

THE  
NATURALIST'S POCKET  
MAGAZINE;

OR,  
COMPLETE CABINET OF NATURE.

---

---

N<sup>o</sup> II.

CONTAINING,

1. THE RHINOCEROS.
  2. THE CHINESE PAINTED PHEASANT.
  3. THE GREAT SPOTTED LIZARD.
- 
- 

COLOURED AFTER NATURE.

WITH

DESCRIPTIONS.

1<sup>st</sup> Feb. 1798?

---

---







PLATE 10



## RHINOCEROS.

---

NEXT to the elephant, the Rhinoceros may be considered as the most powerful quadruped. It forms a distinct genus, of the order of Belluæ, in the class of Mammalia, according to the system of Linnæus. In this genus, there are only two species: the Rhinoceros Unicornis, or one-horned Rhinoceros; and the Rhinoceros Bicornis, or Rhinoceros with two horns, one above the other; the horns of both animals, as the name in the Greek language implies, arising from the nose. Both species were known to the ancients; and the Rhinoceros with a single horn, commonly described simply as the Rhinoceros, has been by some naturalists judged to be the unicorn of the sacred writings.

The height of this animal is from six to seven feet only; but its length, from the tip of the nose to the insertion of the tail, frequently extends twelve, and the circumference of the body nearly equals the length; so that its magnitude,



---

nitide, in fact, approaches that of the elephant, though to the eye it seems very considerably less, on account of the disproportionate shortness of it's legs.

In the more important gifts of nature, however, which relate to intelligence, it is left at a very humble distance from that sagacious animal, and appears to be elevated only in size from the meanest quadrupeds. It's skin is without sensibility; and, instead of a trunk, it has merely a moveable lip, to which all it's means of dexterity are confined. The chief sources of superiority which it possesses over other animals, are found in it's magnitude and strength; in the defensive impenetrability of it's hide; and in that offensive weapon on the nose, which forms it's most distinguished characteristic. This weapon is a solid horn of peculiar hardness; and, being situated far more advantageously than the horns of ruminating animals, which defend only the superior parts of the head and neck, it so protects the muzzle, the mouth, and the face, that even the tiger, who ventures to seize the trunk of the elephant,

phant,



## RHINOCEROS.

---

phant, dreads the risque of having it's bowels torn out by the horn of the Rhinoceros, and rather chuses to decline any attack.

The body and limbs are covered with a skin so thick and hard, as to be not only insensible to the stings of insects, but impenetrable by the claws of the lion or tiger, or even the spear or bullet of the hunter. This skin is sometimes of a dark or dirty brown; sometimes of a fine grey, approaching to black; and, sometimes, has the colour and appearance of an old elm-tree, partly spotted with black and grey, and partly doubled into deep furrows, which form a kind of scales. The skin, in general, is incapable of either extension or contraction; but there are large folds at the neck, the shoulders, and across the rump, to facilitate the motion of the head and limbs; and, between these folds, as well as under the belly, there appears a softer skin of a light flesh-colour.

The head is proportionably larger than that of the elephant, but the eyes are smaller, and generally



## RHINOCEROS.

---

generally half closed. The upper lip, which is moveable, and projects over the under, can be extended six or seven inches; and, being terminated by a pointed appendage, the animal is not only enabled to collect herbage, or other food, and deliver it into the mouth, but also to seize any object with force, and feel with considerable address. There are two strong incisive teeth in each jaw, one at each angle. The under jaw is square before, and here are no other incisive teeth in the anterior part of the mouth, which is covered by the lips, but each side of the two jaws contains six grinders. The ears always stand erect, and resemble those of the hog, though they are proportionably smaller; and these, with the extremity of the tail, are the only parts on which there are any hairs or bristles.

Though the Rhinoceros was frequently exhibited in the savage spectacles of the Romans, from the days of Pompey, to those of Helio-gabalus; though it had often been conveyed to Europe in more modern times; and, though Bontius, Chardin, and Kolben, drew figures of  
of



## RHINOCEROS.

---

---

of it in India and in Africa; it was but imperfectly known, till Dr. Parsons published, in 1743, his history of the Rhinoceros, from an actual inspection of the living animal in London.

The Rhinoceros which that gentleman described was brought from Bengal, at the expence of nearly a thousand pounds. He was only about two years of age, and had a daily allowance of seven pounds of rice, with three of sugar, divided into three portions; he had also hay and grass, which last he seemed most to relish, and drank great quantities of water. He was of a gentle disposition, and permitted all parts of his body to be touched by visitors; never attempting injury to any one, except when hurt or hungry: he would then become furious; and, in both cases, was only to be appeased by food. He sprung forward, on such occasions, and nimbly raised himself to a great height, pushing his head violently against the walls with amazing quickness, notwithstanding his heavy aspect and unwieldy mass. These movements, produced by rage or impatience,

tience,



## RHINOCEROS.

---

tiences, were often observed in the morning, before his rice and sugar were brought him; when, from the vivacity and promptitude of his motions, it appeared probable that he could, if unconfined, easily overtake any man who should offend him. He made many efforts to escape; but seldom ventured an attack on his keeper, to whose threats he was always submissive. His cry was peculiar, being a mixture between the grunting of a hog and the bellowing of a calf.

It was particularly remarked, that he listened with a deep and long continued attention to any noise; and that, though he were sleeping, eating, or in the act of obeying any other pressing demand of nature, he would instantly raise his head, and continue to listen till the noise ceased.

This young Rhinoceros was not larger than a heifer; but his body was very long, and very thick, and resembled that of a cow near the end of her gestation. The head was disproportionately



---

portionably large; and the horn, which was black, was only an inch high.

The horn of the Rhinoceros, however, is sometimes more than three feet long, and six inches diameter at the base; and it is commonly of a brown or olive colour, though there are instances of it's being grey, and even white. The elephant is said to be often found dead in the forests, pierced with the horn of the Rhinoceros. Combats between these two most formidable animals must, indeed, be dreadful. Emanuel, king of Portugal, at the beginning of the sixteenth century, willing to try their strength, actually opposed them to each other, and the elephant was defeated.

The Rhinoceros is a native both of Asia and Africa; it is, like the hog, fond of wallowing in the mire, and shews the greatest predilection for moist and marshy grounds, seldom quitting the banks of rivers.

The female produces but one at a time, and at considerable intervals. The young Rhinoceros



---

ceros does not, at first, exceed the size of a large dog; and it has no horn, though the rudiments are perceivable in the foetus. At two years of age, the horn is about an inch long; and, at six, from nine to ten inches. Some of these horns being known to have nearly reached four feet, it should seem that they continue to grow during great part of the animal's life; and this, probably, is of considerable extent. The Rhinoceros of Dr. Parsons, in two years, had only attained to half it's full height; it may, therefore, be inferred, that this animal, like man, lives to the age of seventy or eighty.

The Rhinoceros feeds on the grossest herbs. Brushwood, broom, thorny shrubs, and thistles, it prefers to the soft pasture of the most luxuriant meadows. On a prickly shrub somewhat resembling juniper, which grows in vast quantities on the heathy lands and mountains of Africa, and has obtained the name of the Rhinoceros shrub, it chiefly delights to regale; and it's attachment to the stinking stapelia is little less ardent. It is also fond of the sugar-cane, and eats every description of grain.

Destitute



---

Destitute of any appetite for flesh, it molests not the smallest animals ; and, having little reason to fear the largest, lives amicably with all. This pacific disposition renders doubtful all accounts of it's frequent combats with the elephant. Such contests, it should seem, must necessarily be very rare, since there is no offensive disposition on either side. Pliny is the first naturalist who has mentioned these conflicts ; merely, perhaps, from having seen these animals compelled to fight in the barbarous spectacles of the Romans.

The method of taking the Rhinoceros, is chiefly by watching till it is found sleeping, when the hunters destroy it with fire-arms ; and, if there happens to be a cub, it is seized and tamed. It is sometimes taken in pit-falls, covered with green branches, dug in those paths which this animal makes in it's way from the forest to a river.

The flesh of the Rhinoceros is much relished by the Indians, the Negroes, and the Hottentots. It is said to be well-flavoured, but



---

but coarse and hard. The Indians carefully collect the blood, as a remedy for disorders in the breast. Wonderful medicinal virtues are also ascribed to the horn taken in powder; and, indeed, not only every part of the body, but even the urine and excrements, are considered, in the Indian Dispensatory, either as antidotes against poison, or infallible remedies for particular diseases.

Many, in short, are the fables, which this extraordinary animal has given rise to: and we ought not to omit, that some of the best naturalists assert, that the tongue is so hard and rough as actually to tear off the skin of any person whom it licks; while others, equally respectable, maintain that it is as soft and smooth as velvet.

---