

Family RHINOCEROTIDAE

Ceratotherium simum (Burchell, 1817)

Square-lipped rhinoceros
Witrenoster

Although Bigalke (1963) is of the opinion that no conclusive evidence exists that *C. simum* ever ranged into the Orange Free State, Bryden (1899) in Du Plessis (1969) thinks that they did and describes the pasture to the south of the Vaal river as very suitable for this animal and the river as easily fordable at many points during the dry season.

Family SUIDAE

Phacochoerus aethiopicus (Pallas, 1766)

Warthog
Vlakvark

According to Du Plessis (1969) Warthog occurred historically along the course of the Vaal river and its tributaries (also on the Orange Free State side) and on the northeastern boundary of the Orange Free State and Natal.

Family HIPPOPOTAMIDAE

Hippopotamus amphibius Linnaeus, 1758

Hippopotamus
Seeckoel

Historically Hippopotamus occurred in the Orange and Vaal rivers (Du Plessis 1969).

Family GIRAFFIDAE

Giraffa camelopardalis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Giraffe
Kameelperd

According to Du Plessis (1969) there is no conclusive evidence that Giraffe occurred historically in the Orange Free State or Natal, although Arbousset & Daumas (1842) reported its occurrence on the eastern side of the Maluti mountains i.e. in Lesotho, Natal.

As Giraffe have a preference for *Acacia* woodland it seems possible that sporadically they might have occurred in the eastern Orange Free State in the Harrismith district as this region is adjacent to (Natal) *Acacia* savanna i.e. Acocks' (1975) Southern Tall Grassveld. Giraffe possibly also ranged into the western Orange Free State i.e. in the Hoopstad district where Kalahari Thornveld and Shrub Bushveld intrude into the province.

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