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Georges Cuvier (1769–1832), one of the founding figures of vertebrate palaeontology, pursued a successful scientific career despite the political upheavals in France during his lifetime. In the 1790s, Cuvier’s work on fossils of large mammals including mammoths enabled him to show that extinction was a scientific fact. In 1812 Cuvier published this four-volume illustrated collection of his papers on palaeontology, osteology (notably dentition) and stratigraphy. It was followed in 1817 by his famous *Le Règne Animal*, available in the Cambridge Library Collection both in French and in Edward Griffith’s expanded English translation (1827–35). Volume 2 of *Recherches sur les ossements fossiles* describes eleven species of pachyderm found in recent alluvial deposits. They include elephants, mastodons, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, tapir and the hyrax (which Cuvier classified as an ungulate rather than a rodent). Cuvier argued from osteological comparisons with living species that all should be considered distinct species in their own right.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08376-8 - Recherches Sur Les Ossements Fossiles Des Quadrupèdes: Volume 2

Georges Cuvier

Frontmatter

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Recherches sur les
ossemens fossiles
des quadrupèdes

VOLUME 2

GEORGES CUVIER



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RECHERCHES
SUR
LES OSSEMENS FOSSILES
DE QUADRUPÉDES.
TOME II.

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RECHERCHES
SUR
LES OSSEMENS FOSSILES
DE QUADRUPÈDES,
OU L'ON RÉTABLIT
LES CARACTÈRES DE PLUSIEURS ESPÈCES D'ANIMAUX
QUE LES RÉVOLUTIONS DU GLOBE PAROISSENT AVOIR DÉTRUITES ;

PAR M. CUVIER,

Chevalier de l'Empire et de la Légion d'honneur, Secrétaire perpétuel de l'Institut de France, Conseiller titulaire de l'Université impériale, Lecteur et Professeur impérial au Collège de France, Professeur administrateur au Muséum d'Histoire naturelle ; de la Société royale de Londres, de l'Académie royale des Sciences et Belles-Lettres de Prusse, de l'Académie impériale des Sciences de Saint-Petersbourg, de l'Académie royale des Sciences de Suède, de l'Académie impériale de Turin, des Sociétés royales des Sciences de Copenhague et de Gottingue, de l'Académie royale de Bavière, de celles de Harlem, de Vilna, de Gênes, de Siennue, de Marseille, de Rouen, de Pistoia ; des Sociétés philomatique et philotechnique de Paris ; des Sociétés des Naturalistes de Berlin, de Moscou, de Vetteravie ; des Sociétés de Médecine de Paris, d'Edimbourg, de Bologne, de Venise, de Pétersbourg, d'Erlang, de Montpellier, de Berne, de Bordeaux, de Liège ; des Sociétés d'Agriculture de Florence, de Lyon et de Véronne, de la Société d'Art vétérinaire de Copenhague ; des Sociétés d'Emulation de Bordeaux, de Nancy, de Soissons, d'Anvers, de Colmar, de Poitiers, d'Abbeville, etc.

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PREMIÈRE PARTIE

OSSEMENS FOSSILES

DE

QUADRUPÈDES PACHYDERMES

ET D'ÉLÉPHANS,

Trouvés dans les terrains meubles ou d'alluvion.

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