

PROLIFIC FEMALE RHINOCEROSSES

BY MARVIN L. JONES

Two recent items in *I.Z.N.* reported that female southern white rhinoceroses at two different locations had given birth to ten or 12 young, and each was believed to have been the greatest number born to a female. The first was at Memphis, Tennessee, a female who had ten offspring (*I.Z.N.* 49:2, p. 120), and the other at Edinburgh, Scotland, U.K., with 12 (*I.Z.N.* 49:4, p. 224). It would seem that neither collection is aware that the Berlin Zoological Garden publishes a studbook for the species and has now done so for years. Copies are regularly sent to all of the collections that hold the species, but perhaps they are placed on a shelf or in a cabinet and not really read and examined for the great amount of information they contain – otherwise the two people submitting the data to *I.Z.N.* would have realised they were far from correct.

Actually no fewer than 12 southern white rhino (*Ceratotherium s. simum*), three black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) and four Indian rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) females have given birth to ten or more young in captivity. A few are now deceased, but most are still alive and in most cases still breeding. What follows is a summary of all of them, with comments as to age and location.

The most prolific up to now is the white female Komaas, wild-born about 1963, who came to San Diego Wild Animal Park on 17 February 1971, had her first young on 3 February 1973, and has had 16 young to date. Close behind is the female white Mfolozi, born about 1961, and also at San Diego Wild Animal Park since 1971; she had her first calf on 14 December 1972, and has had 15 young to date. Female black rhino Elly, wild-born in Kenya in 1971, and at San Francisco Zoo since 16 April 1974, has now had 14 young.

There are four females with 12 young. The Edinburgh white female Umfolozi, wild-born about 1969, was first kept at Whipsnade Wild Animal Park, U.K., where she arrived on 5 August 1970, and where she was mated by the male Mpugwana. She was pregnant by him when she was moved to Edinburgh, where she arrived along with her present mate – and sire of all her subsequent offspring – Kruger, on 10 May 1976. Her first calf was born at Edinburgh five months after she arrived, on 27 October 1976. The Indian female Jaypuri, wild-born in 1963, came first to San Diego Zoo on 28 February 1965, and was transferred to the new Wild Animal Park on 26 April 1972. She also had 12 young, the first born on 24 March 1975. She is now retired and living at The Zoo at Gulf Breeze, Florida. Another white female to have had 12 young is Phoebe, wild-born in 1969 and living since 13 February 1971 at San Antonio Zoo, Texas; her first calf was born on 20 January 1975. The black female Hana, wild-born in 1966 and living since 14 July 1971 at Hiroshima's Asa Zoological Park, Japan, has likewise had 12 young.

Other females who have had ten or more young are as follows:

Doris, white, wild-born 1969, living at Hodenhagen Safari Park, Germany, since 3 August 1974, 11 young;

Molly, white, wild-born 1969, at Hodenhagen since 3 August 1974, 11 young; Joymothi, Indian, wild-born 1947, arrived Basel Zoo, Switzerland, 8 July 1952, died there 10 November 1983, ten young;

Nanda, Indian, born at Basel Zoo 1965, moved to Stuttgart Zoo, Germany, 29 May 1968 and died there 13 July 1992, ten young;

Gainda, Indian, born at San Diego Wild Animal Park in 1978 and still living there, ten young;

Nelly, white, wild-born 1971, living at Safari Beekse Bergen, the Netherlands, since 26 September 1972, ten young;

Tombi, white, wild-born 1972, arrived at Kings Dominion, Doswell, Virginia, 2 October 1972, moved to Memphis Zoo 16 April 1976, ten young;

Aggi, white, wild-born 1968, at Lion Country Safari, Florida, since 3 October 1972, ten young;

an unnamed female (Studbook No. 406), wild-born 1969, living at Lichtenburg Game Reserve, South Africa, since 9 September 1976, ten young;

Igor, white, wild-born 1967, living since 1 January 1968 at Six Flags Adventure Park, Jackson, New Jersey, a minimum of ten young (this park had several calves born for whom the dams were not known);

Lottie, black, born Cincinnati Zoo, Ohio, 27 January 1961, moved to Oklahoma City Zoo 28 June 1963, then to Detroit Zoo, Michigan, 5 November 1985, where she died 6 March 1994, ten young.

Hopefully this list will be increased in the future as more attention is paid to captive breeding, but it does show just how well some individual females of the various rhinoceros species are reproducing in captivity.

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