

MOVEMENT OF SQUARE-LIPPED RHINOCEROSES  
*CERATOTHERIUM S.SIMUM*

COL. J. VINCENT, EDITOR

Issue No. 9 (1968) of this journal provided details of 482 rhinos relocated to 31st May, 1968.

The following additional movements were effected from the Umfolozi Game Reserve complex during the eight months 1st June, 1968 to 31st January, 1969:

Angola			
Quiscama National Park . . . . .	2 males	3 females	.. 5
Cape Province			
Thomas Baines Nature Reserve . . . . .	1 male	0 females	.. 1
Natal			
Ubizane Game Ranch . . . . .	0 male	1 female	.. 1
Orange Free State			
Bloemfontein Zoo . . . . .	1 male	1 female	.. 2 -?
Transvaal			
Manyaleti Game Reserve . . . . .	3 males	3 females	.. 6
Pietersburg Nature Reserve . . . . .	3 males	2 females	.. 5
Rasenta Farm, Acornhoek . . . . .	1 male	1 female	.. 2
Kruger National Park . . . . .	4 males	6 females	.. 10
Swaziland			
Mlilwane Game Sanctuary . . . . .	0 males	2 females	.. 2
			34

Up to 31st January 1969, therefore, the total of animals moved stands at 516.

Lammerseyer, 10 p-52

1969

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON A CAPTIVE AFRICAN WEASEL  
*POECILOGALE ALBINUCHA*

D. T. ROWE-ROWE

(Natal Parks Board)

On 27th May, 1968 a female African weasel was captured near Fort Napier, Pietermaritzburg, Natal. The mammal, which had a head and body length of about 25 cm., was kept in captivity for observation for a period of one month. Some of the weasel's attitudes were photographed and its voice tape-recorded.

As very little is known about this animal's behaviour, the observations will perhaps be of interest to mammalogists.

The weasel was kept in a large box, having three glass sides and a gauzed cover. The floor was covered with river sand. A small sleeping box was placed in the cage.

SLEEPING

Roberts describes *Poecilogale* as "diurnal to some extent, if not entirely" and Shortridge states that it is mainly nocturnal.

The weasel spent more than half of the 24 hour day sleeping, curled up, often with the tail covering the head. On a number of days observations were made hourly to see whether the weasel was asleep or not. Table 1 gives details of these observations.

It would appear that Shortridge's statement is nearer the truth than Roberts'. The weasel generally awoke after 7.00 or 8.00 a.m., then spent 3 or 4 hours eating, lying in the sun, or walking about the cage. From just before noon until dark the weasel spent at least six hours sleeping. During the next four or five hours the weasel was generally most active. Food was collected and hoarded in the sleeping box, and after eating some of it, the weasel often trotted about the cage investigating everything. Very little data is available for the period 11.00 p.m. until 6.00 a.m., but it would appear that there is a tendency for the weasel to be more nocturnal than diurnal.

FEEDING

Day-old chickens, supplemented by pieces of raw beef, and the occasional mouse, formed the basic diet of the weasel.

All food placed in the cage was collected and taken into the sleeping box, where, if it was not eaten immediately, was eaten sometimes as long as twelve hours later. An *Ictonyx striatus*, kept some years ago, displayed similar behaviour. In the case of both chickens and mice, the head and neck were eaten first. Alexander and Ewer (1959) state that the two young weasels which they kept in captivity gnawed the legs off the mice first. In the case of the weasel under discussion though, the legs were the last part of the body to be eaten. The weasel proved capable of eating at least two day-old chicks (weighing 30-40 gr. apiece) per night. No trace of the chicks remained by morning.