

**A CHECK LIST AND ATLAS
OF THE
MAMMALS OF BOTSWANA
(AFRICA)**



By

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ORDER PERISSODACTYLA
Family RHINOCEROTIDAE
Rhinoceros

Genus DICEROS Gray, 1821

Diceros bicornis

Black Rhinoceros
Tshukudu

D. b. bicornis (Linnaeus) Syst. Nat., 10th. ed. 1 : 56, 1758: "India" but
Cape of Good Hope according to Thomas (1911:144)

Although no information is available on the exact number of Black Rhinoceros which occur naturally in Botswana, this is generally estimated to be less than 20, which are found in the area north of Tsotsoroga Pan. This includes a report of c. 9 individuals north west of the Selinda Spillway, Bromfield (in litt.). Spoor has been recorded on the Chobe River in the vicinity of Kachikau and on the north western border of the Mababe Depression, perhaps from the small population in the above areas. The visual records from the Nunga and Nata River areas are individuals released in the Wankie National Park, Rhodesia, which have wandered into Botswana.

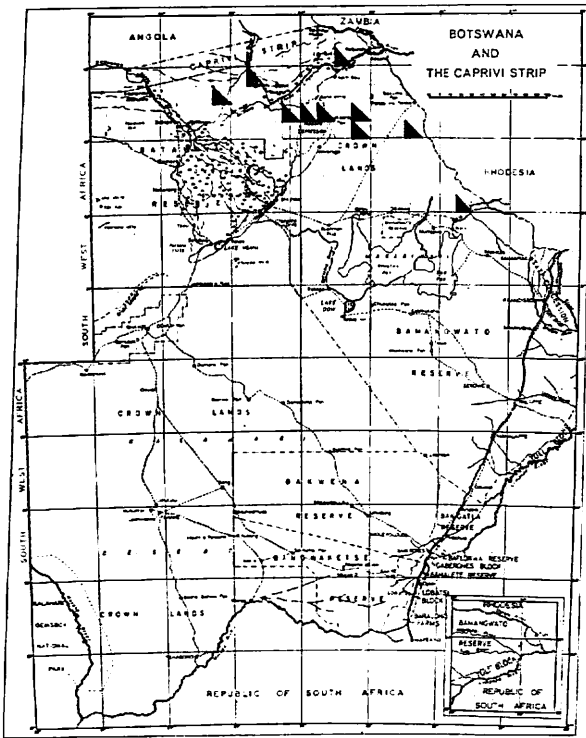
Apart from the Nunga and Nata records, no members of the Survey have seen black Rhinoceros and no material records can be traced. The provenance of a skull in the possession of a hunting safari company in Maun, supposed to have been picked up on the Kwaai River, is doubtful and may indeed have been brought in from Angola (J.H. Selby, in litt.).

Diceros simus

White Rhinoceros

D. s. simus (Burchell) Bull. Soc. Philom. Paris, 97, 1817: Interior of South Africa, near lat. 26° S. (near Kuruman, northern Cape Province, fide Shortridge, 1934).

With the introduction of the species to the Wankie National Park, Rhodesia, individuals have wandered westwards over the Botswana border, two to west of Nata (1966). Further wanderers may be expected and, in time, the species might well become feral.



Diceros bicornis