

### ORDER RHINOGRADENTIA (Rhinogrades or snouters)

This marvelously adapted group of about 150 species is known only from the obscure South Sea archipelago of Hi-yi-yi. Snouters have peculiar modifications of the skull and snout enabling them to use the nose for a variety of purposes, including locomotion and feeding. For example, each of the several species of flower-faced snouters lures insects to a snout specially equipped with flaps of skin which resemble a flower. As Stumpke (1967) stated, "this group of animals has particular significance because among them are found principles of structure, modes of behavior, and ecological types that are unknown elsewhere, not just among mammals but among vertebrates in general." Stumpke recognized two suborders—the Monorrhina (uni-snouters) and Polyrhina (multi-snouters)—containing a total of 14 families.

Diagnoses of the order and families are not possible because Stumpke provided descriptions for only a few representative species and because he gave no general descriptions of major taxonomic groups. For further details, see Stumpke (1967). Moreover, the authenticity of certain of the species is open to question because Stumpke used curious taxonomic procedures. For example, one genus (*Dulcidauca*, sugartails) is an anagram of another (*Dulcicauda*, honeytails). Some have suggested that the snouters represent figments of an inventive imagination. In any case, the questions surrounding rhinogrades will probably never be resolved. The entire archipelago (including Stumpke) was inadvertently destroyed during nuclear tests there two decades ago.