

RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

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NEWSLETTER #25 NOVEMBER 2011

Dear colleagues and friends,

This is the 25th issue of the quarterly e-newsletter of the Rhino Resource Center.
Edited by Dr Kees Rookmaaker.

The total number of references in the collection of the RRC now stands at 15,855.
This represents a quarterly increase of 325 items.

Over 13,000 references are available as PDF on the RRC website.

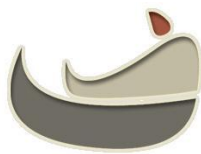
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VIETNAMESE RHINO IS EXTINCT

IRF and WWF were sad to announce in October 2011 that the Vietnamese Rhinoceros should now be considered extinct. This was the last remaining population of *Rhinoceros sondaicus* on the Asian mainland and its demise is particularly sad.

For a long time in the mid-20th century, the existence of any rhinoceros in the Indochinese countries of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam was questioned. It was even unknown which species would have been found there, either *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis* with two horns, or *R. sondaicus* with one horn. In 1980, I published a paper ([found here](#)) reviewing all historical references to rhinos in these countries and tentatively concluded that sources pointed at the former occurrence of the single-horned species.

These animals were soon after recognized as a separate subspecies by Groves and Guérin (1980, [found here](#)) known as *Rhinoceros sondaicus annamiticus* Heude, 1867. Then, in 1990 Schaller, Nguyen, Le Dinh Thuy and Vo Thanh Son ([found here](#)) announced the re-discovery of a small population of these animals in the southern part of Vietnam. The animals were put under protection in the Cat Tien National Park. Sadly, human encroachment and habitat loss were too strong and all animals in the park dwindled and died.

It shows once again how important conservation efforts will be to preserve and keep the last remaining population of the Javan Rhinoceros in Ujung Kulon National Park.

RHINO PLEDGE

On the occasion of the World Rhino Day which was celebrated on 22 September, one of our correspondents Francesco Nardelli has written a universal Rhino Pledge.

The text of his contribution can be found under this link:

<http://www.rhinoresourcecenter.com/about/rhino-pledge.php>



OUR SPONSORS

The board and staff of the Rhino Resource Center gratefully acknowledge the support of our two main sponsors, the International Rhino Foundation and SOS Rhino.



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We receive regular donations from Save the Rhino International and Rhino Carhire.
Thank you very much.



*The Rhino Resource Center is a registered charity.
We need your assistance to provide our service to all rhino lovers worldwide.*



MEDICINAL USE OF RHINO HORN

For some time I have been contemplating to publish a paper which should have a headline in giant newsprint to say that RHINO HORN IS NOT AN APHRODISIAC. There is even no evidence that rhino horn was ever regularly used for this purpose.

Such a paper should be followed by another with more giant newsprint announcing that RHINO HORN IS NOT MEDICINAL. Consensus now appears to be that even if rhino horn is mildly anti-pyretic to lower fever symptoms, the benefits do not outweigh those of cheap over-the-counter medicines readily available in any pharmacy.

There are several scientific and well-researched papers on the medicinal value of rhino horn. Laburn and Mitchell (Journal of Basic and Clinical Physiology, 1997) showed that extracts of rhinoceros horn were not antipyretic in rabbits. Previously, tests at the University of Hong Kong undertaken by Paul But (Journal of Ethnopharmacology, 1990 and 1991) indicated that there was a visible anti-pyretic effect when rhino horn was administered to rats: "Intraperitoneal administration of an aqueous extract of rhinoceros horn at 5, 2.5 and 1 g/ml, showed a significant antipyretic effect in rats with hyperthermia induced by subcutaneous injection of turpentine oil." Extracts of the horns of saiga antelope, water buffalo and cattle also caused a significant drop in fever.

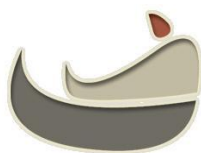
Two unpublished reports have recently been cited to underscore the lack of medicinal properties of rhino horn. One would give details of tests by the pharmaceutical giant Hoffmann-LaRoche (H-LR), the other by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL). As Editor of the RRC I have been asked about the availability of these reports to verify the procedures used during these procedures.

Hoffmann-LaRoche tested white rhino horn in 1980 on behalf of the WWF. The only statement about the tests is found in a short paper on rhino conservation published in 1983 where it is stated by a spokesman of WWF: "Tests also showed that rhino horn, which, like fingernails is made of agglutinated hair, has no analgesic, anti-inflammatory, anti-spasmodic nor diuretic properties, and no bactericidal effect could be found against suppuration and intestinal bacteria" (Environmentalist, 1983). However, either no report was produced or the possibly single copy is now untraceable (as confirmed by H-LR, WWF and IUCN).

ZSL has not performed any studies on the medicinal properties of rhino horn. Dr Raj Amin of ZSL is shown in a National Geographic video explaining his significant studies on rhino horn fingerprinting (Knowledge-Based Systems, 2003).

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All references to books and articles are linked to their page on the RRC, where more information is available.



While Amin referred to the medicinal value of rhino horn in the video, he did not mention that any tests were undertaken at ZSL. It can be confirmed that no such tests have been undertaken by ZSL.

The two reports often quoted to support the statement that rhino horn

has no medicinal value do not stand up to academic scrutiny and alternatives should be quoted in their place.

Scientific papers on rhino horn and TCM found on the RRC website should be read carefully and in full and taking into account that the foundation of TCM is different to that of western medicine.

CONTENTS OF THE RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

The development of the Rhino Resource Center is shown in the table here.

RRC	2010 November	2011 February	2011 May	2011 August	2011 November	ANNUAL INCREASE
References	13,908	14,391	15,013	15,530	15,855	+ 1847
PDF files	8,926	10,126	11,731	13,200	13,785	+ 4859
Images	-	2,405	2,442	2,615	2,667	-
Messages	-	763	775	788	803	-

I thank all authors and publishers who have helped us by sending copies of books and papers. All contributions are [acknowledged on the website](#).

NEW LITERATURE (finalised 31 October 2011)

In this quarter (August to October 2011), we have added 325 new references, to bring the total number of items in the database to 15,855. Of these, no less than 13,785 or 87 percent are available as PDF, and many are searchable in the notes.

Below I have listed new entries published in the 21st century in five categories: Various, African rhinos, Asian rhinos, General and Historical and Fossil rhinos. If you are interested in one of these titles, always check the [RRC website](#) first, because most are available there.



NEW VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS

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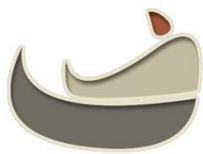


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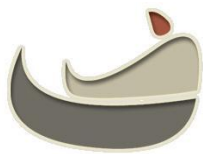


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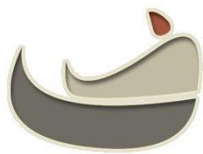
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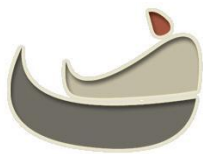


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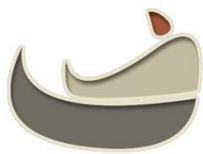
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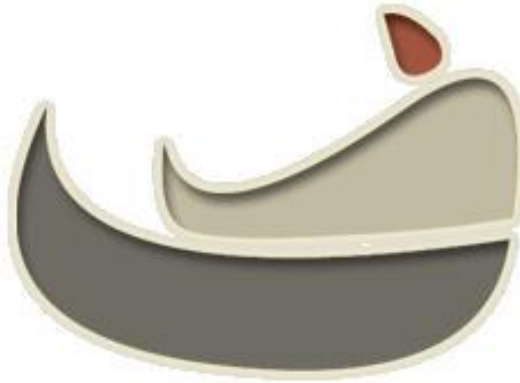
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