71 two entire Cuttlefish were stranded on the beach near Lamalien, which measured respectively forty and forty-seven feet; while more recently an example became entangled in a herring-net near Logie Bay, whose body is said to have measured nine feet, the shorter arms six feet, and the two longer tentacula twenty-two feet. Steps are reported to have been taken to preserve this last-named specimen. In connexion with the St.-John's tentacle, a rough woodcut has been published in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History' for January last; and in the more minute description given by Mr. Harvey in a letter to Principal Dawson, there reprinted, the form and arrangement of the suckers at its clubbed extremity are described. These consist, in the first place, of a double row of very large suckers, measuring each $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter, with twelve suckers to each row, occupying the centre of the club-shaped expansion; supplementing each extremity of this double row is a cluster of smaller suckers, the group at the proximal end containing fifty, and that at the distal one as many as seventy of these. The smaller suckers are further distinguished from the larger ones by their denticulated edges, those of the latter being smooth. The additional characters furnished by this more complete account will be of high importance for further identification, and serve to distinguish this animal from its nearest allies *Loligo* or *Ommatostrephus*, in which the tentacular club is armed with four rows of suckers.

We await, however, still fuller details before attaching a positive diagnosis.

March 17, 1874.

Professor Newton, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

The Secretary called the attention of the Meeting to an important addition that had been made to the Society's Menagerie since the last Meeting. On the 7th inst. the Council had purchased of Messrs. Cross and Jamrach, for the sum of £800, a young male Javan Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*)* imported from Batavia.

This was believed to be the first example of this Rhinoceros that had ever been brought alive to Europe, although Mr. Blyth (J. A. S. B. xxxi. p. 152) had put forward a theory that one of the Indian Rhinoceroses exhibited in England some time since had belonged to this species.

This addition raised the representatives of the genus *Rhinoceros* in the Society's Gardens to four in number, viz. *Rh. unicornis*, *Rh.*

* The specific term *sondaicus* of Desmarest (Mamm. p. 309, 1820) appears to be the earliest for this species. In 1824 *javanicus* was published by Geoffroy St.-Hilaire and Frederick Cuvier in the Hist. Nat. des Mamm. pl. 309, and was subsequently adopted by Cuvier in his 'Règne Animal,' by Schreber, and by other authors.

sondaicus, *Rh. lasiotis* (belonging to the Asiatic series), and *Rh. bicornis* (belonging to the African).

A drawing of this interesting animal by Mr. Wolf was exhibited (Plate XXVIII.); and the differences which distinguish it from *Rh. unicornis* were pointed out*.

The following letter addressed to the Secretary by the Rev. S. J. Whitmee, C.M.Z.S., and dated Samoa, South Pacific, Dec. 12th, 1873, was read:—

“I am sending to Sydney a *Didunculus strigirostris* and two Curlews (*Numenius*, sp.) to be forwarded to London for the Zoological Society. The Curlews are from Quiros Island, in lat. 11° 2' S., and long. 171° W. The bird is occasionally seen in Samoa.

“The *Didunculus* is a young bird which I purchased in June last. It was then just from the nest and unfledged. It must have been hatched in May. This proves the breeding-season to be earlier in the year than I previously thought it was. I once procured an unfledged bird in September and I have seen several young ones about September and October; so we may safely regard the breeding-season as extending from May to September.

“We fed the *Didunculus* for more than a month by placing small pieces of bread-fruit, taro, bread, &c. in its mouth, which was always open for the reception of contributions when any one was near it. In a little more than a month it began to peck for itself. It is now almost an omnivorous feeder. The first plumage was a mottled brown, almost black. The teeth in the bill were scarcely perceptible. The bird looked so little like the adult *Didunculus* when I bought it that it was pronounced by some gentlemen on board one of H.M. men-of-war which was in port, and also by some residents here, to be a different bird. This was fortunate for me; for it was taken to the said naval zoologists before it was offered to me, in the hope of getting a higher price from them than I would give.

“The plumage, legs, and beak of the bird are now assuming the colours of the adult state. But I think they will not be fully developed until the bird is a year old; for I previously kept one ten months from the nest, and it was not then perfectly developed. I believe the bird I now have is a male. It is exceedingly savage. When any one approaches its cage it ruffles its feathers, trembles apparently with rage, and tries to bite. If he gets hold of one's finger I know from experience that he gives a severe gripe. The one I previously kept was just as savage. This one is in a cage alone: that was in a large aviary with a number of other birds, and he was lord of the place—would only allow them to feed when he had finished, and drove them about in a very savage manner.

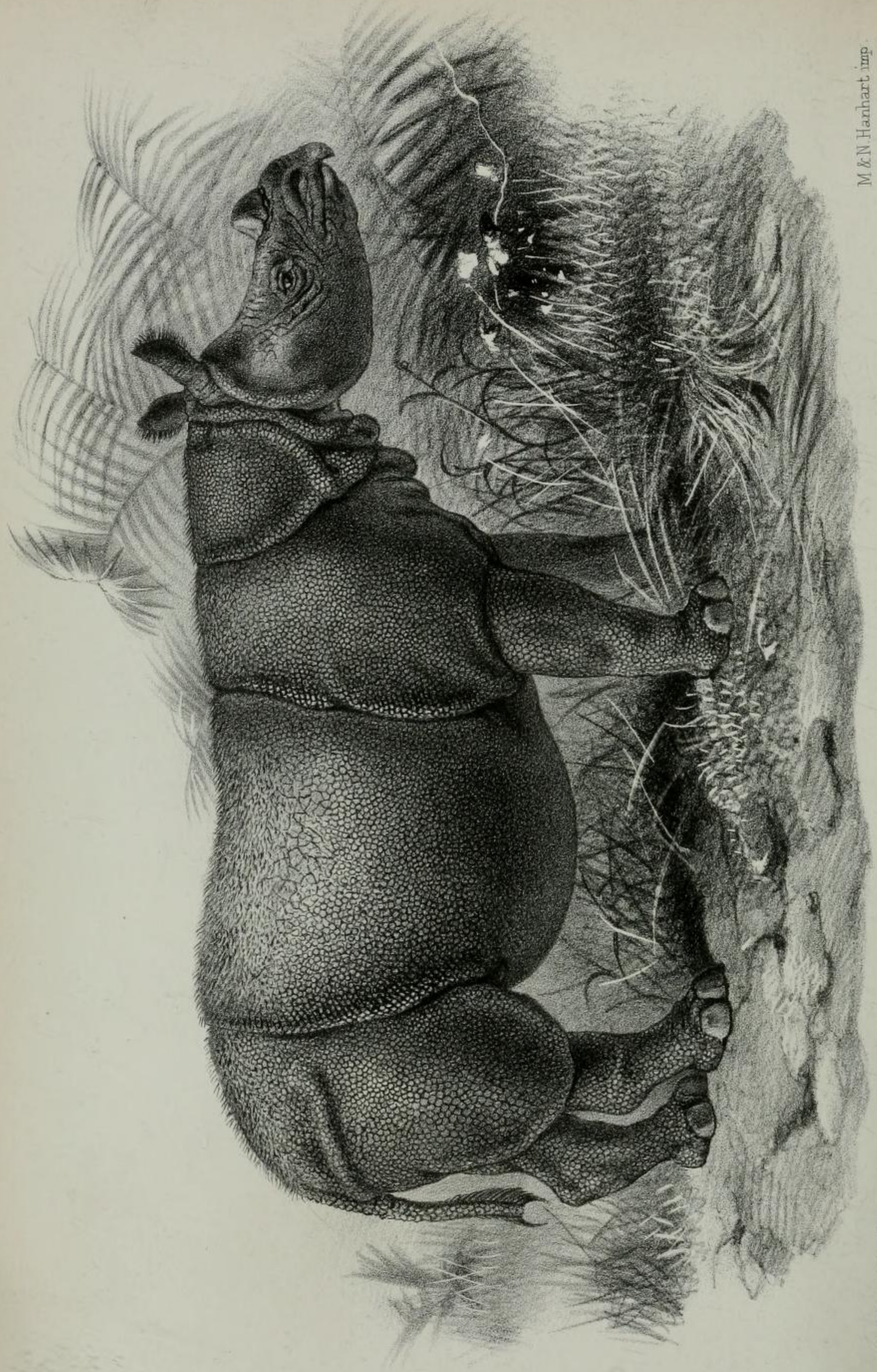
* The lateral shoulder-fold in *R. sondaicus* is continued upwards over the back of the neck, so as to cut off an independent shield which covers the nape of the neck and is shaped something like a saddle. In *R. unicornis* this nape-shield is continuous with the larger shield which covers the shoulders, the lateral shoulder-fold being lost on the upper part of the scapula. *R. sondaicus* is also much inferior in size to *R. unicornis*, and has a much longer extensile upper lip.



J. Wolf del & J. Smit lith.

RHINOCEROS SONDAICUS

M & N. Harhart imp.



J. Wolf del & J. Smit lith.

RHINOCEROS SONDAICUS.

M & N Hanhart imp.