

RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

www.rhinoresourcecenter.com

NEWSLETTER #59 JUNE 2020

Dear colleagues and friends,

This is the 59th issue of the quarterly e-newsletter of the Rhino Resource Center. Edited by Dr Kees Rookmaaker.

The total number of references in the collection of the RRC now stands at **24,572**. This is an increase of 112 items in the last quarter. Over 24,500 references are **available** as PDF on the RRC website.



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IN THIS ISSUE:

Rhinoceros unicornis – or sondaicus	p.2		
Amsterdam 1864	p.3		
Bangalore 1868	p.3		
Manchester 1876	p.4		
London 1834	p.4		
Rowland Ward and Cooch Behar	p.5		
Basel's Indian Rhino Studbook	p.12		
Our sponsors	p.7		
Contents of the RRC website	p.8		
New Literature			
General	p. 9	African	p. 10
Asian	p. 12	Fossil	p. 14
Contact Information	p. 16		
Chronicles of rhino in South Asia – help	p. 16		

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RHINOCEROS UNICORNIS – OR *RHINOCEROS SONDAICUS*

Indian – or Javan. The battle to identify old specimens in captivity.

It has often been said, by me probably more than by anybody else, that the Javan rhino is historically a very rare exhibit in a zoological garden. I have never seen one, and I suppose few of my readers have. In the past two centuries, there have only been 4 confirmed animals, in Adelaide, Kolkata and London. As this excessive rarity is actually neither expected or explainable, many zoo historians have been searching for clues hoping to boost the numbers. This is a worthwhile quest. The Javan rhino was quite a widespread species at least until the end of the 19th century, occurring from India through much of South-East Asia to the Indonesian islands of Sumatra and Java. There is no reason why they could not be captured as easily as any of the other rhino species, and kept alive in a captive setting.

In my book *The Rhinoceros in Captivity* of 1998, which is probably less consulted than it should be to solve a variety of queries, I have followed the rather unpopular principle that I will only identify a rhino as *R. sondaicus* if there is positive proof that the animal belonged to that species. Definite locality records, proper historical chain of events, a photograph, drawing or specimen, all those could be used. That seems easier than it is in practice, just because the records are often so scanty. However, when the right document is found, the conclusion is immediate and uncontradictory. Like the case of the photograph of Lady Curzon riding a rhinoceros in Junagadh on 3 November 1900 – you can find it [here](#) – with the animal distinctly showing the characteristic saddle of *R. sondaicus*.

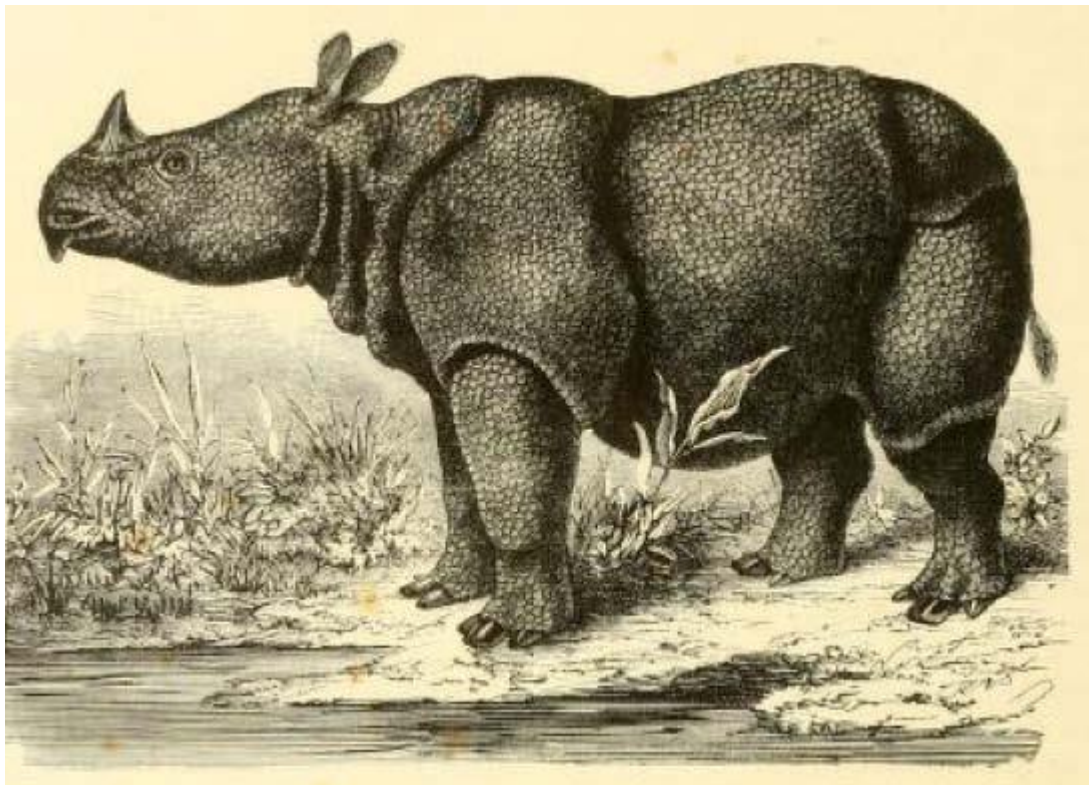
There are a handful of rhinos formerly in captivity which I identified as *R. unicornis* but which could have been *R. sondaicus*. Some of these have been highlighted by others pointing, correctly, at inconsistencies in the record. In almost all these cases, the proof remains dubious, maybe one element pointing at one species but another to another. While working on the history and distribution of the rhinoceros in India, Nepal and Bangladesh, I have come across some items which will probably add a few *R. sondaicus* to the tally. This is still a work in progress, and I am afraid that I don't want to reveal more at this stage. While working on this, I have again tried to find more evidence on some of these animals, mainly to check if we cannot pin down the origin of the animals more definitely as we could earlier. Fortunately, an increasing number of popular journals and newspapers are scanned, almost all across the world, which through its search options, can reveal hitherto forgotten information. It is not an easy task because it is laborious. Let me look at a few examples.



AMSTERDAM 1864 to 21 March 1873

The date of arrival has been stated either as 1864 or 1867. It has been suggested that this was *R. sondaicus* on the basis of a drawing published by Herman Schlegel in 1872, definitely showing the Javan species but not specifically linked to the specimen on show in the zoological gardens.

A newspaper entry (*Leydsche Courant* 24 June 1864) records that “the zoological gardens of *Natura Artis Magistra* in Amsterdam has recently arrived a beautiful young Indian rhinoceros, brought from Calcutta to Bordeaux at own expense by Capt. L. Hochart on the ship *l'Imperatrice Eugenie*.”



Schlegel, 1872, *De dierentuin*, p.134

In 1875, another rhinoceros was offered for sale to the zoo for a price of 10,000 guilders. However, the animal died during the transport “possibly from excess of food” (document in *Amsterdam Artis Archief*. No. 1690).

BANGALORE 1868 – 1893

Visiting Lal Bagh Park in Bangalore in 1914, S.S. Flower saw an empty rhino enclosure. It may have been empty for some twenty years, because it is recorded in the *Englishman's Overland Mail* for Wednesday 08 March 1893: “The rhinoceros at the Lal Bagh, Bangalore, is dead. She arrived, says a local paper, at the Lal Bagh, with her consort, in 1868. But they were not a happy couple, and the male specimen had to be deported to another State. The Superintendent hopes to preserve the skeleton for the Museum.”

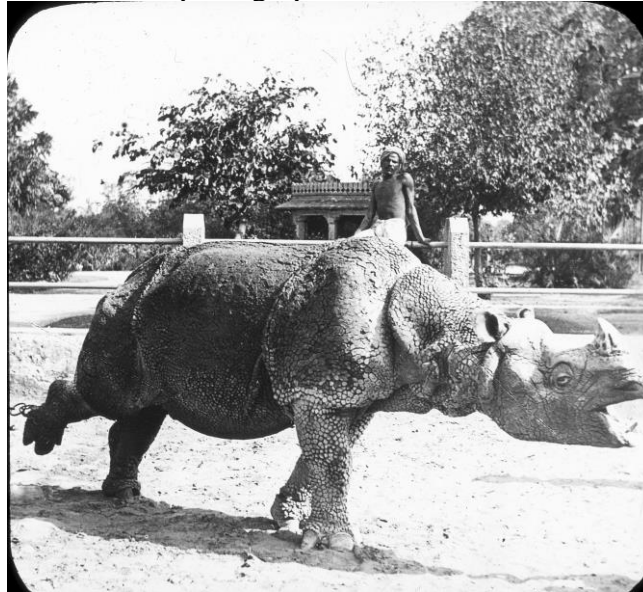


MANCHESTER 1876

The Belle Vue Zoo received a young male rhinoceros, said to be from Central India (Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser, 14 June 1876).

INDIA – 19TH CENTURY (?)

We still don't know where this photograph was taken:



LONDON 20 May 1834 to 19 September 1849

This was a definite *R. unicornis*. When P.L. Sclater checked the old records kept before his time as secretary, he made a mistake in the name of the person who sold the animal. It is likely that the rhino was first deposited in the zoo on 20 May, but actually only purchased, for 1000 guineas, on 28 May 1834. Here is what the newspapers tell us:

Morning Advertiser - Tuesday 06 May 1834

ZOOLOGY. —The Ship Lord Hungerford, Captain Farquharson, from Bengal, is daily expected, having on board a very fine RHINOCEROS, with several other rare specimens of Wild Beasts, the whole for SALE. For particulars apply to T. Haviside and Co., No. 147, Leadenhall-street.

London Courier and Evening Gazette - Wednesday 28 May 1834

A very fine full grown male rhinoceros, brought from India by Captain Farquharson, in the Lord Hungerford, has been deposited at the Zoological Gardens in the the Regent's Park.

Morning Post - Wednesday 28 May 1834 / London Evening Standard - Wednesday 28 May 1834

The male rhinoceros lately purchased by the Zoological Society, Regent's Park, measures upwards of five feet in height, eleven feet in length, nine feet in girth, and weighs twenty-six hundred weight.

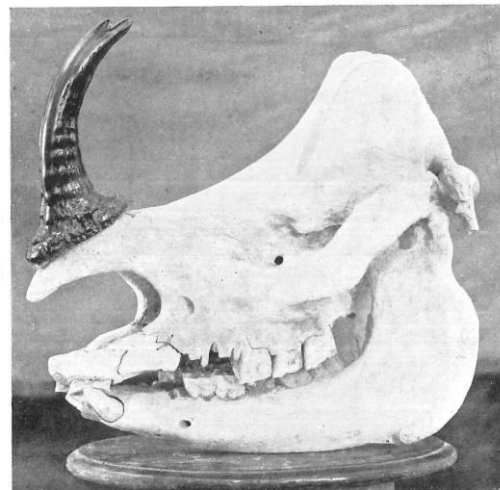
Morning Post - Saturday 07 June 1834

Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park. A very magnificent rhinoceros has lately been added to this extensive collection, at the expense, we understand, of 1 000 guineas.

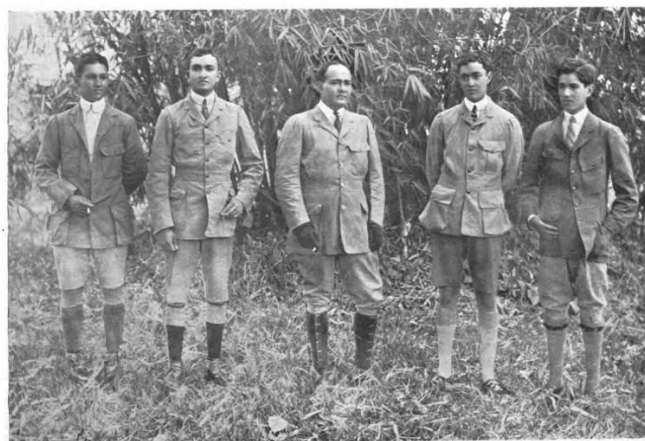


ROWLAND WARD AND COOCH BEHAR

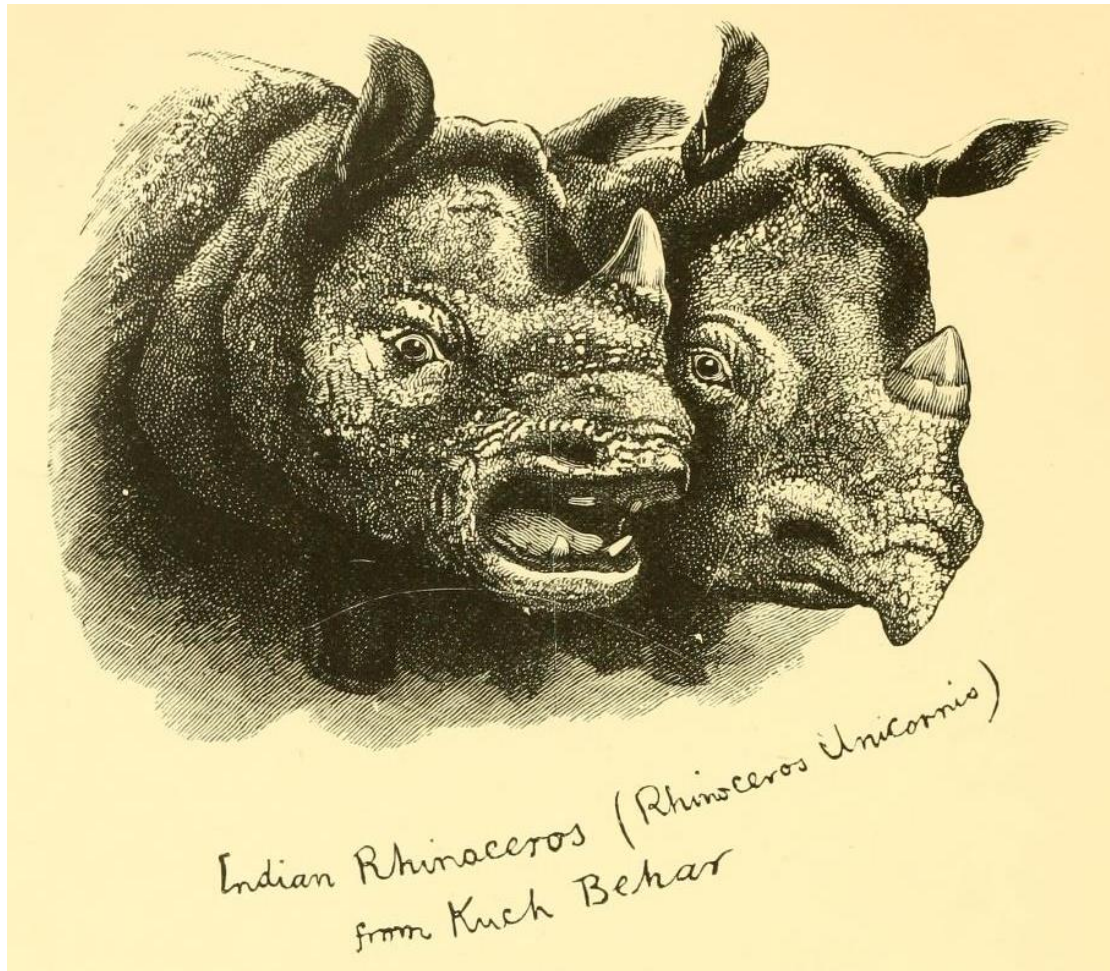
The Maharajah of Cooch Behar, Nripendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur (1862-1911) was a formidable hunter and sportsman from an early age. His annual shoots conducted from 1871 to 1907 are described in his *Thirty-Seven Years of Big Game Shooting in Cooch Behar, the Duars, and Assam* of 1908 (let me know if anybody has an original copy for sale at a decent price, especially the first Bombay edition). This book provides an unparalleled insight in his regular hunting expeditions in West Bengal and Assam, maybe not always bedside reading but putting on record a main pastime of that era. The Maharajah and his wife came to England in May 1887 for an extended visit until the end of the year. He brought with him a large collection of animal specimens, which were taken to the workshop of the well-known taxidermist Rowland Ward (1848-1912) at 166 Piccadilly, London, between the Ritz Hotel and Fortnum & Mason. The life and work of Rowland Ward, taxonomist to the world, was the subject of a worthy biography by Pat Morris in 2003.



Record Cow Rhino's Skull. Horn 16½ inch.



Family group. 1907.



From June 1887 the window display at “The Jungle” included excellent models of two heads which the Maharajah pronounced the finest he ever saw” (*Globe* 1887-06-02, *Times of India* 1887-06-21). According to these newspapers, Ward “has made the rhinoceros hide hard as timber, as delicate in colour yellow amber, and as smooth and transparent a thick sheet of hard ice.” There is no record which specimens these might have been, especially as already 136 rhinos had been shot during MCB’s shoots 1871-1887. While the two heads were shipped back to India, Ward also sketched the results adding a handwritten caption “Indian Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros Unicornis*) from Kuch Behar.” This first appeared on the cover of the 4th edition of his *Sportsman’s Handbook* which was dated 1887 but only available from 25 February 1888 at 3s 6d (*Field*, 1888-02-25). This drawing of the two rhino heads continued to appear in all subsequent editions of the *Handbook*, both on the cover and on p.110, from 1899 also in the *Records of Big Game*, and for many years as part of the stationary of the firm. Besides the two heads, Ward also manufactured some beautiful tables, whips, letter-racks, card-trays, inkstands, all from rhino hide (*Derby Daily Telegraph* 1887-06-03).



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We are grateful to all individuals who show their appreciation by their donation.
Thank you very much.

*The Rhino Resource Center is a registered charity.
We need your assistance to provide our service to all rhino lovers worldwide.*



CONTENTS OF THE RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

The development of the Rhino Resource Center is shown in the table here.

RRC	2019 June	2019 Sept	2019 Dec	2020 March	2020 June	ANNUAL INCREASE
References	23,450	23,600	24,230	24,460	24,572	+ 1122
PDF files	23,195	23,410	24,180	24,300	24,523	+ 1328
Images	4,465	4,486	4,530	4,544	4,549	+ 84

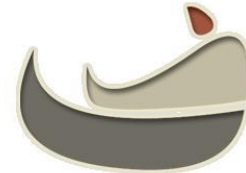
I thank everybody who has helped us by sending copies of books and papers.

All contributions are [acknowledged on the website](#).

DONATIONS TO THE RRC

It is really very easy. No problem to the audience of the RRC. To show appreciation of our work and to make future contents even better, a small donation goes a long way. Visits to libraries are no longer necessary, just think of the expensive time gained and research results improved. The button leads to a page with instructions.

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The Rhino Resource Center is an essential tool for

- 👉 Information and image supply to media
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- 👉 Education in primary, secondary and tertiary levels
- 👉 Conservation of rhinos both *in-situ* and *ex-situ*
- 👉 Latest information supply of all rhino-related projects
- 👉 Information on all the latest conservation efforts
- 👉 All the historical and most current literature.

YES, YOU CAN HELP:

- 👉 Authors of books, papers and reports can send us a copy after publication.
- 👉 We are always looking for images of all rhinos in books and in the wild
- 👉 We aim to include a picture of every rhino ever kept in captivity
- 👉 Contribute a message to our blog and get into contact with others
- 👉 Place a link on your website to the RRC which will be reciprocated
- 👉 Give us a DONATION when you feel the RRC has helped your work.



NEW LITERATURE

(finalized 7 June 2020)

In this quarter (March to May 2020), we have added 230 new references, to bring the total number of items in the database to **24,572**.

Of these, 24,550 or 99 percent are available as PDF and searchable.

Below I have listed new entries published in the 21st century in four categories: General (all species), African rhinos, Asian rhinos and Fossil rhinos.

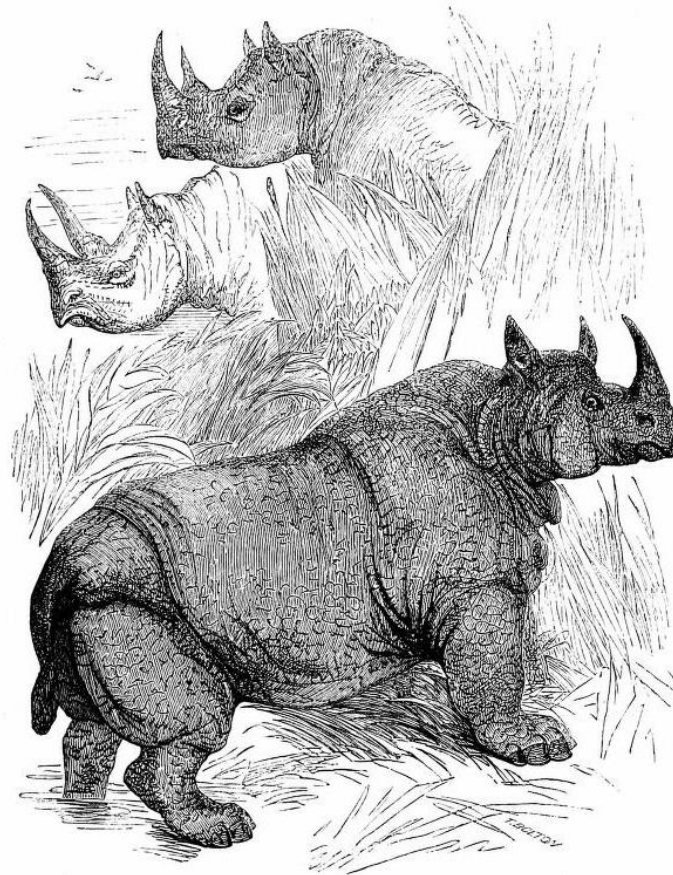
Most additions are available on the website.

Search for them on the RRC, it's easy.

Always check the [RRC website](#) first, many papers are available there.

NEW GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

- Burnham, S., 2020. DNA analysis and sequencing of seized rhino horns and toenails. *IMSAlloquium* 2020: 1.
- Dean, C.; Hinsley, A., 2020. Campaigning to bring about change. In: Sutherland, W.J. et al. (ed), *Conservation research, policy and practice*. London: pp. 277-292.
- Ellis, S., 2020. Letter upon retirement from the International Rhino Foundation. Blog, 27 March 2020.
- Gallardo Luque, A., 2019. La representación del unicornio en la cultura del occidente cristiano plenomedieval. Thesis presented to the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, pp. 1-810.
- Gippoliti, S., 2020. Everything mammal conservation biologists always wanted to know about taxonomy (but were afraid to ask). *Journal for Nature Conservation* 54 (125793): 1-6.
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- Lunstrum, E.; Giva, N., 2020. What drives commercial poaching? From poverty to economic inequality. *Biological Conservation* 245: 1-10.
- Monsarrat, S.; Novellie, P.; Rushworth, I.; Kerley, G.I.H., 2019. Shifted distribution baselines: neglecting long-term biodiversity records risks overlooking potentially suitable habitat for conservation management. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B* 374: 20190215 (pp. 1-11).
- Nozina, M., 2018. The fate and future of the wildlife trade regulatory regimes: the case of CITES and rhino horn trafficking. In: Hynek, N.; Ditrych, O.; Stritecky, V. (eds) *Regulating global security: Insights from conventional and unconventional regimes*. Springer: pp. 245-269.
- Pollock, K.E.; O'Brien, J.K.; Roth, T.L.; Proudfoot, J.; Niederlander, J.; Micheas, L.; Robeck, T.R.; Stoops, M.A., 2020. Anti-Müllerian hormone in managed African and Asian rhino species. *General and Comparative Endocrinology* 294 (113487): 1-9.
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THE RHINOCEROS.

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- Cayetana Fabregas, M.; Ganswindt, A.; Fosgate, G.T.; Bertschinger, H.J.; Meyer, L.C.R., 2019. Behavioral and adrenocortical responses of captive white rhino adolescents to the introduction of a new calf. *Acta Ethologica* 22: 227-231.
- Collins, A.; Cox, C.; Marire, J., 2020. On the judicial annulment of the 'domestic' trade moratorium in South African rhinoceros horn: a law and economics perspective. *European Journal of Law and Economics* 2020: 1-12 - <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10657-020-09648-4>.
- Duncan, N.; Save African Rhino Foundation, 2020. News and events. *Newsletter of the Save African Rhino Foundation* 34 (1): 1-24.
- Duthe, V., 2019. *Black rhinoceros conservation ecology project*. Neuchatel, pp. 1-12.
- Duthe, V.; Defossez, E.; Westhuizen, R. van der; Glauser, G.; Rasmann, S., 2020. Out of scale out of place: Black rhino habitat use across the hierarchical organisation of the savanna ecosystem. *Conservation Science and Practice* 2020: 1-10.



African Rhinos – continued

- Edwards, K.L.; Pilgrim, M.; Brown, J.L.; Walker, S.L., 2020. Irregular ovarian cyclicity is associated with adrenal activity in female eastern black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*). *General and Comparative Endocrinology* 289 (113376): 1-8.
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- Gippoliti, S.; Groves, C.P., 2020. Cryptic problematic species and troublesome taxonomists: A tale of the Apennine Bear and the Nile White Rhinoceros. In: Angelici F., Rossi L. (eds) *Problematic Wildlife II*. Springer, Cham: pp. 509-527.
- Korody, M.L.; Pivaroff, C.; Nguyen, T.D.; Peterson, S.E.; Ryder, O.A.; Loring, J.F., 2020. Four new induced pluripotent stem cell lines produced from northern white rhinoceros with non-integrating reprogramming factors. *Biorxiv* <https://doi.org/10.1101/202499>: preprint.
- Marneweck, C.; Juergens, A.; Shrader, A.M., 2019. Author correction: Temporal variation of white rhino dung odours. *Journal of Chemical Ecology* 45: 423-427.
- Martin, Bridget, 2019. Elephant ivory and rhino horn. In: Martin, B. (ed) *Survival or extinction? How to save elephants and rhinos*. Springer: pp. 37-46.
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- Martin, Bridget, 2019. The illegal trade in rhino horn. In: Martin, B. (ed) *Survival or extinction? How to save elephants and rhinos*. Springer: pp. 199-202.
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- UNEP Evaluation Office, 2019. Terminal evaluation of the UNEP/GEF Project “Strengthening law enforcement capabilities to combat wildlife crime for conservation and sustainable use of species in South Africa: (Target – Rhinoceros)” GEF ID 4937. Nairobi, UNEP: pp. 1-126.



BASEL'S STUDBOOK OF RHINOCEROS UNICORNIS

The latest edition of the studbook for this species was published again, with records complete until 31 December 2019. It is a tribute to the Basel Zoo to have maintained the records for this species for such a long time in such a meticulous and accessible way. Truly an example for other studbooks.

Basel Zoo; Houwald, F.von; Pagan, O.; Rieches, R., 2019. International studbook for the greater one-horned or Indian rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros unicornis*, 31 December 2019. Basel, Zoologischer Garten, pp. 1-57.



Ipswich Museum, *Rhinoceros unicornis* transferred from Natural History Museum, London

NEW PUBLICATIONS ON ASIAN RHINOS

- Allendorf, T.D.; Gurung, B.; Poudel, S.; Dahal, S.; Thapa, S., 2020. Using community knowledge to identify potential hotspots of mammal diversity in southeastern Nepal. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 29: 933-946.
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Asian Rhinos – continued

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- Shahi, M.K.; Gairhe, K.P., 2020. Prevalence of helminths in wild Asian elephant and Indian rhinoceros in Chitwan and Bardia National Park, Nepal. *Nepalese Veterinary Journal* 36: 60-74.





THE RHINOCEROS AT HOME.—One of the remarkable photographs obtained by Mr. G. H. Dyott, F.R.G.S., with the Vernay-Faunthorpe expedition. It is of Lizzie, the Indian one-horned rhinoceros, the subject of part of Lieut.-Col. J. G. Faunthorpe's article, and her baby in the thornbush of the Gandak Valley.

One of the first photos taken of an Indian Rhinoceros in the wild (Nepal) by G.H. Dyott, who was part of the Vernay-Faunthorpe Expedition in 1934.

NEW PUBLICATIONS ON FOSSIL RHINOS

Section edited by Emmanuel Billia, Dan Ziegler and Athanassios Athanassiou.

Álvarez-Lao, D.J.; Rivals, F.; Sánchez-Hernández, C.; Blasco, R.; Rosell, J. , 2017. Ungulates from Teixoneres Cave (Moià, Barcelona, Spain): Presence of cold- adapted elements in NE Iberia during the MIS 3. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 466: 287-302.

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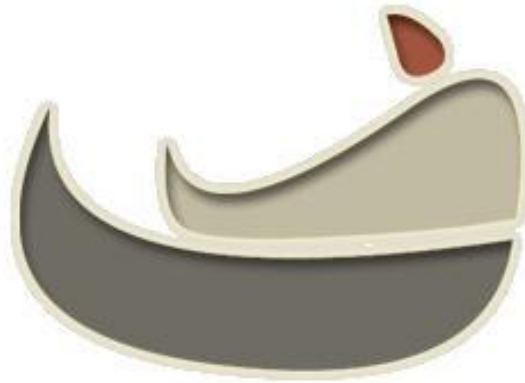
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Dr Kees Rookmaaker has actively worked on the biology and history of the rhinoceros for 50 years. He is a member of the IUCN-SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group, and advisor to the EAZA Rhino TAG and to the International Rhino Foundation. He is the editor of the rhino section of *Pachyderm*. Author of eight books on African and Asian exploration and on the rhinoceros, as well nearly 250 shorter publications, many in peer-reviewed journals. Until 2015, he worked as a Senior Research Fellow on Darwin Online and Wallace Online at the National University of Singapore. He was Secretary of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) for a short period in 2015. The Society for the History of Natural History awarded him their Founder's Medal, and he served in the Council for several years.

CHRONICLES OF THE RHINOCEROS IN SOUTH ASIA

This is a new project to review and archive the historical information on the interaction between men and rhinoceros in the South Asian subcontinent. There is much amazing information in all kinds of publications, as well as data on rhino trophies and specimens in museums and private collections. I am particularly excited about some of the older artwork and photographs which can still be found.

- 🐘 Pictures of any rhinoceros in art or alive in Indian subcontinent
- 🐘 Historical photographs of rhinos hunted or seen before 1970
- 🐘 Data on trophies and specimens in museums and private collections

All contributions are always welcome

Kees Rookmaaker – June 2020