

# Tabulated data on the breeding biology of the Black rhinoceros

*Diceros bicornis*

compiled from reports in the Yearbook

NAME OF ZOO	AGE AT 1st MATING (in years)	AGE AT 1st SUCCESSFUL MATING (in years)	OESTROUS CYCLE LENGTH (in days)	DURATION OF (in days)	DURATION OF COPULATION (in mins)	GESTATION PERIOD (in days)	BIRTHS
Bristol	♂ 4½ ♀ ca. 4½	♂ 6 ♀ ca. 6	21-45	1-2	2-20	438	♂ Bobby 22.8.58
Bristol Bristol			17-60 21		5-15 55	419 438	♂ Ronald 28.12.61 ♀ Rhona 24.8.64
Hanover	♂ ca. 7 ♀ ca. 9	♂ ca. 7 ♀ ca. 9	28	3-4	30	469	♂ Kasper 28.6.65
Kobe Kobe			28-30	5-6	ca. 40	ca. 465 ca. 462	♂ Bobby 16.11.63 ♂ Rock 2.11.65
Mysore		♀ ca. 17	30-35	1-2	20	458	♂ Nandi 26.8.66
Pittsburgh Pittsburgh Pittsburgh	♀ ca. 7	♀ ca. 8			60+	463 454 457	♂ Faru I Oct. 1960 ♂ Faru II Apr. 1963 ♂ Faru III Oct. 1965
Sydney			18	2-3	15-40	ca. 476	1♂ 6♀

## Semen extraction by manipulative technique in the Black rhinoceros

*Diceros bicornis*

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A young female Black rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis* at Pretoria Zoo regularly came into oestrus in a cycle of about four weeks. The male was interested in her during oestrus and attempted to mate with her. However, copulation was never achieved and it was therefore decided to try and inseminate the female artificially.

There appeared to be no reference in literature to successful semen collection from a rhinoceros. At first an attempt was made to insert the male's

penis into various artificial vaginas, commonly used to collect semen from horses and cattle. The natural backward curve of the semi-erected penis of this species made the use of these long, straight artificial vaginas rather difficult. It was found that the distal part of the penis is most sensitive to stimulation and an artificial vagina, much shorter than the ordinary equine or bovine types, may be found to be more effective and easier to use.

The bull could not be restrained in any way and