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AND
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RHINOCEROS.

ONE HORNED RHINOCEROS.

NEXT to the elephant the rhinoceros is the most unweildy, hardy, and powerful of all animals: in the bulk of its body there is little difference; but its legs are considerably shorter than those of the former.

Of this genus there are only two known species, viz. the rhinoceros with one horn, and that with two, one above the other.

The one horned is the rhinoceros of Linnæus, and by some writers supposed to be the unicorn of holy writ, possessing the various properties therein ascribed to that animal. In early times it was certainly known to the Romans: it was frequently introduced into their public spectacles; and, in particular, we are informed of one being exhibited by Augustus on his triumph over Cleopatra.

This animal is, commonly, in height, from six to seven feet; twelve feet long, from the tip of the muzzle to the insertion of the tail, and the circumference of the body nearly equal to its length.

The body and limbs of the rhinoceros are covered with a skin, nearly black, thicker and

more impenetrable than that of the elephant, forming itself into large folds at the neck, shoulders, and crupper; two of these folds encircle the neck, and one still larger depends from the shoulders to the fore-legs.

The skin is on every part covered with tuberosities, without uniformity or regularity, whence some authors have asserted, that its legs and thighs are covered with scales. This skin forms a kind of armour, capable of resisting a musket ball, or turning the edge of the keenest weapon.

Its eyes are small and half closed, but the head is proportionably longer than that of the elephant. The upper lip, which is capable of extension to collect its food, is moveable, and projects considerably beyond the under. This muscular and flexible lip is a kind of hand, or imperfect trunk, somewhat resembling, but destitute of many of the extraordinary qualities of that of the elephant. The under jaw is square before, and in the interior part of the mouth, which is enveloped by the lips, there are no other incisive teeth: but, exclusive of the four cutting-teeth in the four corners of the mouth, they have twenty-four grinders, six in each jaw.

The ears, which are like those of the hog, but smaller, are always erect; these are partly covered with hard coarse bristles, as is likewise the extremity of the tail.

The hoofs of the rhinoceros point forward,

and are divided into three parts. Its legs are round, massy, short, and strong; and the belly large, hanging almost down to the ground.

The horn with which its nose is armed, is sometimes near four feet in length, six or seven inches in diameter, at the base, of a grey colour, and of a very hard and solid substance. This weapon is more advantageously situated than the horns of ruminating animals, which are calculated to defend only the superior parts of the face and neck.

In the attack of this animal, the lion and the tiger are frequently foiled in a moment, especially if they attempt him in front, having their bowels ripped up at a single stroke.

A young rhinoceros, which was brought from Bengal in the year 1739, cost the importers near a thousand pounds in food and other accommodations, during the voyage. He consumed seven pounds of rice, mixed with sugar, daily. He was also furnished with a considerable quantity of hay and grass, to which he gave the preference. His constant beverage was water, of which he drank very large quantities.

When kindly treated, he was exceedingly mild and gentle, and would permit his manager to take any liberty with him; but when he was hungry, or beaten, it was necessary to throw him food, in order to appease him.

When angry, he raised himself up, and leaped impetuously forward to a considerable

height, beating furiously against the walls with his head, which, notwithstanding his clumsy and awkward appearance, he did with great quickness and velocity.

At the age of two years this animal was about the height of a full grown heifer. Its tongue was smooth and soft, like that of a calf, though some naturalists have asserted that it is hard, and rough as a file. This contradiction can only be reconciled by the supposition that the tongue might experience this change on the animal's arrival at a great age. The eyes of this rhinoceros were diminutive, and wanted vivacity; these were placed so low in the head as to leave but a little space between them and the orifice of the nostrils.

The horn of the above young animal was black, and not more than an inch in height: having only a small concavity, in form of a cup, at its basis, by which it was attached to the skin of the nose.

A very peculiar quality was observable in this animal; even in his sleep, while employed in eating, or otherwise, at the least sound, however distant, he would instantly start up, and give the strictest attention, till the noise had ceased.

He seemed frequently restless and uneasy, under his confinement, and would at times make powerful efforts to effect his liberation: he was, nevertheless, very submissive to his keeper.

The cry of the rhinoceros is very remarkable, being a mixture between the roaring of the calf, and the grunting of the boar.

It is said that the rhinoceros and elephant are mortal enemies, and seldom meet without coming to an engagement; which, between two such bold and powerful animals, must be, beyond description dreadful.

Travellers report, that elephants are frequently found dead in the vast forests of Asia, with their bellies apparently ripped up by the horn of the rhinoceros; with which weapon he successfully attacks his formidable antagonist, whose long legs give him an opportunity of striking him in the most vulnerable parts; but, should he fail in the first attempt, the elephant, seizing him with his trunk, throws him to the ground, and, by that means, frequently dispatches him.

M. Buffon observes, that, having no taste for flesh, he does not molest small animals, nor fear the largest, living in perfect peace with all of them, even the tiger, who oftentimes accompanies, without venturing to attack him. "I doubt, therefore," says he, "whether the battles between the elephant and rhinoceros have any foundation; they must, however, seldom happen, since there is no notice for war on either side; and, besides, no sort of antipathy has been observed between them:" some have even been seen in captivity without giving

or receiving offence or provocation, living contentedly and peaceably together.

In the cabinet of the late unfortunate Louis XVI. of France, was a foetus of a rhinoceros, which was extracted from a female, which was killed in the island of Java.

According to a memorial which accompanied the above present, it appears, that twenty-eight huntsmen having assembled for the purpose of attacking this rhinoceros, they followed her at a distance for some days, occasionally sending one or two men on before, to reconnoitre her position. After traversing a considerable tract of country, she sought the covert, and laid her down to sleep: in this state, they stole upon her, unperceived, and lodged upwards of twenty musket bullets in her belly.

The rhinoceros is a solitary animal, found in most parts of the continent of Asia, in the south of Africa, and in the islands of Ceylon, Java, and Sumatra.

The rhinoceros is, by nature, a formidable animal; but imagination has armed it with additional terrors.

It has been reported that when it has overturned a man, or animal, it licks the flesh from the bone with its tongue, which has been supposed to be as rough as the coarsest file. These accounts, however, according to the best authorities, appear to be fabulous; the scent, if we may judge from the expansion of the

olfactory nerves, is not greater than that of the hog, which we know to be very indifferent.

The rhinoceros is supposed to associate with the tiger, because they both frequent low and watry places. in the burning climates, where they are bred; and, as to his tongue, L'Advocat, in his description of this animal, says, it is small and soft, like that of the dog, and on the hand being passed over it, feels like the most delicate velvet.

Even the ivory of the elephant is not held so much in esteem among the Indians as the horn of this animal, not on account of its real utility, though toys, and a variety of other articles, are made of it; but in consideration of certain medicinal virtues which they superstitiously ascribe to it.

We have had instances of the extraordinary strength of this animal, in his paroxysms of rage, which almost exceed belief. One of these creatures being put on board a vessel, by Emanuel king of Portugal, in order to be sent to the Pope, in the year 1513, having been seized with one of those fits of madness, nothing could appease or restrain him; in consequence of which he almost demolished the vessel in which he was transported.

A large rhinoceros, some years since exhibited at Paris, sunk the vessel on board which he had been put, on its voyage to Italy.

We cannot better convey an idea of the enormous bulk of this animal, than by giving

Mr. Sparrman's account of the internal appearance of the body, that gentleman having been present at the dissection of one of them.

“The stomach,” says he, “was four feet in length, and two in diameter, to which was annexed a kind of tube, or canal, almost twenty-eight feet long, and six inches in diameter. The kidneys were eighteen inches in breadth; the heart a foot and a half in length, and nearly the same in breadth; the liver was two feet and a half in depth, in the position it hung in the animal's body when standing. It resembles the horse, in being destitute of a gall-bladder.

“On dissecting the stomach it was found to contain a large quantity of masticated branches of trees, some of which were as thick as a man's finger. In this heterogeneous mass of matter, which diffused around a strong, but kind of aromatic odour, there appeared a great quantity of succulent herbs and plants, some of which were exceedingly harsh and prickly.”

He concludes by observing, that the cavity which contained the brains, was so small, that, on being filled with grain, it required only one quart for that purpose, whereas the human skull commonly requires three pints. The shape of this cavity was oval, six inches long, and four in breadth.

The conformation of the minuter parts were in exact proportion to those above described.



TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

TWO HORNED RHINOCEROS.

THE existence of this animal, which is by Linnæus called *Rhinoceros Bicornis*, had been questioned by many, till Dr. Sparrman confirmed its reality.

The principal specific distinction between the two species is, that this animal has two horns, situated one below another, of unequal length, the lower being considerably longer than the upper.

The nose and upper lip exactly resemble those of the common rhinoceros: it is destitute of fore teeth, and its skin is likewise much granulated or watery, but its folds, or wrinkles, are much smaller, especially across the neck and shoulders.

Its colour is commonly a deep cinereous grey, except between the legs, where it is perfectly smooth, and of a flesh colour; about the ears, and the end of the tail, which is very small, and flattened at the sides, are some long hard bristles; and these are very thinly scattered over various parts of the body.

This animal, like the other, is extremely fond of wallowing in the mire, on which account, he likewise prefers moist and marshy grounds,

and is always found in the vicinity of great rivers.

Dr. Sparrman, whom we have before mentioned, after waiting with great patience and perseverance, their arrival, shot two of these animals, wallowing in a piece of muddy water, at some distance north of the Cape of Good Hope, the lesser of which proved to be eleven feet and a half in length, and twelve in the girth. Its stature, when alive, must have been about seven feet. The largest of the two he found it impossible to remove, without more assistance than he was at that time able to procure.

This creature seems to be peculiar to Africa, and was first discovered in the Bay of Saldanha, near the Cape of Good Hope. In his habits and manners he seems to agree with the other species, feeding on the branches of trees, and succulent plants, particularly on the *stinking stapelia*, of which he is exceedingly fond. Its flesh, though used for food, and in taste much like pork, is very coarse and sinewy: whips are made out of its hide; and cups, and other vessels, manufactured of its horns.

The sight of this animal is very indifferent; and his eyes are solely calculated to see objects which are before him; but his hearing is so acute, that he seems always on the watch, and is startled at the least and most distant sound. His sense of smelling is likewise exquisite; and, we are informed, that, in order to discover

the approach of enemies, he always places his nose in the direction of the wind; and, on the least apprehension, starts up, and repairs to that quarter from whence it might be expected, overturning, and trampling on every thing which obstructs his way. This seems to be the effect of a blind and vehement impulse, for he never stops, or returns to repeat the charge, even attacked or wounded in this his furious career, in which the largest animals are frequently knocked down, and run over, and the most bulky carriages overturned and destroyed.

Of this headstrong fury the hunters frequently take advantage, and, while he pursues one of them, who flies before on a swift horse, another comes behind, and with a sabre, or large knife, cuts the tendon of his heel, in consequence of which he inevitably becomes their prey.

This animal is frequently betrayed by the grunting noise which he makes in the act of rubbing off the mud, which he contracts daily, against the trees: in this employment he seems to enjoy himself chiefly in the darkest nights, at which period he is less attentive and vigilant; and it is then that the hunters, attracted by the sound, which might be heard at a great distance, steal upon him, unseen, and maim him in such a manner as to render him incapable of flight or resistance.

Notwithstanding the shortness of his legs, and the bulk and unwieldiness of his body, he

performs a kind of high trot with great swiftness.

In his flight this animal always seeks the recesses of the forest, and plunges through the thickest part of woods, which are crushed down, or give way before him.

The rhinoceros is possessed of the very extraordinary faculty of moving the larger horn at pleasure. He uses the shorter horn for the purpose of digging up roots, &c. on which, when herbs and other succulent shrubs fail, he often subsists; and, in the act of delving among the bushes, turns aside the larger horn, to prevent its interrupting him in his work.

Travellers affirm, that when this animal is in a quiescent state, the horns appear loose and relaxed, but when irritated or enraged, they become erect and immoveable; and he will then frequently vent his fury by tearing up the earth with his horns, and throwing large stones and roots over his head to a great distance.

The skin of this animal is not so hard or thick as that of the one horned species. The Abyssinians frequently destroy him with the rudest arrows and javelins, and a musket ball has been known to penetrate his vital parts.

By keeping himself almost constantly covered with a coat of mud, he protects himself from the attacks of a kind of fly, peculiar to the marshes which he frequents, and which persecutes him incessantly.

The horns of the rhinoceros are in much

esteem among the natives, on account of the great medical virtues which are ascribed to them: six of those of the single horned kind were sent as a present to Louis XIV. by the king of Siam, in the year 1686.

The animal figured in the Prenestine pavement, and that on one of Domitian's coins, are each represented with two horns; and hence, if we consider that the Romans procured their rhinoceroses from Africa, for their public shews, these representations are easily accounted for.

We do not know that the rhinoceros has ever bred in a domestic state; and, in this respect, it probably resembles the elephant: hence we are acquainted with no other variations in the race than the two we have already described.

“The wild animal,” says an intelligent writer, “is subject to few alterations; and, in a state of savage nature, continues for ages the same in size, shape, and colour: but, it is otherwise when subdued, and taken under the protection of man; its external form, and even its internal structure, are altered by human assiduity: and this is one of the first and greatest causes of the variety which we see among the several quadrupeds of the same species.

“Man appears to have changed the very nature of domestic animals by cultivation and care. A domestic animal is a slave that seems to have few other desires but such as man is

