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SOUTHERN AFRICAN MAMMALS

1758 to 1951:

A RECLASSIFICATION

by

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DENDROHYRAX ARBOREUS ARBOREUS A. Smith, 1827

1827. *Hyrax arboreus* A. Smith, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, 15: 468. Forests, South Africa.

DENDROHYRAX ARBOREUS MIMUS Thomas, 1900

1900. *Procavia mima* Thomas, Ann. Mag. N.H. 6: 387. Nyasa-Tanganyika plateau, northern Nyasaland.

ORDER PERISSODACTYLA

The living members of this order are large mammals superficially specialized in much the same way as the Artiodactyla (below), but are not cloven-hoofed; the fourth digits when present are shorter than the third, which are dominant. In living members of the order, none of the front teeth is much enlarged.

The two families which occur in South Africa are referred to two suborders, which are so distinct that they do not require special comparison.

Lightly-built animals; slender limbs, with 1 digit; the orbit ringed by bone, and the cheekteeth complex. In South African species the body, neck and limbs are striped. Family EQUIDAE, page 164

Heavily-built species; heavy limbs with 3 digits; the orbit not ringed by bone, and the cheekteeth relatively simple. African forms have 2 horns on the nose.

Family RHINOCEROTIDAE, page 162

SUB-ORDER CERATOMORPHA

FAMILY RHINOCEROTIDAE

For key to all living members of this family see Pocock, 1945, *P.Z.S.*, 114: 437. Pocock (*loc. cit.*) divided the living rhinoceroses into two subfamilies, one for the Asiatic, and one for the African forms. For our reasons for agreeing with this view, rather than that of Simpson (1945) and others, see Ellerman & Morrison-Scott (1951).

Subfamily Dicerotinae

Genus DICEROS Gray, 1821

1821. *Diceros* Gray, London Medical Repository, 15: 306. *Rhinoceros bicornis* Linnaeus.

1841. *Opsiceros* Gloger, Hand-u. Hilfsbuch Naturgesch. 1: 125 (xxxii, 1842).
Rhinoceros bicornis Linnaeus.

1862. *Rhinaster* Gray in Gerrard, Cat. Bones Mamm. Brit. Mus. 282. *Rhinoceros bicornis* Linnaeus.

1868. *Keitloa* Gray, P.Z.S. 1867: 1025. *Rhinoceros keitloa* A. Smith = *Rhinoceros bicornis* Linnaeus.
1868. *Ceratotherium* Gray, P.Z.S. 1867: 1027. *Rhinoceros simus* Burchell. Valid as a subgenus.

Ceratotherium has been treated as a full genus by many authors, but we do not regard the differences between this and *Diceros* as being of more than subgeneric value.

Upper lip squared.

Diceros (Ceratotherium) simus, page 164

Upper lip narrow, its tip prehensile.

Diceros bicornis, page 163

Subgenus *DICEROS* Gray, 1821

Diceros bicornis Linnaeus, 1758

Black Rhinoceros. Swartrenoster

Distribution: this species is becoming rare in South Africa, and in the Union seems now to be restricted to the reserves in Zululand. (It appears to have become extinct in the Kruger National Park.) South-West Africa; Shortridge (1934) quoted the species from the Kaokoveld (where rare) and said that it occurred rarely in the Caprivi district, and as an occasional visitor in western Ovamboland. Parts of Portuguese East Africa, Southern Rhodesia and northern Bechuanaland (Roberts). Southern Angola; parts of Northern Rhodesia. Apparently has been recorded from Nyasaland. Beyond the limits of this work, occurs in most parts of East Africa, and westwards probably as far as the general neighbourhood of Lake Chad, but it is likely that it is nowhere common.

DICEROS BICORNIS BICORNIS Linnaeus, 1758

1758. *Rhinoceros bicornis* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1: 56. "India", but Cape of Good Hope according to Thomas (1911: 144).
1803. *Rhinoceros africanus* Blumenbach, Man. Hist. Nat. 1: 156. Cape of Good Hope.
1836. *Rhinoceros keitloa* A. Smith, Rept. Exped. Expl. Central Afr., 44. "Country north and south of Kurrichaine" (Marico district, western Transvaal).
1837. *Rhinoceros ketloa* A. Smith, Cat. S. Afr. Mus. 7. "180 miles N.E. of Lattakoo."
1842. *Rhinoceros bicornis* Var. B. *Rhinoceros gordonii* Lesson, Nouv. Tabl. Règne Anim. Mamm. 159, *nom. nud.*
1845. *Rhinoceros niger* Schinz, Synops. Mamm. 2: 335. Chuntop, near Mt. Mitchell, Kuiseb district, South-West Africa (Shortridge, 1934, Mamm. S.W. Africa, 1: 412, footnote).
1845. *Rhinoceros camperi* Schinz, *loc. cit.* Cape of Good Hope.
1898. *Rhinoceros bicornis capensis* Trouessart, Cat. Mamm. Viv. Foss. 757. Cape of Good Hope.
1922. *Opsiceros occidentalis* Zukowsky, Arch. Naturgesch. 88A, 7: 162. Kaokoveld-Cunene region, northern South-West Africa.
1947. *Diceros bicornis punyana* Potter & Mitchell, Field, 190: 385. Hluhluwe Game Reserve, Zululand, Natal.

Subgenus *CERATOTHERIUM* Gray, 1868**Diceros simus** Burchell, 1817

White Rhinoceros. Witrenoster

Distribution: so far as is known, in South Africa the species is now confined to the game reserves in Zululand (where it is the commoner of the two species). There is another race in the region of the southern Sudan and Uganda, probably extending into the adjacent parts of the Congo.

DICEROS SIMUS SIMUS Burchell, 1817

1817. *Rhinoceros simus* Burchell, Bull. Soc. Philom. Paris, 97. Interior of South Africa, near lat. 26° S. (near Kuruman, northern Cape Province, *vide* Shortridge, 1934).
 1827. *Rhinoceros camus* (sic) Griffith, Cuvier's Anim. Kingd. 5: 292. Southern Africa.
 1827. *Rhinoceros burchellii* Lesson, Man. Mamm. 332. Substitute for *simus*.
 1854. *Rhinoceros oswellii* Gray, P.Z.S. 1853: 46. Interior of South Africa.

SUB-ORDER HIPPO MORPHA

FAMILY EQUIDAE

Genus **EQUUS** Linnaeus, 1758

1758. *Equus* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1: 73. *Equus caballus* Linnaeus, the domestic Horse.
 1841. *Hippotigris* H. Smith, Jardine's Naturalist's Library, 31: 321. *Equus zebra* Linnaeus (Sclater, 1900, Mamm. of S. Africa, 1: 282). Valid as a subgenus.
 1909. *Zebra* J. Allen, Bull. Amer. Mus. N.H. 26: 163, in legend to text-f. 7, 8. *Zebra burchelli granti* de Winton = *Equus burchelli boehmi* Matschie. Not of Shuttleworth, 1856, a mollusc.
 1912. *Dolichohippus* Heller, Smiths. Misc. Coll. 60, 8: 1. *Equus grevyi* Oustalet, from Abyssinia. Valid as a subgenus.
 1934. *Quagga* Shortridge, Mamm. S.W. Africa, 1: 397. *Quagga quagga greyi* Lydekker = *Equus quagga* Gmelin.

Pocock (1902, 1904, 1907), Shortridge (1934) and Rzasnicki (1951) considered that *E. burchelli* was conspecific with the extinct *E. quagga* Gmelin, (1788, Syst. Nat. 1: 213, South Africa) and at first sight this seems a logical conclusion. The races of the Burchell group of Zebras show a progressive reduction of the stripes on the legs and belly from *boehmi* and *selousi* in the northern part of the range to the now extinct typical *burchelli* in the south: *quagga*, still further south, seemed merely to carry the process further. But recent investigations into the cranial characters of *quagga* tend to show that the skull is different from that of the Burchell Zebras (Lundholm, 1951) and that this difference is greater than that existing between the Burchell Zebras themselves. This in itself does not, of course, mean that the difference between the Quagga and the Burchell Zebras is necessarily of specific order, but, taken together with the evidence for *quagga* and *burchelli* having been sympatric, we are inclined to