

CYCLOPÆDIA OF INDIA

AND OF

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN ASIA,

Commercial, Industrial and Scientific;

PRODUCTS OF THE

MINERAL, VEGETABLE AND ANIMAL KINGDOMS,
USEFUL ARTS AND MANUFACTURES.

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Roxburgh informs us, is prefixed to most of the native antidotes, and occurs very often in their writings,—“like the ancient physicians of Greece and Rome those of India at this day make poisons and their antidotes a very chief part of their studies, but from the seeming inactivity of a very large share of them, we may safely conclude that their practice is equally frivolous with that of the ancients, and ought to be discouraged as much as possible, because at least they prevent the application of more efficacious remedies.”—*O'Shaughnessy, page 48*. *R. Communis* grows spreading along the ground (*Riddell*); and is found in the native gardens as a flower. The flowers are sold along with those of Jasmine and the root used in medicine as an excitant.—*Gen. Med. Top. p. 173*.

(7087) RHINOCEROS (the Greek *ῥινόκερως*), the name of a genus of Pachydermatous Quadrupeds, placed by Linnæus in his order *Bruta*; and by Illiger in his order *Mullungia*, family *Nasicornia*. It has been a question whether one of the species, *Rhinoceros unicornis*, Linn. (*R. Indicus*, Cuv. and Deam) is not the *QAN* (Kæm), or *QAN* (Reem), of Scripture (Numb. xxiii. 22; xxiv. 8; Deut., xxxiii. 17; xxxix. 9, 10; Psalms, xxii. 21; xxix. 6; xcii. 10; Isaiah xxxiv. 7). In the Septuagint the word is translated *Monoceros*, or Unicorn, except in Isaiah, where it is rendered ‘*Aspal* (or the mighty or powerful ones). In the Trigurine and Vulgate versions the word is rendered (Numb., xxiii. 22; Job xxxix. 9, 15) *Rhinoceros*, with a note to the former, that others read *Monoceros*; and in Scheuchzer’s ‘*Physica Sacra*’ we have (Tab. 813) Numb., xxiii. 22. illustrated by a somewhat extravagant and exaggerated figure of a one horned *Rhinoceros*, with “*Reem: Rhinoceros*” below the plate. In the Bible “Imprinted at London by Robert Barker, Printer to the King’s most excellent Majesty” (‘*Breeches Bible*’), the word used is ‘*Unicorn*’; and ‘*Unicorn*’ is the expression in the version now in use in our churches. Some are of opinion that the *Reem*, or *Reim*, of Scripture were savage animals of the Bovine genus, and others that the word signified the *Oryx*, observing that *Reem* is the Arabian name for a species of wild-goat or gazelle. The latter allege that the *Reem* was two-horned. (Deut. xxxiii. 17; Psalms, xxii. 21.) The better opinion seems to be that the animal or animals intended to be designated in most of the passages quoted, if not in all, was or were the *Rhinoceros unicornis*, or Great Asiatic one-horned *Rhinoceros*. M. Lesson expresses a decided opinion to this effect; and indeed the description in Job (chap. xxxix) would almost forbid the conclusion that any animal was in the writer’s mind except one of surpassing bulk and indomitable strength. It has also been doubted whether accounts of the Indian *QAN* (*QAN*) (Wild Asses) given by Ctesias (‘*Indic.*’ ed Bahr) were not highly coloured and

exaggerated descriptions of animals of this genus, and whether the *QAN* (*QAN*) (Indian Ass) of Aristotle was not a *Rhinoceros*.

The osteology of the various species of *Rhinoceros* differs very considerably. The following differences appear on examining the skull of the two-horned species of the Cape:—1. On its upper surface the horizontal contour of the bones of the nose is rounded in the Cape species, and almost extravagantly so in *R. sinns*, whilst in the one horned species it is pointed. 2. The principal differences in the profile relate to the form of the incisive bones, which in *R. Indicus* advance as far as the bones of the nose, and have above a particular apophysis: in *R. Africanus* and *R. sinns* the incisive bones are each reduced to a small oblong piece. 3. On the lower surface, besides the differences which result from the form of the zygomatic arches, the direction of the occipital crest, and that which the difference of the incisive bones produces on the front of the palate, it may be observed that the series of molars is longer in *R. Africanus* and *R. sinns*, and that it converges anteriorly with that of the opposite side. 4. The posterior surface is demi-elliptical, and higher than it is wide in *R. Indicus*, and rather wider than it is high in *R. Africanus* and *R. sinns*, in which last the occipital foramen is wider than it is high, whilst in *R. Indicus* those proportions are reversed. The principal differences of the lower jaws are (besides the length which precedes the molars, which is much less in *R. Africanus* and *R. sinns* than in *R. Indicus*), 1st, that the series of molars is longer in the African species; 2nd, that the rising branches are much less high; 3rd, that the coronoid apophyses are much shorter, less pointed, and less directed forwards; 4th, that the dental branches are much more convex externally. The One-Horned *Rhinoceros* of Java (*R. Javaicus*) resembles less, in the bones of the extremities, the *R. Indicus*, than does the *R. Africanus*; which, as Cuvier observes, is remarkable. But in the skull the resemblance to that of *R. Indicus* is striking, though there are still remarkable differences. The whole cranium, for instance, is less, and the zygomatic arches, the orbits, and the nasal bones, which terminate in a sharp point, are less developed. We now proceed to give some account of the species of *Rhinoceros*:—*Eng. Cyc.*

(7088) RHINOCEROS AFRICANUS. Cuv. (*R. bicornis*, Linn.), is of a pale yellow brown; horns unequal in length; neck surrounded with a furrow at the setting on of the head; eyes brown. Length 10 feet 11 inches. (Smith) The hide is pale yellowish-brown, with tints of purple upon the sides of the head and muzzle; the groins flesh-coloured; eyes dark brown; the horns livid-brown clouded with green; the hairs on the tip of the tail and the margins of the ears deep black.—*Eng. Cyc.*

(7089) RHINOCEROS INDICUS (*R. sivalensis*, Linn.) has a single horn on the nose. Skin naked, very thick, of a dull deep purplish-gray, marked with sub-elevated, rounded, and other inequalities, and remarkable for the deep folds which it forms behind and across the shoulders, and before and across the thighs, &c. There are a few stout, stiff, horny, and smooth hairs on the tail and on the ears. The species inhabits the East Indies, especially beyond the Ganges. It is recorded as having been found in Bengal, Siam, and Cochinchina. Sandy forests, the neighbourhood of rivers, and marshy places are favourite localities. Their ordinary food consists of herbage and the branches of trees. The flesh is said to be not unpalatable. — *Eng. Cyc.*

(7090) RHINOCEROS JAVANUS (Cuvier) has one horn; folds of neck obsolete; scutules of the skin angled at the margin, concave in the middle, and furnished with a few short bristles; margin of the ears and under side of the tail hairy. The marks of distinction afforded by the folds of the external covering were less evident than those afforded by the form of the body and the attenuated head; but the folds on the whole appeared less rough or prominent than in *R. Indicus*. This animal is gregarious in many parts. Dr. Horsfield states that it is not limited to a particular region or climate but that its range extends from the level of the ocean to the summit of mountains of considerable elevation. Dr. Horsfield noticed it at Tangung, near the confines of the Southern Ocean, in the districts of the native princes, and on the summit of the high peaks of the Priangan regencies. It prefers high situations. This species is the Warak of the Javanese, the Balak of the Malays and of the inhabitants of the western parts of Java. (Horsfield, 'Zoological Researches in Java.') — *Eng. Cyc.*

(7091) RHINOCEROS KEITLOA (Smith) is of a pale brownish-yellow colour; the two horns subequal in length, the anterior one cylindrical, the posterior one compressed; anterior part of the upper lip produced and acuminate. Dr. Smith remarks that the only species yet known with which the present could be confounded is the *R. bicornis* of authors. There are however, he observes, many and marked differences between them, of which the following are a few of the external and more palpable ones. In *R. Keitloa* the two horns are of equal or nearly equal length; in *R. Africanus* the posterior in neither sex is ever much beyond a third of the length of the anterior horn; the length of the head in proportion to the depth is very different in the two.

(7092) RHINOCEROS SUMATRENSIS, Cuv. (*R. Sumatranus*, Raffles), has four great incisors, as in the two preceding species, but hardly any fold on the skin, which is hairy; a

second horn behind the ordinary one. The first satisfactory indication of the existence of this species occurs in Pennant, who imagined that the two-horned species of Sumatra was identical with *R. bicornis*, the only African species then known. He quotes the following remark of Mr. Charles Miller, who was long resident in Sumatra:—"I never saw but two of the two-horned Rhinoceros; but I believe they are not uncommon in the island, but are very shy, which is the reason they are but seldom seen. I was once within twenty yards of one. It had not any appearance of folds or plaits on the skin; and had a smaller horn resembling the greater, and, like that, a little turned inward. The figure given by Dr. Sparrman is a faithful resemblance of that I saw."

The hide is rugose, covered with scattered stiff brown hairs; folds on the shoulders and orop but slightly marked; the skin generally rather delicate, and nearly without folds; head rather elongated; eyes small and brown; upper lip pointed and curved downwards; ears small and pointed, fringed with black short hairs; the horn bent backwards, seceded smooth and pyramidal, placed a little in front of the eyes. It is a native of Sumatra. — *Eng. Cyc.*

(7098) RHINOCEROSSES FOSSIL. The Fossil Rhinoceroses hitherto discovered may be divided into three groups—1, those with a true or bony septum narium; 2, those without a bony septum; and 3, those with incisor teeth. The greater portion of remains found in Northern and Central Europe and Asia belong to the first group; those found in Italy belong to the second. The skulls of the Rhinoceroses belonging to the first group exhibit an essential difference when compared with those of the living species. Those of the former are longer and narrower in proportion; the width between the orbits is less; the bones of the nose are more elongated; the disc on which the anterior horn was seated is an oblong ellipse, whilst in *R. bicornis* it is a hemi-sphere. An analogous elongation exists in the place where the second horn was situated; whence Cuvier concludes that the horns of the Rhinoceros with a bony septum narium were very much compressed laterally. The same great zoologist remarks that in *R. bicornis* or *R. Africanus* (Cape Rhinoceros) the occipital crest is nearly over the occipital condyles, and the posterior surface of the occiput is nearly perpendicular to the axis of the head. In *R. Javanus* this surface is inclined forwards, which renders the distance from the nose to the crest shorter than that from the nose to the condyle in a proportion of 19 to 25. — *Eng. Cyc.*

(7094) RHIZOPHORACEÆ, *Mangroves*, a natural order of Exogenous Plants, natives of the shores of the tropics, where they grow in the mud, and form a close thicked down to the verge of the ocean. They are trees or shrubs; with simple