

THE  
NATURALIST'S POCKET  
MAGAZINE;

OR,  
COMPLEAT CABINET

OF THE  
CURIOSITIES AND BEAUTIES  
OF  
NATURE.

CONTAINING,  
ELEGANT COLOURED PRINTS

OF  
BIRDS,                   ||                   INSECTS,  
FISHES,                 ||                   QUADRUPEDS,  
FLOWERS,               ||                 SHELLS,  
AND OTHER NATURAL PRODUCTIONS.

WITH  
DESCRIPTIONS.

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VOL. VII.

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LONDON:

Printed for HARRISON and Co.

N<sup>o</sup> 108, Newgate Street.

1802.

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Printed by W. M<sup>d</sup>Dowall, Pemberton Row, Gough Square.

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TWO HORNED RHINOCEROS.

London, Published Dec. 18-1800, by Harrison, Cur. & C. W. nos. Newgate & Fleet.



## TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

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IT is not a little singular, that the acute and intelligent Edwards, when he figured his Rhinoceros with a single Horn, in 1752, was disposed to believe, that there then existed no actual species of the Rhinoceros with a double horn; and that, where the two horns occurred, it might rather be considered as an accidental circumstance, or mere *Lusus Naturæ*. On the contrary, Monsieur Geoffroy, in his celebrated *Magazin Encyclopédique*, ingeniously suggests, that there have existed, if they do not even at present exist, no less than five different species of the Rhinoceros; which he thus enumerates—1. The Rhinoceros Africanus Cornu Gemino, or Twin-Horned African Rhinoceros, of Camper; who, in the Transactions of the Royal Academy at Petersburg, for the year 1777, gives a figure of the skull. 2. The species which was found fossil in Siberia; and which, as Monsieur Geoffroy ably maintains, differs from the common Two-Horned Rhinoceros, though it belongs to that division of  
the



the genus. 3. The Rhinoceros with a single horn, which is described, and the skull figured, by Camper, in the aforesaid volume of the Petersburg Transactions; and which is confounded, even by Camper himself, with the Common Rhinoceros. 4. The Common Single-Horned Asiatic Rhinoceros. 5. The Sumatran Rhinoceros, with two horns; figured and described by Mr. Bell, in the Philosophical Transactions for 1793.

Linnæus makes but two species: the Rhinoceros Unicornis, or One-Horned Rhinoceros; and the Rhinoceros Bicornes, or Two-Horned Rhinoceros. Pennant, also, recognizes only these two species. The former, however, must of necessity have been an entire stranger to much recent information on the subject. Even Pennant's History of Quadrupeds had reached the third edition, in the very same year as Mr. Bell's account of the Sumatran Rhinoceros was published; and, most probably, some months previous to its appearance: he might, otherwise, have inclined to sever the Sumatran Rhinoceros, as at least a variety, if not a different species, agreeably  
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to the opinion of some subsequent naturalists.

The History and description which Pennant has collected of the Two-Horned Rhinoceros, is very respectable; and, perhaps, on the whole, the best extant. We shall therefore adopt it, with his figure. "It has," says he, "two horns, placed one beyond the other. The length of the fore-horn of one in the Philosophical Transactions, is twenty inches; of the second horn, nineteen: but they vary in sizes. The upper lip is short, reaching but a little way over the lower. It has no fore-teeth. The skin is without any plicæ, or folds; appears much granulated, or warty; and is of a deeply cinereous grey colour. Between the legs, it is smooth, and flesh-coloured; in other parts, there are a few scattered stiff bristles; most numerous about the ears, and at the end of the tail. The tail, which is as thick as a thumb, is convex above and below, but flatted on the sides. The feet are no more in diameter than the legs; but the three hoofs project forward: the soles are callous.

"It inhabits Africa; and was observed,  
first,



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first, by Flacourt, in the Bay of Saldagne, near the Cape: within these few years, by Dr. Sparman, a learned Swede, at some distance north of that promontory. With the laudable perseverance of a naturalist, Dr. Sparman watched the arrival of this and other animals at a muddy water; whither the wild beasts resort, to quench their thirst, and some to indulge, in that hot climate, in rolling in the mud. In that spot, he shot two of these animals. One was so large, that the united force of five men could not turn it. The lesser he measured: it's length was eleven feet and a half; the girth twelve; and the height, between six and seven.

“ The skin, which is quite naked, is very strong and thick, but is easily penetrated with an iron bullet; one of lead is flattened against the hide. The Hottentots, at present, always kill these animals by a musquet shot, and the skin is capable of being transfixed with the lance or dart. The Hottentots usually hasten the death of the Rhinoceros, by taking care to poison the weapon.

“ This



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“ This species seems to agree in manners with the One-Horned Rhinoceros. Its flesh is eatable, and tastes like coarse pork. Cups are made of the horns; and, of the hides, whips. Its food is boughs of trees, which it bites into bits of the size of a finger. It feeds also much on succulent plants: especially the Stinking Stapelia; and a species of Stœbe, called the Stœbe Rhinocerotis. It continues, during the day, in a state of rest: in the evenings and mornings—perhaps, the whole night—wanders in quest of food, or in search of places to roll in. It has no voice, only a sort of snorting, which was observed in Females anxious for their young. Its dung is like that of Horses: it has a great propensity to cleanliness; dropping its dung and urine only in particular places. Its sense of sight is bad: those of hearing and smelling are very exquisite. The least noise, or scent, puts the animal in motion. It instantly runs to the spot from which those two senses take the alarm; and whatsoever it meets with, in its course, it overturns, and tramples on. Men, Oxen, and Waggons, have thus been overturned; and, sometimes, destroyed. It never returns to repeat the charge;



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charge; but keeps on it's way: so that a senseless impulse, more than rage, seems the cause of the mischief it does.

“ This was the species described by Martial, under the name of *Rhinoceros Cornu Gemino*; who relates it's combat with the Bear. In fact, the Romans procured their *Rhinoceroses* from Africa only; which was the reason why they are represented with double horns. That figured in the Prenestine Pavement, and that on a Coin of Domitian, have two horns; that which Pausanias describes under the name of the *Æthiopian Bull*, had one horn on the nose, and another, lesser, higher up; and *Cosmas Ægypticus*, who travelled into *Æthiopia*, in the reign of Justinian, also attributes to it the same number: whereas *Pliny*, who describes the Indian kind, justly gives it but a single horn. *Cosmas* says, that it's skin was so thick and hard, that the *Æthiopians* ploughed with it; and, that they called the animal *Aru*, and *Harifi*; the last signifying the figure of the nostrils, and the use made of the skin. He adds that, when the beast is quiescent, the horns are loose: but,



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in it's rage, become firm and immoveable. This is confirmed by Dr. Sparman, who observed that they were fixed to the head, or rather nose, by a strong apparatus of sinews and muscles, so as to afford the animal the power of giving a steady fixture whenever occasion demanded. Augustus introduced a Rhinoceros—probably, of this kind—into the shews, on occasion of his triumph over Cleopatra.

“Mr. Bruce's figure of a Rhinoceros,” observes Pennant, with much sarcastic severity, “lies under some suspicion of being most faithfully copied from the single-horned species of M. De Buffon; with the long upper lip, and every characteristic fold and plait: but, by the addition of another horn, it becomes Bicornis; and, as Mr. Bruce, very justly, twice observes, the first drawing of the kind ever presented to the public!” So true is the old saying—“Semper aliquid novi Africam afferre!”—[“There is always something new coming from Africa!”]

“I am indebted to Mr. Paterson for my  
figure



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figure of the two-horned species. It does not differ materially from that by Dr. Sparman; unless in the lateral marks that distinguish the former, and seem no more than a looseness of skin. M. Allamand had engraved the same animal from a drawing communicated to him by Colonel Gordon, the great explorer of Caffraria: and M. De Buffon again copied his plate from a drawing, in which the looseness of the skin on the sides is far better expressed.

“ I will not quit the subject,” concludes Pennant, “ till I have laid before the public my reasons to imagine that this species is not confined to Africa. Mr. William Hudson, with his usual friendship, communicated to me the following remark of Mr. Charles Miller, who was long resident in Sumatra—“ I  
“ never saw but two of the Two-Horned Rhi-  
“ noceroses. I believe they are not uncom-  
“ mon in the island; but are very shy, which  
“ is the reason they are 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.



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“inward. The figure given by Dr. Sparman  
“is a faithful resemblance of that I saw.”

Had Pennant, or Mr. Miller, been acquainted with Mr. Bell's account of the Sumatran Two-Horned Rhinoceros, the resemblance would have struck them still more forcibly.

On the whole, it appears that both the One-Horned and the Two-Horned Rhinoceros, are found in Asia, where the former seems most plentiful: and, perhaps, as Mr. Bruce is of opinion, the Single-Horned Rhinoceros, may be found in many parts of Africa; where, however, it is considered as by no means so common. According to Buffon, however,  
“M. Allamand, a very able naturalist, wrote to M. Daubenton a Letter, dated at Leyden, October 31, 1766, in the following terms,” which totally deranges this idea—“I recollect  
“a remark of M. Parsons, in a passage quoted  
“by M. De Buffon: he suspected that the  
“Rhinoceroses of Asia have but one horn,  
“and that those of the Cape of Good Hope  
“have two. I suspect the very opposite: the  
“heads of the Rhinoceroses which I received  
“from



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“ from Bengal, and other parts of India, had  
“ always double horns, and all those which  
“ came from the Cape of Good Hope had  
“ but one horn.” This last passage,” concludes Buffon, “ proves what we have formerly remarked, that the Rhinoceroses with double horns form a variety in the species—a particular race—which is found equally in Asia and Africa.”

In a communication from Mr. Bruce, to Buffon, that traveller observes, that “ all the Rhinoceroses which he saw in Abyssinia had two horns: the first—that is, the one nearest the nose—of the common form; the second, sharp at the point, and always shorter than the first. “ Both,” says Mr. Bruce, “ spring  
“ at the same time; but the first grows more  
“ quick, and exceeds the other in size, not  
“ only during the time of growth, but during  
“ the whole life of the animal.”

Mr. Bruce gives this animal credit for a very ingenious stratagem to avoid the attacks of a small fly, which infests its hide, and would otherwise soon prove fatal. “ By rolling itself in the mud during the night,” this celebrated



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brated traveller tells us, "it clothes itself in a kind of case, which defends it from it's adversary for the following day." But, it seems, while thus engaged, "the pleasure which it receives from rolling in the mud, added to the darkness of the night, depriving it of it's usual vigilance and attention, the hunters steal secretly near, and pierce it with their javelins in the belly, where the wound is mortal."

The peculiar manner of Mr. Bruce's descriptions is apparent in the following extracts.

Speaking of the Rhinoceros's method of feeding in the vast forests of Africa, he says—  
"With his lip, and the assistance of his tongue, he pulls down the upper branches, which have most leaves, and these he devours first. Having stripped the tree of it's branches, he does not therefore abandon it: but, placing his snout as low in the trunk as he finds his horns will enter, he rips up the body of the tree, and reduces it to thin pieces, like so many laths; and, when he has thus prepared it, he embraces as much of it as he can in his monstrous jaws, and twists it round with as much ease as an Ox would do a root of celery!"

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In describing it's excessive thirst—"No country," says our traveller, "but that of the Shangalla, which he possesses, deluged with six months rain, and full of large and deep basons, made in the living rock, and shaded by dark woods from evaporation, or watered by large and deep rivers, which never fall low or to a state of dryness, can supply the vast draughts of this monstrous creature!"

It's flight from wood to wood, is not less marvellously described—"The trees that are frush, or dry," says Mr. Bruce, "are broke down, like as with a cannon shot, and fall behind him, and on his side, in all directions. Others, that are more pliable, greener, or fuller of sap, are bent back by his weight and the velocity of his motions; and, after he has passed, restoring themselves, like a green branch, to their natural position, they sweep the incautious pursuer and his Horse from the ground, and dash them in pieces against the surrounding trees!"

We leave our readers to make their own comment.

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