

National Parks and Games Reserves of East & Central Africa

National Park Game Reserve or other Conservation Area

UGANDA

- U1 Kidepo Valley National Park
- U2 Kabalega Falls National Park (Murchison Falls)
- U3 Ruwenzori National Park (Queen Elizabeth)

KENYA

- K1 Marsabit National Park
- K2 Meru National Park
- K3 Samburu Game Reserve
- K4 Mount Kenya National Park
- K5 Aberdare National Park
- K6 Lake Nakuru National Park (mainly birds)
- K7 Nairobi National Park
- K8 Mara National Park
- K9 Masai-Amboseli Game Reserve
- K10 Tsavo National Park
- K11 Mt Elgon National Park

TANZANIA

- T1 Serengeti National Park
- T2 Ngorongoro Conservation Area
- T3 Lake Manyara National Park
- T4 Tarangire Game Reserve
- T5 Gombe Stream National Park
- T6 Ruaha National Park
- T7 Mikumi National Park

MALAWI

- M1 Nyika National Park
- M2 Kasungu National Park
- M3 Longwe National Park

ZAMBIA

- Z1 Sumbu Game Reserve
- Z2 Luangwa Valley National Park
- Z3 Kafue National Park

RHODESIA

- R1 Wankie National Park
 - R2 Chete Game Reserve
 - R3 Chewore/Mana Pools Game Reserve
 - R4 Inyanga National Park
 - R5 Matapos National Park
- (Other small areas in Rhodesia)

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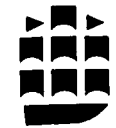
Mammals of East and Central Africa

R M Bere

1975

pp. [1-3], 1-36

1000Km



Longman, Hong Kong

males from several families join together, however, to form the stallion groups from which individuals eventually emerge to become heads of families. Stallions sometimes fight, rising up on their hind legs, biting and kicking with their sharp front hoofs.

Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae)

There are two species of rhinoceros in Africa and three in Asia. All are massive, long-bodied animals with short legs, short necks and small eyes. They have horns, composed of tightly packed hair-like fibres growing from the skin of the nose: two horns in both African and one of the Asian species, and one in the other Asian species. All three Asian rhinos are extremely rare, and in most areas the African rhinos are much less common than they used to be.

The Black Rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis* – shoulder-height 150 cm; 1 000–1 500 kg) prefers dry bush and thorn-scrub but occurs in most savanna habitats and in certain forests. It is generally, though thinly, distributed in East and Central Africa and may be seen in many national parks. Where not protected, it is greatly reduced in numbers. Black Rhinos browse acacia and other woody shrubs, and are usually seen alone or with one or two companions, often near giraffes. They

have good senses of hearing and smell but poor eyesight; and, relying largely on their bulk, they are liable to charge any unfamiliar object. They are surprisingly active and move very fast.

The White Rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum* – shoulder-height 180 cm; up to 3 000 kg) is larger and measures over four metres from its snout to the base of its tail. It has a large heavy head, a hump on its shoulder and a front horn which is usually longer than the Black Rhino's. Both species are the same grey colour. The name 'white' comes from a Dutch word *wyd*, meaning broad, and refers to the White Rhino's great square muzzle which is well adapted for cropping grass. The Black Rhino, by contrast, has a long prehensile upper lip adapted for stripping leaves and shoots from bushes. The White Rhino is the more placid animal and is often seen in quite large parties. A White Rhino calf walks ahead of its mother who guides it with her horn. Young Black Rhinos follow their mothers.

The White Rhino still occurs, and was once plentiful, in the far north-west of Uganda and neighbouring parts of Sudan and the Zaire Republic. It is also found in a few reserves in South Africa. It was present in Rhodesia before 1895, when the last one was killed, but was not known elsewhere in our region. White Rhinos have recently been



Fig. 2.12 The Square-lipped or White Rhinoceros

introduced to Kabalega Falls and Meru National Parks and to one or two places in Rhodesia where they used to live. With their docile natures, they are easy to kill and have suffered from poachers even more seriously than the Black Rhino. Prospects for the survival of these splendid animals are now much improved.

Hippopotamuses (Hippopotamidae)

The Common Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius* shoulder-

height 160 cm; 1 800–2 200 kg) is present throughout the region but is plentiful only where protected (see page 5). The only other species in the family is the pig-like Pigmy Hippopotamus of West African forest streams. Both have heavy heads, broad muzzles and short legs.

The Common Hippopotamus is a large heavy grey animal with pinkish patches, mainly on its face. Its eyes, ears and nostrils project from the line of the face in such a way that it can see, hear and smell when the rest of its body is under water. It can remain completely submerged, with