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Koorsbessie en mingerhout
Wins uit wildboerdery

BUSHCRAFT

Rhino Watch



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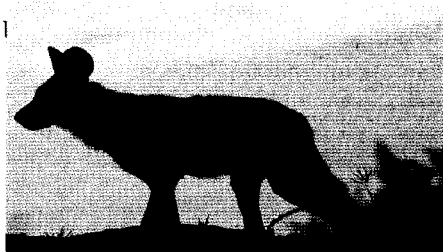
Grootkoorsbessie en mingerhout

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Bosveld Jagters- en Wildbewaringsvereniging
SA Wildboerorganisasie
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Although SA GAME & HUNT is available as a mouthpiece to the organised game ranching industry and the organised hunting industry, it is editorially and financially independent.

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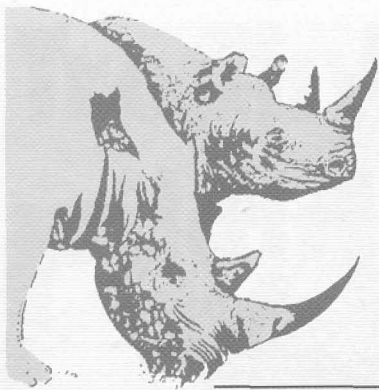
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Rhino Watch

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Editorial

The black rhinoceros used to be widespread and numerous in many parts of the African continent. During the past thirty years or so we have witnessed a dramatic decline in numbers due to poaching and loss of suitable habitat. The animal will probably never be restored to its former status. However, it is gratifying to note that the decline seems to have been halted and that the black rhinoceros is slowly increasing in numbers again. The latest volume of *The Rhino & Elephant Journal*,

published at the end of 1998, has a report by Richard H. Emslie on the numbers of rhinos as compiled by the IUCN African Rhino Specialist group. In 1997, the black rhinoceros was most numerous in South Africa (1046 specimens) and in Namibia (707 specimens). Kenya still had 424 and Zimbabwe 339 animals. Smaller populations are trying to survive in Cameroon (10), Malawi (93), Mozambique (13), Rwanda (4), Swaziland (10) and Tanzania (46). This amounts to a grand total of 2602 black rhinos in ten different countries. Although the numbers are higher

than estimates for the previous years, there is still no room for complacency, especially for the countries in East, Central and West Africa, as the populations are small and scattered, and therefore open to attacks from all sides. It has taken major effort by many conservation agencies and government departments to stop the decline. This should at least be continued for the years to come to really safeguard the black rhinoceros against the human threats to its survival. The rhinoceros is worth our support.

Dr Kees Rookmaaker, Editor

A most impudent lying contradictory fellow

When studying the rhinoceros, one comes across all kinds of personalities and anecdotes. The text in the title here obviously is a quote from days past. This was a comment made by the Swedish explorer and medical doctor Anders Sparrman, who travelled around the world with Captain Cook and spend some time in South Africa in the 1770's. Sparrman was an astute scientist, but his criticism of other authors was often quite severe, even in his published work. The above remark referred to the German author Peter Kolb (1675-1726), who lived at the Cape of Good Hope from 1705 to 1712. On his return home, Kolb published a large quarto volume in German called *Caput Bonei Spei Hodiernum* (1719). It contained a section on the African mammals, birds and other animals occupying no less than 65 pages of text. When one studies this today, it is a mass of data which are very difficult to interpret, because the animals are given European names and very poorly described. Sparrman's words were too harsh, but at the same time not entirely incorrect. The 1719 edition had a plate showing the rhinoceros, an animal which Kolb claimed to have seen near the Cape. The illustration certainly was composed in Germany, as it shows the Indian rhinoceros as interpreted by Albrecht Dürer, with the twisted horn on the shoulders. In 1727 a translation of Kolb's book into Dutch appeared in two volumes. The plates were redrawn by an artist from Leiden by name of Jan Wandelaar. This artist had seen a young stuffed African rhinoceros in the botanical gardens in Leiden and had an idea that Kolb's publisher

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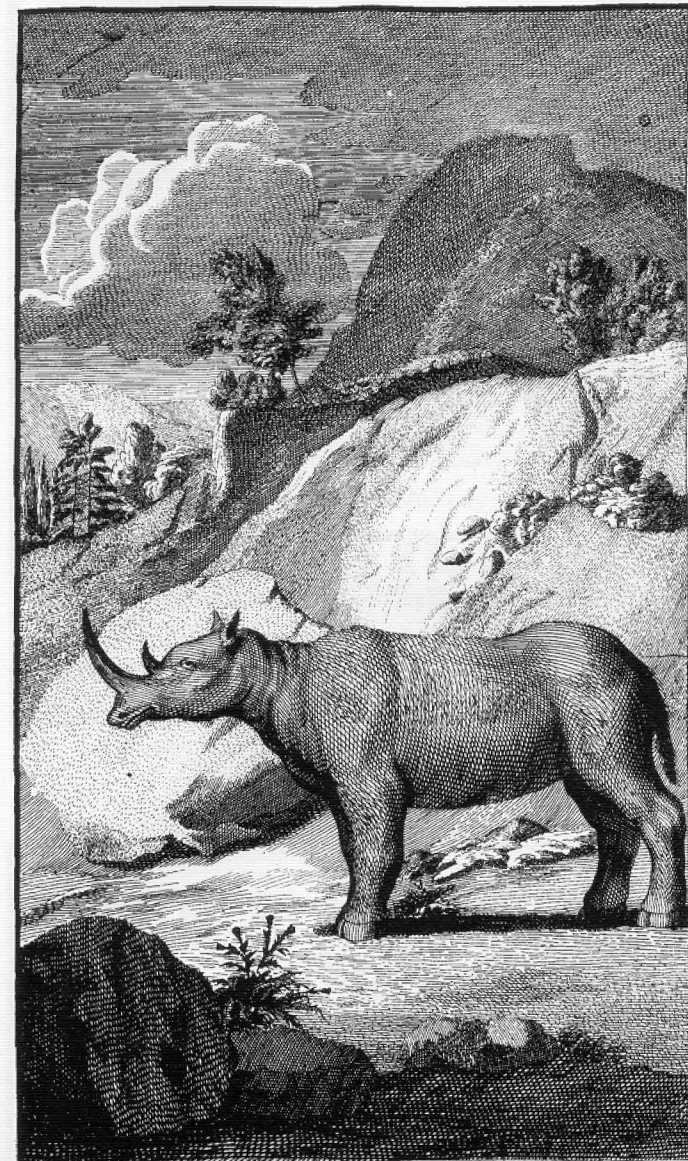


Contradictory fellow

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This is one of the very first attempts to depict the African black rhinoceros in a book.

- Dr Kees Rookmaaker.



RHINOCEROS VOLGENS DEZE BESCHRYVING.

Wendelaar delin.

Rhinoceros Factfile 2 : The structure of the horn

By Dr Kees Rookmaaker

The horn of the rhinoceros is the most prominent feature of the animal, certainly its most valuable part due to medicinal properties ascribed to it in eastern countries. The black and white rhinoceroses, the only two species known in the African continent, have two horns each. Each horn has two distinct parts, the base and the stem. The base is broadened and frayed in the African rhinos. The transition to the stem is marked by a rather sudden slimming, and the smooth stem gradually tapers to the end. The horn of the rhinoceros differs from other kinds of horn like those

had made a mistake. He was bold enough to add a plate of a rhinoceros "according to this description."

of cattle and sheep in the fact that it lacks any kind of bony core, it is purely a skin structure fixed over a short bony knob on the nasal bone of the skull. It is not attached to the skull itself at all.

Rhino horn is also unique in the way that it frays into tubules or filaments, which does not happen in other animals. The greatest part of the horn is made up out of these tubular units each about 300 to 500 microns (0,3 to 0,5 mm) in diameter. These units are closely packed together and as a consequence they are distorted (from a cylindrical shape). A scanning electron microscope study further revealed that the filaments consist of a solid non-fibrous core around which are layered concentric laminae composed of flat scale-like cells. The horns of the two African and three Asian species can be told apart if the horns are still in one piece. If they are made into goblets or cut into pieces, the identification becomes much more difficult. Horns of the white rhinoceros are generally straighter, squarer and more massive than those of the black rhinoceros.

A new volume of the REF Journal

In December 1998, the Rhino & Elephant Foundation published the 12th volume of their annual journal. Started in 1986, this journal has become increasingly professional and yet very understandable to all readers. The cover shows a bronze of an elephant called "Mafunyane" by Alan Ainslie, which will soon be raffled. The regular profile of outstanding persons in the field of conservation this time writes about Dr Hym Ebedes B.V.Sc., whose life career makes us realise that serious science can be coupled with a human side of life and a special care of the subjects.

Richard Emslie writes about the increase of rhinos in the African continent, with total numbers now calculated as 8466 for the white rhinoceros and 2602 for the black rhinoceros. Elephants figure in contributions by Fred de Boer with Cornelio Ntumi on the Maputo Elephant Reserve in Mozambique, by Angela Gaylard on the role of elephants in the ecosystem of the Kruger National Park, and by Marion Garaã on an elephant orphanage in Sri Lanka. The Indian Rhinoceros of Assam is the subject of a well-illustrated paper by Lucy Vigne and Esmond Martin of Kenya, while Kees Rookmaaker discusses some drawings made in 1801 in the Eastern Cape by Samuel Daniel. This interesting volume ends with Clive Walker's report on the past and present of the Rhino & Elephant Foundation. For more information about this journal and membership to REF, please contact Heather Cowie at (011) 453-9829.

Walker's Wayside at The Rhino Museum

The Rhino Museum and Art Gallery at Melkriver, just 60km from Vaalwater and on the doorsteps of Lapalala Wilderness, has now opened its door. The gardens are beautiful, with all kinds of birds and anybody interested in moths will find it hard to leave again. Hidden away in this area is Walker's Wayside, a coffee shop, bar and restaurant. It is open all day from 9 am onwards, except on Sunday evenings and Mondays. In these tranquil surroundings one can enjoy toasted sandwiches, ice creams with coffee, tea or other drinks. There are always simple pub meals for as little as R15,00 while in the evenings the restaurant offers an a la carte menu with home prepared dinners including smoked salmon, ostrich, kingklip, chicken or roast duck, and many seasonal variations. All are welcome to this hidden treasure, or book before arrival at 0147552 party line 4041.