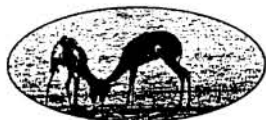


**The Distribution of Macromammals
in Southern Africa Over the
Past 30 000 Years
as reflected in animal remains from
archaeological sites**

I. Plug & S. Badenhorst

Transvaal Museum, P.O. Box 413, Pretoria, 0001 South Africa

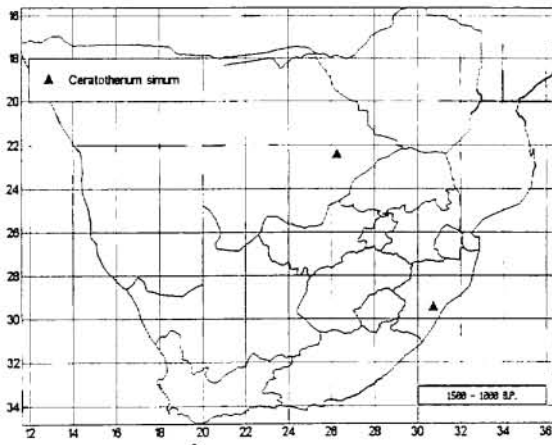
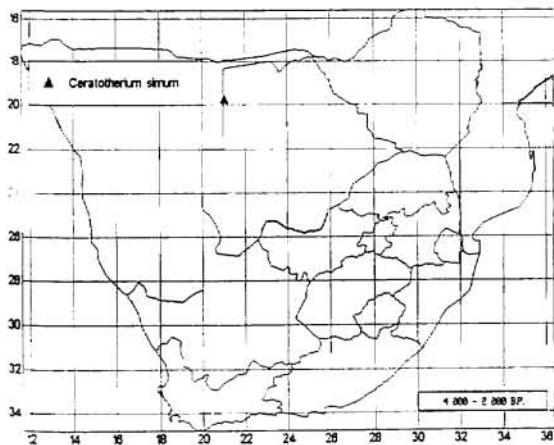
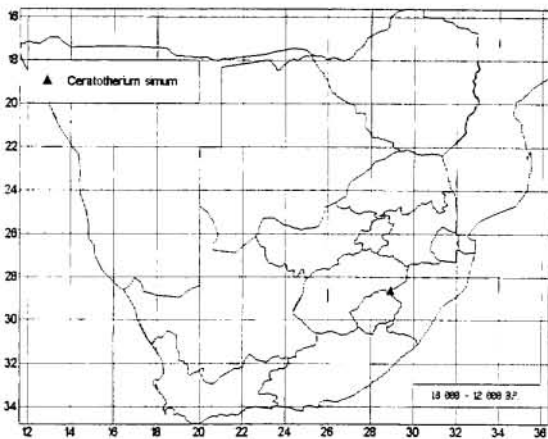
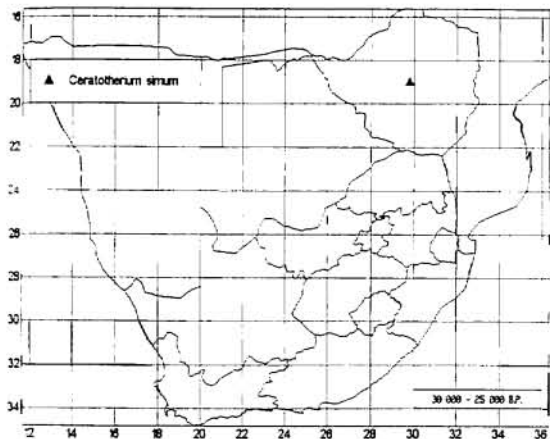


Transvaal Museum Monograph No. 12
June 2001

Genus *CERATOTHERIUM* Gray, 1868*Ceratotherium simum* (Burchell, 1817)

The white or square-lipped rhinoceros was, until recently, on the brink of extinction and was restricted to the Umfolozi Game Reserve in South Africa. Through successful breeding programmes this animal has now been reintroduced into many game reserves and game farms in the subregion.

According to historical accounts this animal was distributed in northwestern, northern and eastern South Africa as far south as the KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape border. It did not occur in Lesotho, but was present throughout the rest of the subcontinent.



Genus *DICEROS* Gray, 1821*Diceros bicornis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

The black or hooked-lipped rhinoceros used to occur widely in all countries of the subregion. It was only absent from the highveld or central grassland plateau in South Africa. Through excessive hunting and poaching its numbers have dwindled and currently it is on the brink of extinction. Today it mostly occurs in game reserves and on game farms. Isolated free-ranging populations can still be found in northwestern Namibia and parts of the Zambezi valley in Zimbabwe.

There is some doubt about its exact past distribution as many travellers were often unable to distinguish between the two rhinoceros species. The archaeological finds support its wide distribution in the past.

