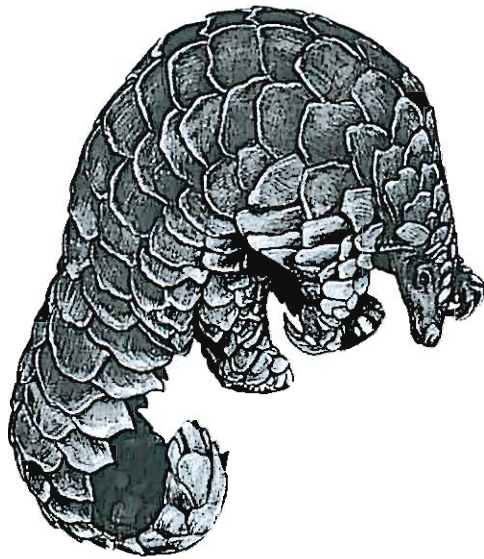


MAMMALS OF AFRICA

VOLUME V

CARNIVORES, PANGOLINS, EQUIDS AND RHINOCEROSES

EDITED BY JONATHAN KINGDON AND MICHAEL HOFFMANN



ILLUSTRATED BY JONATHAN KINGDON

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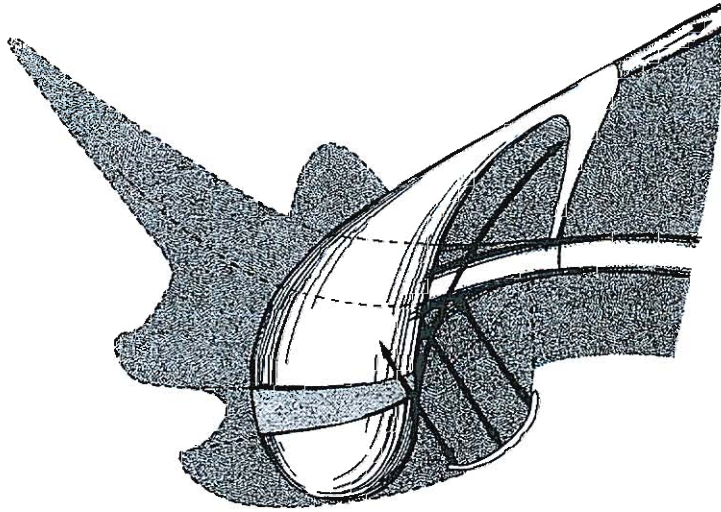
Zoological Gardens in Berlin and contain data on all specimens around the world (Ochs & Mercado 2005a, b, Rookmaaker 2005c).

The rhinoceros has limited value in traditional African societies. In a few cases, the hide was used to prepare shields or the meat was eaten (Lagercrantz 1960). The major threat to rhinos in recent years stems from the immense value of the horns to the Chinese as an essential ingredient in traditional fever-reducing medicine (Martin & Martin 1982, Chapman 1999, Ellis 2005) and to Yemeni to produce handles of the

daggers worn by the men (Leader-Williams 1992, Martin & Vigne 1993). The conservation of the species is discussed in further detail elsewhere.

References to an extensive literature about all aspects of rhinoceros biology and conservation have been listed and discussed by Rookmaaker (1983), Wildi (1989), Miller (1992), Du Toit *et al.* (1994) and Van der Westhuizen (1994).

Kees Rookmaaker



Ceratotherium, principal mass of skull in relation to mastication, horns, vertebral column and suspension.



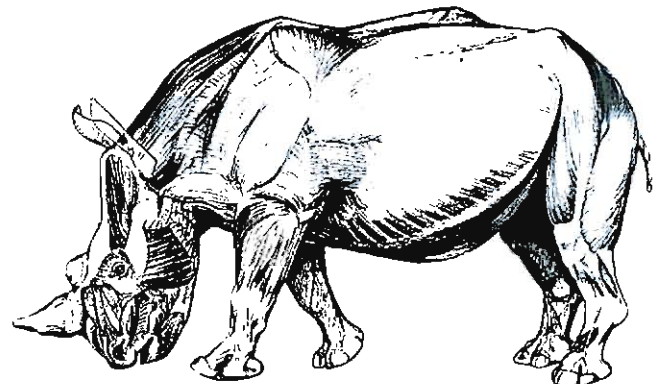
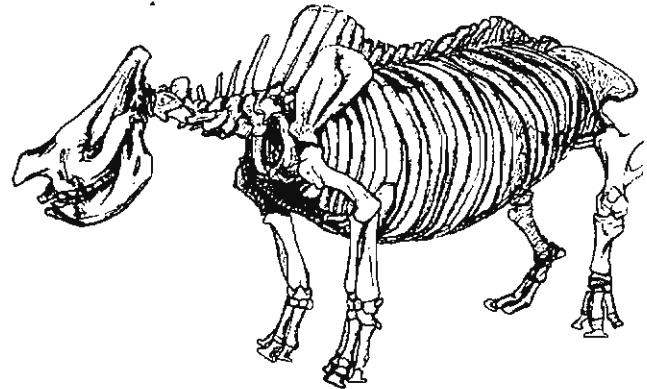
GENUS *Ceratotherium*

White Rhinoceros

Ceratotherium J. E. Gray, 1868. Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1867: 1006, 1027.

Ceratotherium is a monotypic genus (but see Groves *et al.* 2010), represented by a single extant species, the White Rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum*. This species once was found in Africa south of the Zambezi R. and further north in central Africa in parts of Uganda, DR Congo, Sudan, Central African Republic and Chad (Heller 1913, Groves 1972, 1975). The unbridged gap between the two populations merits further investigation. The White Rhino was exterminated in Zimbabwe in 1893, at which time only a small population of a minimum of 20, but most likely about 200, individuals remained in the south-eastern part of South Africa (Player 1972, Rookmaaker 2002, 2003b).

The earliest African representative of *Ceratotherium* in the Pliocene is known from Langebaanweg in South Africa and has recently been identified as *Ceratotherium mauritanicum* (Geraads 2005). In North Africa, *C. mauritanicum* survived into the late Pleistocene; *Ceratotherium simum* was first found in the early Pleistocene. Specimens found in East Africa have been described as *Ceratotherium simum germanoaffricanum* (see Groves 1975). Evidence of skeletal material suggests that the transition from *C. mauritanicum* to *C. simum* took place in East Africa (Geraads 2005). Fossil and extant members of the genus are typical grazers, which shows in the elongation of the occiput and the development of the nuchal hump to accommodate the muscles needed to lift the head from the grazing posture (Alexander & Player 1965).



Kees Rookmaaker

White Rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum*: skeleton (top) and myology (bottom).