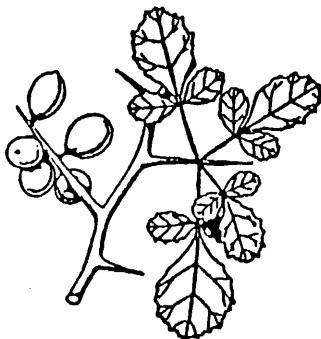


Walker 1992



Most commiphoras (there are about 30 species in South Africa) have a thick bark which peels in thin papery flakes. Most have a resinous smell and exude a milky juice when cut.

A much-branched spiny shrub or small tree, deciduous, often found among rocks. Bark is grey-green, peeling in papery strips in larger specimens. Young twigs and leaves are densely covered with short grey hair. Leaves are trifoliate with margins coarsely serrated. Flowers are small, greenish-pink; occur in clusters in October. The fruits are rounded, pinky-red, and split to reveal a stone containing one seed. The stone is partially enveloped by a bright red fleshy "pseudaril".

The larva of the beetle Diamphidia simplex from which Bushmen make their arrow poison feeds on these trees, and is dug up from among their roots.

CBJ

BOTSWANA'S RHINOS

We will be carrying out the aerial survey of black rhino in northern Botswana from the 17 September through to the 5 October 1992 under the direction of Mr Peter Hitchins.

This project is being carried out in conjunction with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks and funding that we have secured through the World Wide Fund for Nature in Hong Kong through personal friends of Dr Anthony Hall-Martin. It is hoped that it may give us some idea of what the status is of the species in that part of Botswana.

However the second phase will be the follow-up operation during 1993, where, subject to the outcome of the aerial survey, the desire is to capture and relocate these animals to a safe sanctuary within Botswana. It is in this area that we will in all probability require funding and if the Okavango Wildlife Society could see its way to supporting this, we would very much like to take this up with you in due course.

Insofar as the Khama Rhino Sanctuary is concerned, unfortunately, we do not have a direct involvement in that matter other than the early initiative and the support that we have given the committee in Serowe. There have however, been a number of setbacks in the acquisition of the land, but we understand that a portion of this has since been acquired. The gentlemen handling this are Mr Tony Ballentine and Mr Ray Watson of Serowe.

Coming back to the survey, we will supply OWLS with the results of this once the survey is complete.

An update by Clive Walker
Chairman Rhino & Elephant Foundation

CONDOLENCES

Our long-time member and committee member Barry Walker suffered a major car accident earlier this year. He was first in intensive care followed by several months in the spinal rehabilitation centre at H.F.