

SHORT NOTES

3797.

An inverted tooth in a white rhinoceros

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A male white rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum* (measuring 75 cm from tip of snout to occipital condyle) was collected from the Umfolozi Game Reserve in 1961 by I. Player, D.E. van Dijk, and J.C. Poynton. The skeleton was prepared and mounted in 1962 as specimen 2064 by N.T. Karnezos, and has since been on exhibition in the main corridor of the Department of Zoology, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg.

Death ensued from a fight with an adult male, a broken left rib being one of the injuries sustained. The right ramus of the mandible had previously been broken and PM₁ rotated through 180 degrees in a transverse plane, fixing the tooth in an inverted position (Fig. 1). The occlusal

band omgekeerd,
wortel boven,
kaanwulke onder.



Figure 1. Lateral view of inverted PM₁ in the right lower jaw of *Ceratotherium simum*.

surface was buried deep in the ramus, and the normally rooted portion of the tooth, now located dorsally, shows tooth wear. Greater wear of the left tooththrow than on the right tooththrow indicates the injury was favoured during mastication.

The blow responsible for the injury could have been delivered at a gallop of 40 kph, the speed of a white rhinoceros (Player and Feely, 1960). Males often fight "fiercely and bloodily" for females (Groves, 1972; 4), death sometimes occurring by head-on collisions (Pitman, 1955; Foster, 1967). In this instance, pugnaciousness from pain of the injury (perhaps incurred from the same antagonist) may have led indirectly to death by combat.

My thanks to D.E. van Dijk for bringing this dental peculiarity to my attention, and providing information on collection of the specimen; my wife Susie kindly typed the manuscript.

References

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Vervet monkeys grooming a red duiker
 Rod and Moira Borland, St Lucia, 3936

Vervet monkeys *Cercopithecus aethiops* were seen removing and eating ectoparasites from a red duiker *Cephalophus natalensis* at Fanie's Island campsite, St Lucia, on 4 June 1978 (Figs. 1 and 2).

Particular attention was paid to the head, mainly around the eyes and ears, around the anus, and inside the hind legs. Initially the monkeys succeeded in removing and eating about eight parasites per minute. Sometimes two monkeys groomed their duiker simultaneously (Fig. 4).

On three occasions the duiker solicited grooming by approaching a sitting monkey and presenting its head (Fig. 3). Twice the young monkeys which were approached moved away, but an adult accepted. On four occasions the duiker, without soliciting, was groomed as it passed the monkeys (Fig. 4).