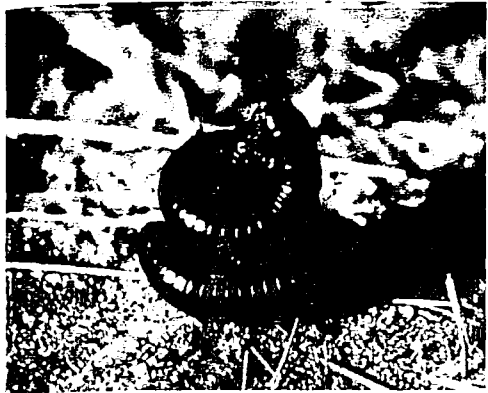


Mating Millipedes

In early spring, a pair of millipedes (class Diplopoda) were seen entwined on the ground in an exposed sandy area. The two were in a 'lover's embrace' and were clearly mating.

Natasha de Woronin



White Rhino Calf Pounced Upon by Lion

After watching five very full young male Lions sleeping for an extended period, they awoke and - after a stretching and yawning session - slowly began to move. One seemed to be dominant over the others and it was this young male that showed interest in a small group of White Rhino grazing on a clearing. It was getting dark and we did not want to put our spotlight onto the rhino, so it was only at the last minute that we realised what was happening. One of the young lions had launched itself on to the hindquarters of a baby rhino barely bigger than itself. Fortunately for the infant, the lion lost its grip and did not repeat the attack. Needless to say, the calf was frightened and bolted back to the group.

We have previously viewed adult White Rhino going out of their way to chase off lions, no doubt due to the kind of experience witnessed here.

Natasha de Woronin

Buffalo Birthing is Delayed

While watching a herd of about 350 Buffalo one evening at about 18h00, we noticed a cow about to give birth. The herd was behaving in an uneasy manner, possibly due to recent Lion activity in the area, and it is quite possible that Lions were moving about nearby, unseen by ourselves. The cow lay down, and the embryonic sac appeared, with two tiny hooves visible. The agitated herd then began to move off, and the cow was forced to get up. In so doing, the infant's hooves were retracted, but the cow was bellowing loudly. The herd settled down and the cow once again lay down. This time, the front hooves and nose of the tiny calf appeared, but the herd became agitated again and began to move. Yet again, the cow got to her feet and the calf's nose disappeared. She moved slowly off, still bellowing, but it had become quite dark and we could not be sure of the outcome.

Natasha de Woronin

Two young Cheetah cubs rest on a fallen Marula tree.

