

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (67)20 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that Voting Paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 829.

W. E. CHINA
Acting Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

3 August 1967

COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED DECISION ON THE VALIDITY OF
DIDERMOCERUS BROOKES, 1828 (MAMMALIA). Z.N.(S.) 1779
(see volume 24, pages 55-56)

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In a paper on the Sumatran rhinoceros (Groves, 1965, *Säugetierk. Mitt.* 13 : 128-131) I used the generic name *Didermocerus* Brookes, 1828, for this species, following Ellerman & Morrison-Scott. However since then a study of numerous papers on fossil rhinoceroses of Europe and Asia has convinced me that to continue to use *Didermocerus* would result in considerable hardship. No palaeontologist uses Brookes's name for the extinct forms related to the Sumatran rhinoceros; all of them use *Dicerorhinus* Gloger, 1842, and so do many neozoologists in speaking of the Sumatran rhinoceros itself. Accordingly, since *Didermocerus* has not gained anything like universal currency in spite of Ellerman and Morrison-Scott, I have reverted to *Dicerorhinus* in my latest paper (forthcoming in *Säugetierk. Mitt.*).

The question of the validity of Brookes, 1828, has a bearing also on the question of the generic name of the chimpanzee. If *Pan* Oken, 1816, is not validated for the chimpanzee, the name for consideration is Brookes's *Theranthropus*. Whatever the comparative merits of *Pan* and *Chimpansee*, I think it will be agreed that *Theranthropus* is not a desirable substitute. The only problem in suppressing Brookes's work entirely would be the name for the cheetah, *Acinonyx*, which could be validated by plenary powers at the same time as Brookes's catalogue is suppressed.

I would therefore strongly support Alternative B—to reject Brookes, to place *Dicerorhinus* on the Official List of Generic Names, and to place *Didermocerus* on the Official List of Rejected and Invalid Names.