|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Hornbill**  **Temporal range: [Late Miocene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Late_Miocene" \o "Late Miocene) to present** | |
|  | |
| [IMG_256](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Great_hornbill_Photograph_by_Shantanu_Kuveskar.jpg)[Great hornbill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_hornbill" \o "Great hornbill) *Buceros bicornis* from Mangaon, Raigad, Maharashtra, India | |
| **[Scientific classification](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxonomy_(biology)" \o "Taxonomy (biology))[IMG_257](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template:Taxonomy/Bucerotidae)** | |
| Kingdom: | [Animalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal" \o "Animal) |
| Phylum: | [Chordata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chordate" \o "Chordate) |
| Class: | [Aves](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bird" \o "Bird) |
| Order: | [Bucerotiformes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bucerotiformes" \o "Bucerotiformes) |
| Family: | **Bucerotidae** [Rafinesque](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_Samuel_Rafinesque" \o "Constantine Samuel Rafinesque), 1815 |
| **Genera** | |

## HORNBILLS

The **hornbills** (**Bucerotidae**) are a [family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Family_(biology)" \o "Family (biology)) of [bird](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bird" \o "Bird) found in tropical and [subtropical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subtropical" \o "Subtropical) [Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa" \o "Africa), [Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia" \o "Asia) and [Melanesia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melanesia" \o "Melanesia). They are characterized by a long, down-curved bill which is frequently brightly colored and sometimes has a casque on the upper mandible. Both the common [English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_(language)" \o "English (language)) and the scientific name of the family refer to the shape of the bill, "buceros" being "cow horn" in [Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_language" \o "Greek language). Hornbills have a two-lobed [kidney](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kidney" \o "Kidney). They are the only birds in which the first and second [neck vertebrae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vertebra" \o "Vertebra) (the [atlas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlas_(anatomy)" \o "Atlas (anatomy)) and [axis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Axis_(anatomy)" \o "Axis (anatomy)) respectively) are fused together; this probably provides a more stable platform for carrying the bill.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hornbill" \l "cite_note-EoB-1) The family is omnivorous, feeding on fruit and small animals. They are [monogamous](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monogamous" \o "Monogamous) breeders nesting in natural cavities in trees and sometimes cliffs. A number of mainly [insular](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Island" \o "Island) species of hornbill with small ranges are [threatened](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Threatened_species" \o "Threatened species) with [extinction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extinction" \o "Extinction), namely in [Southeast Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southeast_Asia" \o "Southeast Asia)