

HOLMES LIBRARY
THE
ANNUAL REGISTER,
OR A VIEW OF THE
HISTORY,
POLITICS,
AND
LITERATURE,
For the YEAR 1793.



L O N D O N :

PRINTED, BY ASSIGNMENT FROM THE EXECUTORS OF THE LATE
MR. JAMES DODSLEY,
FOR W. OTRIDGE AND SON; R. FAULDER; J. CUTHELL; R. LEA;
OGILVY AND SON; J. NUNN; J. WALKER; LACKINGTON, ALLEN,
AND CO. E. JEFFERY; AND VERNOR AND HOOD.

NATURAL HISTORY.

Description of the Double-horned Rhinoceros of Sumatra. By Mr. Wm. Bell, Surgeon to the East-India Company at Bencoolen; communicated by Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. P. R. S.

From the Philosophical Transactions for 1793, Part I.

THE animal herein described was shot with a leaden ball from a musket about ten miles from Fort Marlborough. I saw it the day after, and it was not then in the least putrid.

It was a male; the height at the shoulder was four feet four inches; at the sacrum nearly the same; from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail, eight feet five inches. From the appearance of its teeth and bones it was but young, and probably not near its full size.

The shape of the animal was much like that of the hog. The general colour was a brownish ash; under the belly, between the legs, and folds of the skin, a dirty flesh colour.

The head much resembled that of the single-horned Rhinoceros. The eyes were small, of a brown colour; the membrana nictitans thick and strong. The skin surrounding the eyes was wrinkled. The nostrils were wide. The upper

lip was pointed and hanging over the other.

There were six molares, or grinders, on each side of the upper and lower jaw, becoming gradually larger backward, particularly in the upper. Two teeth in the front of each jaw.

The tongue was quite smooth.

The ears were small and pointed, lined and edged with small black hair, and situated like those of the single-horned Rhinoceros.

The horns were black, the larger was placed immediately above the nose, pointing upwards, and was bent a little back; it was about nine inches long. The small horn was four inches long, of a pyramidal shape, flattened a little and placed above the eyes, rather a little more forward, standing in a line with the larger horn immediately above it. They were both firmly attached to the skull, nor was there any appearance of joint or muscles to move them.

The neck was thick and short; the skin on the under side thrown into folds, and those folds again wrinkled.

The body was bulky and round, and from the shoulder ran a line or fold, as in the single-horned Rhinoceros, though faintly marked. There were several other folds and wrinkles on the body and legs, and the

the whole gave rather the appearance of softness.

The legs were thick, short, and remarkably strong; the feet armed with three distinct hoofs of a blackish colour, which surrounded half the foot, one in front, the others on each side. The soles of the feet were convex, of a light colour, and the cuticle on them not thicker than that on the foot of a man who is used to walking.

The testicles hardly appeared externally.

The penis was bent backward, and opened about eighteen inches below the anus. At its origin it was as thick as a man's leg, and about two feet and a half long; the bend in it occasions the urine to be discharged backwards. The male has two nipples like the female, situated between the hind legs; they are about half an inch in length, of a pyramidal form, rounded at the end.

The whole skin of the animal is rough, and covered very thinly with short black hair. The skin was not more than one-third of an inch in thickness, at the strongest part; under the belly it was hardly a quarter of an inch; any part of it might be cut through with ease by a common dissecting knife.

The animal had not that appearance of armour which is observed in the single-horned Rhinoceros.

Since I dissected the male I have had an opportunity of examining a female, which was more of a lead colour; it was younger than the male, and had not so many folds or wrinkles in its skin, of course it had still less the appearance of armour.

The only external mark which distinguishes it from the male is

the vagina, which is close to the anus; whereas in the male, the opening for the penis is eighteen inches below the anus.

Description of a Species of Chaetodon; called by the Malays Ecan Bonna. By the same.

From the same.

THE fish called Ecan bonna by the Malays, is broad, flat, and of a lead colour, the belly is flat, white, and in places tinged with green. The eyes are a bright yellow. The body is covered with small semicircular scales.

Its length is generally about 19 inches, its breadth thirteen, and, at the thickest part, it is nearly three inches thick.

It is frequently caught at Bencoolen, and several other parts on the west coasts of Sumatra, and is said to grow to a much larger size. Its flesh is white, firm, and well favoured, and it is considered as a good fish for the table.

It has six fins; two pectoral, two ventral, one dorsal, and one anal fin. The tail is broad, and of a triangular form.

The pectoral fins are small, blunted at their ends, and placed a little behind the gills.

The ventral fins are placed on the sternum, and are longer and more pointed.

The dorsal fin arises at the beginning of the spinous processes of the back, and is continued down nearly to the tail.

The anal fin arises a little below the anus, and is also continued on almost to the tail. It is strong and broad like the dorsal, and projects a little farther backward than it.