

Rhino horn

In the November 1988 issue of *Custos*, you featured an article by Anette Wait about the decimation of Africa's population of black rhino, which brought home forcefully the plight of the species and the evils of the trade demanding rhino horn for "medicinal" purposes.

I was, therefore, all the more alarmed to find on the shelves of our local pharmacy tablets and ointment called *Amandla*, on the box of which is pictured the head of a black rhino.

I have not had the contents of these tablets and ointment analysed, but I am alarmed by the association of the black rhino on the box and label with what appears to be the aphrodisiacal properties of this medicine, and one can probably assume that *Amandla* is on sale in many pharmacies in the "homelands" and independent black states; I haven't seen it in pharmacies in predominantly white areas.

In view of the serious threat to the black rhino's continued existence, I feel that the coupling of the black rhino trade mark with any sort of medicine that is freely available could be detrimental to the efforts of many concerned organizations, and ask if the manufacturers could be persuaded to alter their packaging, and if there is any way in which this damaging association of an endangered species with potency medicines could be stopped.

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