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THE

GEOGRAPHY OF MAMMALS

BY

WILLIAM LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A., F.Z.S.

DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN MUSEUM, CAPE TOWN

AND

PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A., PH.D., F.R.S.

SECRETARY TO THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

*“Benedicite omnes bestiæ et pecora Domino: laudate et
superexaltate eum in sæcula.”*

LONDON

KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRÜBNER & CO. L^{TD}

PATERNOSTER HOUSE, CHARING CROSS ROAD

1899

EXHIBITION
165911
NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON

about seventy-one genera which are referred to thirteen families. Some of these families, however, have only one or two species at present existing to represent them, and the great mass of Ungulates, taking them as a whole, belong to the Ox-family, *Bovidæ*, which contains about 200 species.

SECTION IV.—DISTRIBUTION OF RHINOCEROSSES

We will begin the Ungulates with what is called by naturalists the Perissodactyle section, which, although abundant in former ages, is represented in the present state of the earth's fauna only by three distinct types forming so many families, the Rhinoceroses, the Tapirs, and the Horses. In each of these families there remain a few species only, the relics of a vast number of ancestors which have preceded them.

Of the existing *Rhinocerotidæ* only five well-ascertained forms are known, two of which belong to Africa and three to India, although many other species have been suggested upon more or less sufficient evidence. The Rhinoceroses of the Ethiopian Region belong to quite a distinct section of the genus from the Oriental form. These two animals commonly, though not very correctly, called the "Black" and "White" Rhinoceroses, are best distinguished by the shape of the upper lip, which in the "Black" Rhinoceros is long, pointed, and extensile, and in the "White" Rhinoceros is short, square, and truncated. The Short-lipped Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros simus*), now nearly extinct, has never been met with north of the Zambesi River, which forms the northern boundary of many of the peculiar mammals of the Cape district. On the other hand, the

Black Rhinoceros (*R. africanus*) extends from the Cape all up the Eastern side of Africa into the plains of the Atbara and Upper Nile.

The Oriental Rhinoceroses are three in number. Two of these have only one horn on the nose, while the third is provided with two of these appendages. Of the former the large Indian Rhinoceros (*R. unicornis*) appears to be confined to the North-eastern provinces of the Indian Peninsula, whilst the smaller one-horned form (*R. sondaicus*) ranges from the Sunderbunds of Bengal through the Malay Peninsula down to Java, Sumatra, and perhaps Borneo. The third Oriental species, the Sumatran Rhinoceros (*R. sumatrensis*), has nearly the same range as the last-named species, but appears to extend rather farther north. Thus we may consider the existing Rhinoceroses as typical forms of the Ethiopian and Oriental Regions, but not to be met with in any other part of the world's surface.

SECTION V.—DISTRIBUTION OF TAPIRS

The second family of Perissodactyle Ungulates, the Tapirs, has a still more remarkable distribution. Out of the five known species four belong to the Neotropical Region, while the fifth, which in some respects is more closely allied to one of the American Tapirs than the American Tapirs are to one another, is an inhabitant of the Oriental Region, being met with only in the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra. This is a good instance of the rare phenomenon of "discontinuous distribution" which, however, may be explained by the fact known from geology