

Black Rhino Kills Male Lion

At about 22h00 on 16/11/98, we happened upon the dominant male of the Kichwa Pride close to the airstrip; he had been mating during the day and was bloated after a big meal. Out of the darkness, a Black Rhino appeared and it was soon encircled by the pride. The well-fed male showed no interest, however, and remained lying down. The sub-adult lions had probably never encountered a rhino before and jumped up at it. This appeared to anger the rhino which snorted and rushed at the nearest lion - the large male. The male tried to get out of the rhino's path but was too slow and the rhino drove its horn into the Lion's rump, knocking it backwards. The rhino then simply turned tail and wandered off into the night. The male was bleeding profusely from its wound and clearly in great pain for it could not rise to walk away with the rest of the pride.

We returned to the scene at 6h30 the following morning, to find the lion still alive but breathing very heavily in a pool of blood. Vultures had gathered in the surrounding trees. In a supreme effort, the lion managed to haul itself about 20m to a shady lugga only to die there at about 10h00.

Most surprisingly, no vultures or other scavengers came to eat the body of the lion after we left. Follow up visits revealed no maggots and the whole carcass eventually dried out.

James Morante & Philip Keter

New Males for Kichwa Lion Pride

After the death of the Kichwa Pride male (killed by a Black Rhino), it seems as though two new males have taken ownership of the territory. One male has a black mane and the other a golden mane. When the males were seen on 5 August, the KT pride was scattered due to the fear of youngsters being killed by the newcomers. The Kichwa Pride consists of three mature females, three sub-adult females and four young males. On 10 August one of the lionesses was seen mating with the new black-maned lion.

Ropira Shieni, Kampuni Nyangwara, Wesley Kipkoros, Jackson Mulani & Joseph Masibo

The Hare, the Eagle and the Baboon

While on a walk up the Oloololo Escarpment behind Kichwa Tembo camp at 17h15 on 21 February, we paused to watch a troop of Olive Baboon. The primates were turning over rocks in search of lizards and scorpions, but disturbed a Scrub Hare which was hiding next to a tuft of grass. The hare burst from cover, only to be seen by a Verreaux's Eagle soaring overhead. The eagle folded its wings and stooped towards the hare as we watched. A desperate zigzag chase ensued, with the hare evading the eagle but running headlong into a large male baboon. The somewhat startled baboon took quick advantage of the circumstances, as it seized the hare with its hands and bit into its throat. Within a minute or so, four other baboons had rushed to the scene and they tore apart the hare and ate it. The eagle had missed its chance.

Philip Keter & John Ole Kerore

